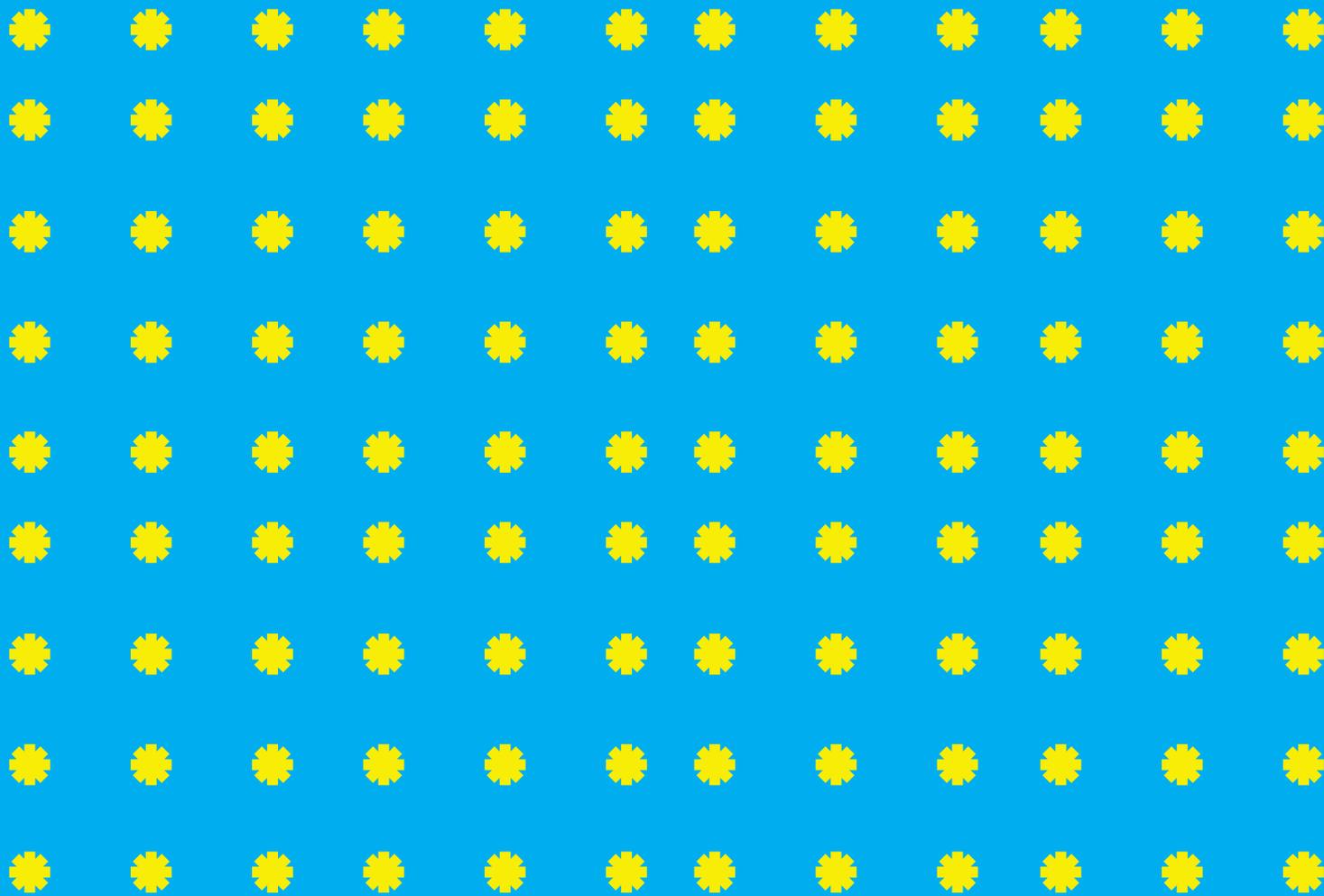


CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ VASTU SANGRAHALAYA, MUMBAI

# CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

ANNUAL REVIEW 2019-20



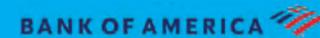


**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**  
Annual Review 2019–20



The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) Children's Museum in Mumbai has been conceived by CSMVS with generous support received from Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

The CSMVS Children's Museum's continuing programming since 2019 is supported by Bank of America.



