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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



youTHink TO PROVIDE ARTS-BASED EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND'S FREEDOM SCHOOLS® PROGRAM

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. (July 17, 2012) – youTHink, the innovative arts education program of the Zimmer Children's Museum, announces a new partnership with the Children's Defense Fund's (CDF) Freedom Schools® program at Stephen S. Wise Temple. youTHink will bring arts-based education to their program for low income elementary students of color as a way to explore ideas of culture, respect, and welcoming those different than us.

The partnership consists of 3 workshops, primarily led by youTHink interns and alumni, that will be held on July 16, 23, and 30. The youTHink lesson plans will explore culture and include activities on cultural art, respecting culture, and teaching and learning about other people's culture. Through youTHink's arts-based approach, teachers and students will engage in open conversation with each other about the importance of culture and exploring cultural heritage. Interactive discussion and the creation of an art project will help students to explore home, culture and identity.

"Partnering with the Stephen S. Wise Temple's Freedom School represents a great opportunity for youTHink to bring its proven art-based education that fosters critical thinking, civic engagement, and action for justice, to a new group of students," says Daniel Solis, youTHink's Youth Services Coordinator. "We are very excited to work with the Freedom School to guide students through thoughtful reflections on how to create a pluralistic society in which cultural differences are celebrated and honored."

Arrangements may be made for press to attend one of the remaining sessions. Please contact Arielle Sherman for more information.

About CDF Freedom Schools

The CDF Freedom Schools program provides summer and after-school enrichment that helps children fall in love with reading, increases their self-esteem, and generates more positive attitudes toward learning. Children are engaged in activities that nurture their minds, bodies, and spirits. In the classrooms, they read books that celebrate a wide variety of cultures and experiences, led by college age young adults trained as servant leader interns. Servant leader interns use the integrated reading curriculum (IRC) to teach children conflict resolution and critical thinking skills, engage children in community service and social action projects, encourage children to participate in art and athletic activities, and help children to develop a program finale in which every child is given the chance to shine.

About the Zimmer Children's Museum and youTHink

The **Zimmer Children's Museum** is a nonprofit cultural institution located on Museum Row in Los Angeles, featuring hands-on exhibits for children ages 0-8 to explore BIG IDEAS in creative and inspiring settings. The Zimmer is also the only museum dedicated specifically to kids and families in Los Angeles. The **Zimmer Children's Museum** is dedicated to teaching people

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about the BIG IDEAS of global citizenship, community responsibility, and cultural sensitivity. Our mission is to promote values that help make a better society through interactive learning, creative self-expression and art experiences for children. For more details about the museum and its programs and events, please visit <http://www.zimmermuseum.org>.

youTHink is an innovative education program of the Zimmer Children's Museum that uses the power of art to foster critical thinking, engage diverse learners, promote literacy and serve as a tool for social change. youTHink provides art/education lessons in LA area public schools and youth events to over 3,000 students annually. youTHink's School Services provide art/education lessons in California's public schools along with professional development opportunities for teachers. Youth Services provide meaningful art, leadership and community involvement opportunities for middle and high school youth beyond the classroom to encourage youth to make positive change in their world.

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