October 2021 – June 2022, 2nd Tuesday of the Month, 10 AM – Noon
Little learners get a head full of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) with our contactless special programming. Designed for curious preschoolers, our inspired yet playful activities focus on building an innovative mindset through storytelling, artifact exploration and take-home STEAM activities.

PNC Tinkering for Tots: What are we learning about in May?

Habit of the month:
COLLABORATE
Description: Work together; work as a team. Everyone helps, everyone’s ideas are listened to.

Story: What are we reading?
Title: Melia and Jo
Author: Billy Aronson

Why we picked this book: When we work together, anything is possible. This wonderful story illustrates how our differences can complement each other and we can accomplish so much more working together.

Questions you can ask your young learner: What was Melia good at? What was Jo good at? How did Jo help Melia with her inventions? What kinds of things are you good at? What can you use help with? Who can help you?

Artifact of the day: Where are we going?
Name: “Sunset” by Binh Pho
Location: Davidson-Gerson Modern Glass Gallery

Short description: May is Asian American Heritage Month, so we’re going to highlight to story of an Asian American artist in our collection. Binh Pho is a Vietnamese American who trained as a wood turner. He applies those skills to his glass work, as can be seen in the intricate design here. His imagery reflects Asian culture and nature.

Questions you can ask your young learner: What do you think of the design? What do you think about the colors? What colors do you see? Why do you think the artist called this “Sunset”? What is the meaning of the title “Sunset”?

What to see next: While in the Davidson-Gerson Modern Glass Gallery, check out these works by Asian artists: “Vase Tulip” by Kimiak Heiguchi and “Talavera” by Sharmini Wirasekara.

In Driven to Win: Racing in America, see the video games Atari Pole Position, Atari Indy 500 and Sega Daytona USA, and you will see that many popular video games came to us from Asian designers and companies.

Visit Your Place in Time and see more contributions to American culture made by Asian companies and their engineers, designers and workers, such as the Nintendo Game Boy, Jet Moto Playstation game and Nike Air Jordan basketball shoes.

Take Home STEAM Activity: What are we doing?
Title: Stained Glass

Materials:
• 9x12 clear contact paper
• 4 strips of black construction paper
• Colored sand
• Masking tape and scissors (not included)
Take Home STEAM Activity: Stained Glass

Materials:

- 9x12 clear contact paper
- 4 strips of black construction paper
- Colored sand
- Masking tape and scissors (not included)

Directions:

1. Cut four pieces of masking tape and fold each into a loop. Stick those loops to your flat work surface.

2. Remove the protective cover from the contact paper and place the clear sheet sticky side up on the two masking tape loops. This prevents movement while working.

3. To create a frame for your stained glass, place the black construction paper strips around the edges of the sticky side of the contact paper, being careful to align the edges. Any excess contact paper can be trimmed later.

4. Keep bags of sand zipped shut to prevent spilling the sand.

5. Tip the bag of the color sand you want to use so all of the sand is away from one lower corner.

6. Cut off a small piece of the sand-free corner. This is where you will squeeze the sand through, so be careful not to cut too much off the corner or too much sand will come out.

7. Holding the bag like a pastry bag, squeeze the sand onto the sticky contact paper in whatever pattern you choose. (You can use fingers to carefully spread out the sand.)

8. Repeat steps 7 and 8 for each color of sand you use. When finished with a bag, you can fold over the cut end and tape it shut to prevent spillage.

9. When your picture is complete, lift it carefully away from the masking tape loops and hold horizontally over a waste basket or other place to dump the excess sand. Turn the picture upright and allow the loose sand to fall away.