## Bank of America employee engagement

Storytelling followed by an application based hands on activity: 50 children from the Akanksha Foundation were brought to the Children's Museum by Bank of America staff volunteers. Following an informal interaction with Ms. Kaku Nakhate, President and Country Head India (Bank of America), the children were guided around the Children's Museum exhibition and the green areas, and the Indian Miniature Paintings gallery. Two storytelling sessions were organised around tales from the rare Anvar i-Suhayli manuscript (conserved as part of a CSMVS Bank of America conservation

project), followed by an activity with children making their own miniature paintings. Staff volunteers from Bank of America facilitated the mobilization of the exercise and communication with the group, assisted children with the various activities and encouraged participation.

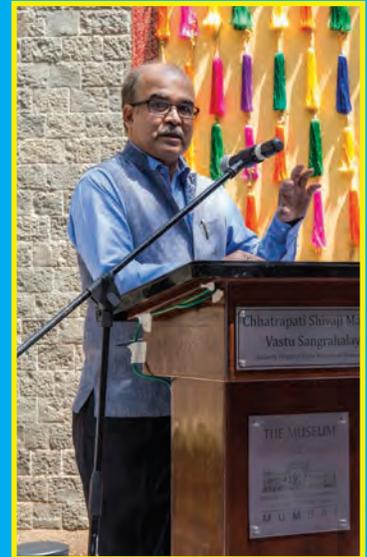


# DIRECTOR GENERAL'S NOTE

The new Children's Creative Space cum Museum was conceived by Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Director General, CSMVS in 2014.

According to Mukherjee, "The whole idea was to create a separate and independent space within the Museum for children who unfortunately have limited access to informal cultural spaces in the city where they can learn to experience and understand what is unfamiliar to them while acquiring new sets of value and new frames of thought in harmony with their surroundings. The dream of 2014 has now been materialised with the support of Bank of America Merrill Lynch."

The CSMVS Children's Museum was inaugurated and opened to visitors in March 2019.



**Sabyasachi Mukherjee,**  
Director General, CSMVS

It is with immense pleasure that we launch the Children's Museum Annual Review 2019-2020, having come to the close of its first year and what a journey it has been!

Museums usually cater to the mainstream in terms of design, intellectual offering and experiences due to the sheer volume and multiplicity of people walking through their doors but here was a space that had a very particular audience, children. To think of children as a singular entity is in fact undermining the expectations they come with because not only are they a motley bunch but also inherently curious

and vastly receptive. The experience of childhood itself is evolving rapidly and we had to unlearn much of what we had held on to thus far. We had to recast ourselves into keeping up children, ensuring that we were offering stimulating engagement to satiate their curiosity and the Annual Review provides a glimpse of all that transpired this year. As we look upon the year that has gone by, we are grateful for all those that have been a part of this journey. We have had the support of so many individuals and institutions who have worked collaboratively with us in creating these experiences

for children. The CSMVS team and our sponsors, Bank of America that have been the wind beneath our wings. And above all our visitors, young and old for encouraging and supporting all that we do and for whom we will continue to do our best.



**Vaidehi Savnal,**  
Assistant Curator  
International Relations,  
In-charge Education



# ABOUT

## The CSMVS Museum

On 14th August 1905, a group comprising some of the prominent people of Bombay gathered at the Town Hall and resolved to erect a Memorial to the visit of the Prince of Wales (later King George V) in the form of a public Museum which would be named after him. The Foundation Stone of the Museum was laid by the Prince of Wales on 11th November 1905 and the Museum was named Prince of Wales Museum of Western India. Designed by George Wittet, a British architect in 1909, the Museum building is a fine example of the Indo-Saracenic style of architecture. This Museum is located on a plot of land known as the Crescent Site.

The building was completed in 1914 but it opened to the public on 10th January 1922. In the interim it was used as a hospital during World War I and for Children's Welfare Exhibitions.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, as we now know it today, is listed as a Grade I heritage building by UNESCO and is part of the Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, World Heritage Site. The Museum houses a multicultural collection of over 70,000 objects which comprises of art objects from India, the Far-East, Nepal, Tibet and Europe as well as archaeological and natural history collections. In 2019, the Museum received

the Platinum Rating (the highest certification) under the Existing Building category from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for global leadership in

environment management. CSMVS is probably the first Museum in the world located in a heritage building in a heritage precinct to achieve such a distinction.



