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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Mid-Hudson Children's Museum Opens New Space-Themed Art Exhibit**

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**POUGHKEEPSIE, NY** –The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing by unveiling a space-themed interactive art exhibit in the entry of its upstairs Science Center @ MHCM gallery. The Museum will be hosting a special afterhours reception for adults on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm that will provide community members with an opportunity to meet and thank the talented artists who created this spectacular exhibit.

This fun and whimsical piece was designed and installed by students of The Art Effect's chapter of the National Art Honor Society. The Art Effect is an arts-based non-profit in Poughkeepsie whose mission is to empower youth to develop their artistic voice to shape their futures and bring about positive social change. The students created the mural as their annual project for the local chapter of the National Art Honor Society, an arts enrichment and community service program organized by the National Art Education Association. By participating in the honor society, the students gain opportunities for talent recognition, college scholarships, and are connected to the national art community.

"We're thrilled to have collaborated with the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum on this project commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo mission," Nicole Fenichel-Hewitt, the Executive Director of The Art Effect, expressed. "It's a wonderful opportunity for our students to explore designing and installing dynamic exhibits that inspire wonder and creativity."

"This project was particularly challenging because not only did we need to design an attractive, oversized piece of art as a group, but we also had to adhere to exhibit design principles for interactivity, accessibility, durability, and safety for a high traffic area of a museum that primarily serves very young children," states Ana Kimber, Harvard-bound New Paltz High School and Art Effect graduate, National Art Honor Society member, and employee of the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum.

Fifteen-year-old aspiring artist and member of the National Art Honor Society Ben Solliday said about the collaborative project, "The mural has not only developed my artistic ability, it also

offered me experience similar to how working artists operate in an actual job.” Ben is currently enrolled in The Art Effect’s Summer Art Institute for Advanced Drawing and Painting.

The Science Center @ MHCM is a gallery space dedicated to early STEM – science, technology, engineering and math. Exploration of this area encourages young children to develop critical thinking skills and to make connections to the world around them.

The Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum has proclaimed this summer as “The Summer of Science.” Each week the Museum will be highlighting special science-themed activities designed to engage young children and parents in hands-on discovery. From kitchen chemistry and paper airplane workshops to dinosaur digs and special StarLab shows to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, memorable science experiences will be happening all summer long. For more information of Museum programs, visit: [mhcm.org/calendar](http://mhcm.org/calendar).

Named “Top Place to Take the Kids in the Hudson Valley” (2019, 2018, 2017) by Kids Out and About, the Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum is the ideal destination for families with young children. With exhibits that focus on early literacy, art, STEM, and the local community, the Museum provides an educationally rich environment through which children have the opportunity to develop foundational skills, to engage in purposeful play, and to develop interpersonal connections. The Museum is located in the heart of the historic waterfront in Poughkeepsie nestled between two city parks, just steps away from the Poughkeepsie Metro-North Train Station, the Walkway elevator and fabulous restaurants. The Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and on Sunday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm (open Mondays during July and August). Admission is \$10.00 per person. Children under 1 year old are free. Memberships are available. Visit [www.mhcm.org](http://www.mhcm.org) or call (845) 471-0589 for more information.

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**Photo captions:** 1) Grown-ups are invited to the official unveiling and after-hours wine and cheese reception on July 16th to meet and thank the talented artists who created this spectacular exhibit. 2) Students from The Art Effect moving the mural into place for installation. 3) Students from the Art Effect painting the new space-themed mural at the Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum. Photos provided by Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum.





