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**MONUMENTAL OPENS MARCH 28 AT THE
NATIONAL HELLENIC MUSEUM**

Explore Greek culture through hands-on exhibits

CHICAGO, IL — Explore the magnificent masterpieces of ancient Greek cultures in a hands-on exhibit that introduces children to the science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematical principles of architecture.

The exhibit, Monumental, allows children to explore the building styles, construction techniques, decorative elements, and cultural attributes of Greek monuments as they learn about the fundamental principles that helped shape modern architecture.

Developed by the DuPage Children's Museum with the help of the National Hellenic Museum and the National Museum of Mexican Art, the exhibit explores the Parthenon and other buildings on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece, as well as the Maya structures at Chichen Itza in the rainforest of southeastern Mexico.

Elizabeth Martin, Executive Director of the National Hellenic Museum, said Monumental offers a multicultural learning experience that promotes creativity and problem solving. "This exhibit is a great way to give children a broader world perspective," said Martin.

The exhibit was donated by Dr. Andrew T. and Alice O. Kopan, supporters of the National Hellenic Museum from its inception.

Andrew Kopan was the first president of the museum and a professor of history at DePaul University who spent decades researching, writing and lecturing on multiculturalism, ethnicity and comparative religions. He strongly believed that critical thinking is the essential foundation of learning.

"The Monumental exhibit attempts to capture the spirit of discovery and knowledge, as

well as serve as a symbol of Hellenic heritage and culture,” said Alice Kopan, who visited the exhibit when it was at the DuPage Children’s Museum. “What also appealed to me is that it isn’t just for children, it’s for all ages.”

Visitors can construct their own Acropolis using blocks and stones. Costumes and props provide opportunities for dramatic play. Touch pads allow children to superimpose their face onto the body of Athena, Poseidon or Apollo.

“We are humbled and honored by Mrs. Kopan’s generosity,” said Marianne Vallas Kountoures, the National Hellenic Museum’s Director of Development. “Monumental will have an enriching and lasting impact on every child that interacts with this exhibit, leaving them with a richer appreciation of Greek heritage and its impact on art and architecture.”

Join us for the official opening of the exhibit at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 28 followed by docent-led tours of the museum and a celebration of Greek Independence Day. There will be singing, dancing, crafts and refreshments.

Schedule of Events:

1:00 p.m. – Elizabeth Martin, executive director of the National Hellenic Museum, introduces Monumental.

1:30 p.m. – Ribbon cutting for Monumental

2:30 pm – NHM’s Greek Language and Culture Classes present music, poetry and dance performances in honor of Greek Independence Day.

3:30 pm – NHM’s Adult Dance Students perform

4:00 pm – Open Greek Dancing

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Located in Chicago’s Greektown, the sleek 40,000-square-foot National Hellenic Museum at 333. S. Halsted St. is both contemporary and timeless, connecting all generations—past, present and future—to the rich heritage of Greek history, culture, art and the Greek American experience. The National Hellenic Museum, previously known as the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, has been fulfilling this mission since 1983.

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or call 312-655-1234.

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