Berkshire Museum Press Release

For Immediate Release: November 9, 2015

Media contact: Lesley Ann Beck, Director of Communications
413.443.7171 ext. 28; lbeck@berkshiremuseum.org

Berkshire Museum’s In Kindergarten book wins NEMA award

[PITTSFIELD, MA] – The Berkshire Museum is proud to announce that the book In Kindergarten, published last year by the Berkshire Museum, was a winner in the 2015 New England Museum Association (NEMA) Publication Awards Competition. The winning publications were exhibited at the annual NEMA conference held last week in Portland, Maine. In Kindergarten won Honorable Mention in the Books category. The competition included 199 publications from 60 museums across New England entered in 10 categories.

A product of the Berkshire Museum’s WeeMuse program focusing on early childhood education, In Kindergarten, a book designed to help families prepare their children for the important and exciting transition to kindergarten, has been distributed free to every child registered to enter kindergarten in Berkshire County in 2014 and 2015. Publication of the book was funded in part by Berkshire Bank.

The In Kindergarten book was created by Craig Langlois, Berkshire Museum’s Director of Education and Public Programs, in partnership with a team of community advisors to ensure it would be appropriate for incoming kindergarteners and their families. Core team members included Sue Doucette, former Early Childhood Coordinator for Pittsfield Public Schools, and Melissa Zepka, Literacy Specialist Family Resource Center, Child Care of the Berkshires, Inc. The colorful and engaging book was designed and illustrated by Amanda Bettis, Kimberly Donoughe, and Deirdre Tenero of Studio Two in Lenox.
In Kindergarten is fun and educational at the same time. The book includes coloring pages, tracing pages, and even two pages of stickers - all designed to give children and their caregivers tools to help children be aware of and comfortable about attending kindergarten. The book also includes checklists for children and parents, a calendar of activities that will help children prepare for entering school, and a list of suggested books and authors appropriate for kindergarten-age youngsters.

About the Berkshire Museum

Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $13 adult, $6 child; Museum members and children age 3 and under enjoy free admission. For more information, visit www.berkshiremuseum.org or call 413.443.7171.

In association with the Smithsonian since 2013, Berkshire Museum is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation.

Established by Zenas Crane in 1903, Berkshire Museum integrates art, history, and natural science in a wide range of programs and exhibitions that inspire educational connections between the disciplines. American West and Festival of Trees 2015: Westward Ho Ho Ho! are on view through January 3, 2016. Little Cinema is open year-round. Spark!Lab, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

# # #