## The CSMVS Children's Museum

CSMVS houses the first ever Children's Museum in the city of Mumbai – a space designed specially to create dynamic and fun educational engagement for children of the city, giving them some much needed access to cultural recreation. The Children's Museum is a 'creative cultural lab' that encourages discovery, innovation and creativity and provides holistic learning experiences that are relevant to children's lives – their needs, expectations and aspirations through vibrant exhibits, programmes, workshops and activities. This free space endeavours

to nurture a creative, exploratory and balanced mind in children while providing the joys of childhood.

### OUR APPROACH

The Children's Museum uses an experiential approach for developing its programming, that is, 'learning by doing'. The educational programming is based on the three principles of Learn. Explore. Grow.

The themes and topics represented within the Children's Museum are not only relevant to classroom curriculum or essential skills development for children

but is actually based on what children consider important to them in their lives.



Spread over an area of about 10,000 square feet, the Children's Museum includes a 1200 sq. ft. multipurpose hall, a 150-seater amphitheatre, an activity plaza, an open terrace deck, an 'adda'-like space around a near 100-year-old Baobab tree set in the heart of lush environs that include a gardening patch and a mock archaeological excavation trench.



## OUR OBJECTIVES

- To foster a space that relinquishes ownership to children to create and explore what they wish to learn
- To curate exhibits from the Museum collection in a way that encourages curiosity and motivates learning
- To create object and enquiry-based learning programmes using a highly hands-on and interactive approach
- To maintain a healthy balance of objects complemented by digital interactives
- To introduce interdisciplinary creative experiences and meaningful play
- To create meaningful and sustained engagement with the arts through activities, programmes
- To actively encourage collaborations with diverse institutions in Mumbai, India and the world to offer the best arts and educational encounters for children
- To engage in conversations with communities and groups that work with young people and address their learning issues in order to remain updated about the changing needs of our young visitors







**ART COMPETITION**

An inspired and bright team of young curators set to work on the first exhibition of the Children's Museum. Art and creative writing competitions were the starting point of the selection process of the curatorial team.



**DEVELOPING THE EXHIBITION**

Owing to the diverse selection of objects, the first exercise with the young curators was choosing a few objects and identifying what ideas, values, symbols, and motifs they stood for according to them.

Based on their interpretation of the objects they identified values they felt the world needed the most right now. The values that the team came up with —

**FRIENDSHIP,  
TEAMWORK,  
PEACE,  
COURAGE, and  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSCIOUSNESS**

These became the sub-themes / sections of the exhibition. The objects presented to them were then classified into these themes based on the curators' interpretation of the objects.

The children expressed their understanding of each value through a small story / anecdote pertaining to that value from their lives. This itself became the section text for the sub-themes.

The labels displayed in the exhibition too, were non-academic personal interpretation of the art objects.



## 'FOOTSTEPS ... TO FRAMING THE FUTURE'

The exhibition offers a child's world view and their own interpretation of art which represents the values that a child feels the world needs today. The exhibition weaves five values chosen by the young curatorial team into a fabric using a diverse group of objects which as interpreted by the children represent these values.

This exhibition presents interesting stories of the intrinsic values or symbols that the art objects stand for and how they make sense to the young minds of today's world.

Throughout the entire curatorial process, the decision-making onus was on the children. The mentoring teams from the Museum's education and curatorial departments consciously refrained from influencing decisions or perspectives, only ensuring that the information that was finally presented was not factually incorrect.



### MY LITTLE MUSEUM

An exhibition was held in the Museum showcasing all the entries to the Art Competition held for our Young Curators.



### SAVE OUR PLANET

An exhibition created by the children of the Cathedral and John Connon Primary School that focussed on the environment, commenting on issues such as global warming, climate change, deforestation and water crisis from the point of view of children and offering other children simple solutions to reduce their carbon footprint and help in protecting the environment. This exhibition was scheduled to open at the Children's Museum in March 2020 but could not be formally launched due to the lockdown imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



# HIGHLIGHTS

**7,00,000+**

total visitors

**275**

number of workshops

**3**

number of festivals

**22,000**

total visitors to our  
Bookworm Installation

**5,000+**

books donated from the  
Bookworm Installation

**2,550**

number of festival  
attendants

## Everyday at the Children's Museum

With a special focus on the Museum's rich and varied collections, a selection of tours, workshops, and events are made available to children and families to choose from during their time at the Children's Museum.





