

Civil Rights Museum Hosts Children's Exhibit
By RICHARD SADLER
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The SGI-USA's newly refurbished children's rights exhibition opened its 15-city tour today at the National Civil Rights Museum, which is located at the site of Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1968 assassination.

The exhibit, which was first shown in New York in June 1996, was created by the SGI-USA Youth Peace Conference to commemorate the 50th anniversary of UNICEF. Titled "Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities," the exhibit drew inspiration from the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. The 30 panels have upper and lower portions, the lower section employing easy to understand language and three-dimensional displays that children can touch and play with.

At today's opening ceremony, speakers from UNICEF and the SGI-USA gave brief introductions of their organizations. Dwight Moody, a representative from Mayor Willie Herenton's office, presented a plaque declaring Sept. 26, 1997, "Treasuring the Future: Children's Rights and Realities Day" in the city. "I was very impressed with not only the exhibit but all those involved as well," Mr. Moody wrote in the guest book. "Much success will surely follow this initiative."

The next day, SGI-USA youth sponsored a culture festival in the museum's courtyard, which brought members from throughout Tennessee together to perform with local entertainers.

People not just from the United States but from around the world toured the exhibition recording their thoughts in the guest book. "It's great to have such an exhibit focusing on children worldwide," wrote Laura Pietrangella of the Ghandi Institute. "I love how you let the children get involved in the exhibit."

"Very powerful! Informative!" wrote Katherine Geeldant. "It grabs your attention by pointing out injustices as well as the general apathy of our public today. It only reinforces the need to further education and lobbying for needed justice."

The exhibit will open Oct. 13 in Camden, N.J. Then it will show in Baltimore, Md., from Nov. 10-21.

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