



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village Welcomes AmeriCorps VISTA Members

August 24, 2009, Salem, Oregon - A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village is excited to introduce two new members to the museum team. Jessica Auer and Gabriela Maldonado Bell will be joining the museum as yearlong volunteers through the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

Auer, who will be serving as Educational Outreach Coordinator, preceded her role at the Village by working at a museum services nonprofit in New York. In 2008 she received a bachelor's degree in both History and Russian Studies from Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. Through her position at the museum Auer hopes to expand the educational programming of the museum in order to better serve the needs of Salem's diverse youth population.

Maldonado Bell will assume the role of Community Access Coordinator for the Village. Prior to coming to the museum Maldonado Bell attended Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Spanish. Through her work with the Boys and Girls Club and various Headstart preschools, she has developed a passion for working with youth. In her year at the museum Maldonado Bell hopes to establish a sustainable program aimed at making the museum more accessible to low-income and minority families in Marion County.

Both VISTA AmeriCorps members are eager to begin their year of full-time volunteer service at A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village. As members of the larger Clara Barton Vista Corps

A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village

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(CBVC), Auer and Maldonado Bell join 22 other individuals who will be serving as VISTA volunteers throughout the state of Oregon. Each of these CBVC volunteers will work in partnership with a local organization which focuses on preventing individuals and families from entering poverty or offering services to assist in transitioning out of poverty.

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A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village is a private nonprofit children's museum located in downtown Salem's Riverfront Park. Founded in 1989, A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village provides innovative and stimulating educational experiences that spark children's natural curiosity. The Village's mission is to provoke curiosity, inspire awe, awaken interest, foster enjoyment, encourage learning and enable understanding in all youth.

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