### SUNDAY ART CLASS

- Ganesha, Paper, Scissors!
- Diya painting on T-shirt
- Wycinanki
- Gond on Ceramic
- Artist Study – Henri Rousseau



### DAILY ACTIVITIES, GUIDED TOURS

- Block Printing
- Stamping
- Stimulation of Excavation
- Kaavad Demonstration
- Grow Your own Garden
- Origami
- Young Curators' Interaction
- Coin Making
- Tactile Tour
- Board Games
- Lets talk about things
- Fun with Art
- Object stories
- Early Years Programme
- Puppet Shows



### BOOK CLUB – THE BOOK SQUAD

- Unlucky Chumki
- Cat's Egg
- Rattu and Puri's Adventures
- Mutthasi's Missing Teeth



### SPECIAL IN-GALLERY WORKSHOPS

- Stories with Avantika
- Fossil Fables
- Tico Tango the Parrot
- Stories from the Bible
- World Pangolin Day
- World Wildlife Day
- Peek-a-boo Chameleon
- Play the Harappan way!
- Geometry in Art



### IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SOUND SPACE

- Classical and Folk Music
- Different Melodies
- World of Music
- World of Indian Music
- World of Music
- Myriad on Festivals of India



## Engagement with Schools

Schools can make bookings in advance of their visits with our educators who offer guided tours, interactive sessions and workshops based on the ages and interests of the group.





## Sustained Enrichment Programme (SEP)

In a collaborative attempt between the CSMVS Children's Museum, Mumbai and various schools and organisations, the SEP supports a select group of students by conducting regular enrichment programmes with them on themes that impact their emotional and intellectual growth. Through a set of 8–12 workshops, the Museum facilitates deeper engagement with some challenging ideas. These workshops are formalised in consultation with the teachers and are aimed at children's cross-curricular development, and are conducted both at the school or organisation and the Museum.



COLABA MUNICIPAL SCHOOL  
(HINDI AND MARATHI  
MEDIUMS) 5TH / 8TH GRADE  
CITI ACADEMY FOR SPECIAL  
EDUCATION





MUMBAI MOBILE CRECHES  
(2 CENTRES)

EAR AUDIOLOGY RESEARCH  
CENTRE





UDYACHAL PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS



## Family Engagement

The Children's Museum recognises the pivotal role parents and teachers play in the lives of children, working in conjunction with them and enhancing these relationships. This approach is wholesome and mandated across all our programming, and by that extension, stays inclusive. Parents and teachers often find themselves as inspired as children amidst the green patches and magnificent architecture, only to be further complimented with the dense historical and cultural objects within the Museum walls. The Children's Museum is then not just for children,

but for all of us who work with them and for them, and keep their company.

### SUMMER FUN

- Clay modelling
- Traditional Landscape Painting
- Printing with Sunlight
- Landscape painting with Garden Waste
- Solar Power Toys
- 3D paper Quilling
- Object Theatre
- Finger Printing
- Preventive Conservation at Home
- Mandala Making with Fans
- Kaavad Story-telling and make your own Kaavad
- Shibori
- My Favourite Book
- Doodle with Family





IN COLLABORATION WITH  
PARAMPARIK KARIGAR

- Gara Embroidery
- Cherial Painting
- Natural Dyes
- Pichwai
- Basket Weaving

BABY PARAMPARIK  
KARIGAR

- Cherial Mask Painting
- Mandana Art



INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY

- Curator led guided tours
- Conservation tour
- Impression of the city
- One word for the museum
- Museum treasure trail
- Young Curators guided tour
- Games at the Children's Museum
- Multi-sensory tactile tours
- Open Mic
- Story-telling and theatre workshop
- Pebble Mosaic
- Weaving Colours
- Night at the Museum – Spooky Tales
- Music in the Air
- Film screenings





### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

- Gillo Repertory Theatre
- Nature Trail
- Gardening
- Concept of Composting
- Seed Bombs
- Know your Air
- Nature day stories
- Climate science
- Clay making activity
- Understanding Taxidermy
- Printing and drawing animal bookmarks
- Shell painting
- Paper bags



### CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

- Workshop with dragon dance, dragon mask making, dragons in the CSMVS collection, origins of the Chinese calendar
- Puppet show



### WORLD YOGA DAY

- Mom and baby yoga session

### WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

- Talk on Dialogues with Elephants



### GANESH CHATURTHI CELEBRATIONS

- Modak Making
- Toran making
- Treasure Trail
- Film screening
- Clay Ganesh
- Ganesh Making Demonstration



