Berkshire Museum to Host Discussion on Early Childhood Education September 14

“Voices and Visionaries” series welcomes early childhood education expert Beth Fredericks

[Pittsfield, MA] – Berkshire Museum will continue its exciting new dinner and discussion series on Saturday, September 14, at 5:30 pm with **Voices and Visionaries: What Everyone Should Know About the New Brain Science and Our Youngest Citizens**, featuring prominent early childhood educator Beth Fredericks and Berkshire Museum’s Chief Experience Officer Craig Langlois.

The Voices and Visionaries series is designed to provide a warm, personal opportunity for guests to mix, mingle, and learn from community thought leaders and Museum staff, and to discuss topics that can be brought to life through the exploration of museum collections. Conversations will also highlight the critical role an interdisciplinary museum like the Berkshire Museum has in communicating information about societal topics that span history, science, art, and culture. Each session features a lively presentation and discussion with the evening’s Visionaries at 5:30 pm, and a wine and beer reception with selections from SPIRITED Wines and Bright Ideas Brewery at 7 pm, followed by a seated, locally-inspired dinner. Talk only tickets are $18, Talk & Beer and Wine Reception Tickets are $30, and Premier Talk and Dinner Tickets are $100 each, or $170 for a pair. There are also scholarship tickets available for active educators. Tickets may be purchased at berkshiremuseum.org, or by phone at 413.443.7171 ext. 318. All scholarship tickets must be purchased over the phone.

At **Voices and Visionaries: What Everyone Should Know About the New Brain Science and Our Youngest Citizens** on Saturday, September 14, Beth Fredericks and Craig Langlois will discuss current topics in early childhood education and their application in
school, home, and community settings. Fredericks will share personal insight into her work in Singapore, a country well-known for its early childhood programs, and her experience creating strong early childhood infrastructure. Langlois will explore the role of museums in early education and showcase the Museum’s kindergarten-readiness publication In Kindergarten, which was distributed to every rising kindergartner in Massachusetts in 2019.

**Beth Fredericks** is a noted and beloved early childhood educator. In her career, Beth was the head of the Boston Children’s Museum’s Race to the Top grant and the Executive Director at Wheelock College Singapore. She is currently the Dean at LittleLives, a leading preschool edtech company in Singapore, Vietnam, China, and Malaysia. With over twenty-five years of experience in museum education, family engagement, curriculum design, teacher training, and early childhood pedagogy, she is a frequent trainer and speaker about children and families. She holds a B.A. in Education from Eastern Michigan University and an M.Ed. in Early Childhood Development from Tufts University.

**Craig Langlois** has worked as an educator and curator in museums for more than 12 years, creating innovative educational experiences in the arts. As Berkshire Museum’s Chief Experience Officer, Craig has created and implemented a wide variety of programs and exhibitions based in an interdisciplinary pedagogy. Craig received a B.F.A. and M.F.A. from Long Island University.

**About Berkshire Museum**

Located at 39 South Street in downtown Pittsfield, MA, Berkshire Museum combines art, science, and history to create thought-provoking experiences for the whole family through interactive programs and interdisciplinary exhibitions. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday noon to 5 pm. Admission is $13 adult, $6 child (under 18); free admission for Museum members, EBT cardholders, and children age 3 and under. For more information, visit [www.berkshiremuseum.org](http://www.berkshiremuseum.org) or call 413.443.7171.

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