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For Immediate Release**

Media Contact:
Lynette P. James, Portsmouth Museums
jamesl@portsmouthva.gov
Phone: (757) 393-8983

**Framed: Step into Art™ Opens at the Children's Museum of Virginia
This exhibit puts visitors "inside" of the artwork - literally**

Portsmouth, VA - How close can anyone immerse themselves into another's piece of artwork? That question remains to be seen in a new exhibition that may have the key - The **Framed: Step into Art™** exhibition is coming to the Children's Museum of Virginia on January 26 and runs through May 10, 2020.

Step inside the framework of famous paintings and experience art like never before in this interactive exhibition. It's a fun way for kids and families to engage directly with works of art and experience the setting, atmosphere, and subject of each work, such as:

- Explore a small collection of Mona Lisa prints featuring famous parodies, then step behind a cutout version and replace Mona Lisa's face with your own.
- **Enter Grant Wood's Dinner for Threshers and learn about rural life at the turn of the century.** Kids can tend to a chicken and gather eggs, prepare a meal in the kitchen, set the dining table, enjoy a noontime dinner, and mix and match the farmers' patterned shirts.

- **Travel to the Canadian Rockies in 1916 at John Singer Sargent's Camp** at Lake O'Hara. Children can climb inside a tent and explore camping gear like Sargent would have used. After cooking a pretend meal over the campfire, kids can tell stories around the fire and arrange items in a magnetic frame to show what a painting of today's campsite may look like.
- **Travel south of the border through Diego Rivera's Corn Festival from the Court of Fiestas** in the Ministry of Education Building in Mexico City. You can explore a rendition of one of Rivera's frescoes, add flowers and ribbons of "corn husks" to the flower tower for a celebration and include their flourish in a mural on a miniature building.

To enhance your experience there will be special themed activities offered during the duration of the exhibit: family-oriented crafts during Chinese New Year in February, and also for Dr. Seuss' birthday in March; drop-in art and paint workshops during Spring Break, and the popular farm animal petting zoo before it closes in May. Other add-ons include programming related to the artists, food, and portraits. All of these activities are included with museum admission.

This exhibition is created by the Minnesota Children's Museum.

About the Children 's Museum of Virginia

Children step inside a world where bubbles grow bigger than they are, where the forces of energy electrify and spark their imagination, where they can be a farmer, a banker, a scientist, and more! The Museum also includes the Lancaster Antique Toy and Train collection - an attraction for kids of all ages as well as a modernized Planetarium. It also features a Museum Gift Shop where children can take some imagination home with them. The Children's Museum of Virginia is located at 221 High Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704. For details on this exhibit and all activities, please contact the Education Dept. at (757) 393-5258 or visit www.childrensmuseumva.com.

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