

NEWS RELEASE

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Artist in Action Delights Visitors to Imagine Children's Museum

EVERETT, WA — Imagine Children's Museum in downtown Everett welcomes back muralist Gina Ribaldo for two new murals in a live painting visual performance today and Monday, July 24.

Imagine Children's Museum has always envisioned being an art-filled dynamic learning experience for children and families to promote creativity and imagination. The positive impacts of murals have been proven in both schools and hospitals as a relaxer, stimulator, and comforter to promote a positive mood and receptivity to learning. The vision to extend the impacts of murals to the museum walls has come true thanks to Gina Ribaldo of I Love Murals. Ribaldo has completed over 25 murals for the Museum over the past 20 years.

Thematic murals can be found on every floor of Imagine Children's Museum, complimenting each space, many reaching wall to wall. The impact on visitors is ongoing as children and families are seen and heard interacting with colorful murals. Children pretend play, engage with details in the paintings and learn about art through touch. Young visitors have been seen performing on the theatre stage to a crowd of painted silhouettes, spotting hidden native animals painted behind trees in the woodland canopy, and pretending to eat fruit from the painted food stands outside of Divy's food truck on the Museum's third floor.

Hands-on play is at the core of Imagine Children's Museum's mission: To utilize playful learning to enrich children's lives. The Museum's mission extends to the Museum's approach to murals. Imagine Children's Museum made an intentional decision from the beginning to ensure the paintings reached the wall floor boards, making fine art accessible to all visitors and to encourage children to explore the art through the tactile experience of feeling the brush strokes and pointing out details that they can reach and touch.

This time, Muralist Gina Ribaldo is back again for two more murals to be used as interchangeable backdrops in the Museum's play theatre. Ribaldo is painting the 8 x 8 panels live at the museum for guests to observe and ask questions about her painting process. Ribaldo and the Museum hope to inspire children as they watch and have conversations about

Ribaudo's progress, decision-making, and art-based careers. Visit the Museum Friday, July 21, and Monday, July 24, to see Ribaudo's live painting performance.

Imagine is a family-friendly Museum dedicated to enriching children's lives through playful learning. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, families are invited to learn and spend quality time together in the Museum's state-of-the-art interactive exhibits.

Offering three floors of unbeatable play spaces for children ages 1-12 and their families, Imagine Children's Museum recently opened a \$25 million expansion which includes state-of-the-art interactive exhibits to inspire a lifelong love of learning through play. The new exhibits showcase the Pacific Northwest, the Puget Sound and Port of Everett; an engineering exhibit; a tinker shop where children can learn to use real tools; an exhibit about woodlands; an exhibit about package distribution; a marine ecosystems exhibit; and a few others. These complement the museum's original exhibits, which include an Everett Transit bus, a miniature locomotive track, and a water works area.

Imagine is located at 1502 Wall Street in downtown Everett, with the main entrance on Hoyt Avenue. Street parking and pre-pay parking lots are available around the Museum. Visit ImagineCM.org for more information about all the Museum has to offer!

About Imagine Children's Museum

With a mission to enrich children's lives through playful learning, Imagine Children's Museum is a nonprofit organization serving children ages 1-12 and their families. Incorporated in 1991, it has long received grassroots, community support to become an integral resource for children, families, schools, youth organizations and social service agencies in Snohomish County and beyond. In 2017 Imagine achieved American Alliance of Museums accreditation, the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums, becoming first accredited children's museum in the Pacific Northwest. It has a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's leading independent evaluator of charities for financial health, accountability, and transparency. To learn more, go to www.imaginecm.org.

About Gina Ribaudo at ILoveMurals

Mural artist Gina Ribaudo is a self-taught artist with 20 years of experience. She got her start in Washington before moving to Arizona. Her natural talent was obvious from the first time she won an art contest in kindergarten. Her painting versatility, professionalism and talent has developed her business into a successful painting career with many satisfied clients. Ribaudo specializes in commercial and residential murals, blockwall murals, trompe l'oeil, children's murals, faux finishes, fine art and murals on canvas. With each mural she carefully takes into consideration the client's needs, desires and budget. You can find out more about Ribaudo and her work at www.ilovemurals.com.