

Dear Dogwood Classroom,

This past summer we hosted a traveling exhibit at the Museum called XOXO: An Exhibit about Love & Forgiveness. This exhibit was about feelings, emotions and communication. One of the funnest parts of the exhibition was when we exhibited the work of an Opal student named Chase. Chase created a project called 10,000 hands after a discussion she had in her 5th grade classroom. Her teacher asked how children might make the world a better place and she had the idea of connecting people and celebrating diversity through the creation of 10,000 hands.

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"One day my teacher asked my class at Opal School to think about how we could make the world a better place. Everyone thought of something different. I thought of 10,000 hands. The idea was planted inside me and grew, bigger and bigger. First images of hands, then a display of them. And then 10,000 of them. Maybe even a parade! I shared my ideas with my teacher and parents and they help me progress them. And here I am now." – Chase, age 11

In February 2018, we will receive a new traveling exhibit entitled: Through the Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Têt Festival. This exhibit celebrates the Lunar New Year and is one of the most important celebrations for Vietnamese families. It's a time when they get together to celebrate, eat special foods, play games, share their reflections of the past year and say their wishes for the year to come. It's a celebration of this particular community.

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I can see similarities between this festival and the yearly Lantern Walk that your class does during the fall months as well as some connections to the thinking you've been doing in your classroom around what it means to be a part of a community. So, I would like to invite Dogwood to contribute to the experience of this exhibit for all the children and their caregivers. Perhaps you will create something that the Exhibits department can display alongside Voyage to Vietnam? I'm hoping we could come up with an idea together.

I look forward to sharing more details with you all about Voyage to Vietnam and how the Museum and Dogwood might work together to realize a collaborative exhibit. In the meantime, thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Appreciatively,

Somya, on behalf of everyone at Portland Children's Museum