### DIWALI

- Themed open art activities



### CHRISTMAS DAY SPECIAL

- Traditional Christmas stories
- Carol singing
- Children's choir



### CHILDREN'S DAY SPECIAL

- Storytelling with objects



### CELEBRATE UTTARAYAN

- Kite making

## THE BOOKWORM

The 'Book Worm' is a deployable pavilion designed by artist Nuru Karim constructed out of eco-friendly materials to create an open library for books as well as spaces for reading. The pavilion has a low carbon foot-print and supports sustainable building technologies to house reading and storytelling activities. Through this initiative we hoped to contribute our efforts towards improving literacy skills by offering the exposure and opportunity to interact with books, thereby hoping to foster a passion and interest for reading in an increasingly digitally-oriented generation.





## Performing Arts Engagement

The Children's Museum is a unique window for children in the city to experience unusual or advanced creative pieces. Keeping in mind the impact of visually and sonically vivid creative expressions on very young children and young adults, this selection of events is made available for both the curious registrants and the casual stroll-ins.





WEEKEND PROGRAMMES  
AND ON-STAGE WEEKENDS

- Nani Ki Kahani
- Birds Eye View
- Ramleela
- Hanuman's Ramayan
- Jhoom Jhoom Jhumpa
- Put your Heart Into It
- Sofar Sounds





## IN COLLABORATION WITH JUNOON

This partnership aimed at introducing children to the diverse variety of performing arts in India, a multiplicity of ideas, worlds, stories and possibilities and to make a regular engagement with performing arts possible for children. This in turn would foster a vibrant relationship between young audiences and the CSMVS, truly democratising the arts in one of the city's premier cultural institutions.

- Elephant in the Room
- Vithu Mazha
- Goshtrang



## The Sciences

In encouraging children to develop and sharpen their scientific temperament, the Museum also introduces sciences through the arts, architecture and the environment.



IN COLLABORATION WITH  
STEAM ACADEMY

- Science of Paper
- Science of Scent
- Evolution of Communication
- Carbon Dating
- Water Chemistry

SCIENCE OF ART

- Shapes that Make a Museum
- Rocket Science



## Masterclasses

Celebrating the artists and makers of the Museum's fine collections, these masterclasses aim to refine extremely specific areas of learning amongst teenagers and enthusiastic adults.

- Renaissance Masterpieces
- Sustainability and Textiles
- Zine making
- Body & Movement
- Majestic Miniatures



## Artists Interactions and Lecture-Demonstrations

Various artists and craftsmen were invited to the Museum over weekends to demonstrate their craft and allow an opportunity for visitors to learn and try their hand at these timeless traditions.

- Scripts Workshop
- Stone Tool Making
- Caricature Sketching
- Archaeology and Exploration
- Mohiniattam
- Interactive workshop on cave paintings, castles and feudal system
- Raku ware

### ART 360°

- Calligraphy on Umbrella
- Clock Making
- White noise
- Photographs storytelling
- Monoprinting



## Films and more

Visual media is a powerful tool at the Children's Museum — a curated selection of films are screened regularly, and also as part of fests, to invoke curiosity and introduce novel ideas amidst young minds.

### DAILY SCREENING

Animated film 'Out of the Frame' created by the Young Curators, presented in partnership with Toon Club

### REGULAR SCREENING (3 FILMS A MONTH)

- Bemata
- History's Greatest Mystery
- Timeless Evolution

### COLLAB WITH CHILDREN'S FILM SOCIETY OF INDIA

- Foto
- Halo

- Charandas Chor
- Lav Khush
- Harun Arun
- Itihaas ki Khoj
- Sunday
- Keshu
- Senani Sane Guruji
- Yeh Hai Chakkad Bakkad Bumbe Bo
- The Goal
- Xang Xang Klang

### NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

- Goopi Gawaiya Bagha Bajaiya

### SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL IN COLLABORATION WITH GOETHE INSTITUT

- Our Facinating Planet – The Malay Archipelago
- The Show with the Mouse – Urban Planning
- The Big Buzz – Nothing Goes Without Insects
- Amazing Pigs
- Ralph and the Dinosaurs
- Nanogirl and the Imaginauts
- Self-sustainable – Climate Change
- Messy goes to Okido
- Point of No Return





# FESTIVALS

The Children's Museum hosted two festivals, the Storytelling Festival and the Arts Festival. Festivals give children a chance to truly immerse themselves in art and culture and dabble with various forms of expression; a chance to interact with other children allows them to grow by learning from one another and sharing.

















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