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For Immediate Release

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**Lydia Desormeaux, ULL May 2023 Graduate
Gives Hands-on *Bousillage* Presentation in
Recognition of Earth Day in the CMA's "*Louisiana Culture Corner*" Exhibit**

Lafayette, LA – Children and families interested in learning about and partaking in the craft of *Bousillage*, a building technique that holds a significant place in the story of Louisiana's settlement, this Saturday, April 22nd from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Museum's "*Louisiana Culture Corner*" Exhibit.

Lydia Desormeaux, an Anthropology major and Architecture minor at the University of Louisiana Lafayette, will present the unique wattle and daub technique that developed in south Louisiana in the late 17th century. Used to infill buildings such as houses and churches, the mixing of Native Americans and settlers from Europe and Africa used Spanish moss and clay or silt soil to create a building material that became known as *Bousillage*. In addition to presenting the technique, Ms. Desormeaux will guide children through the process of making *Bousillage* themselves as well as share how *Bousillage* was used in building development.

"The CMA is thrilled to host Lydia's *Bousillage* presentation in the "*Louisiana Culture Corner*" Exhibit in honor of Earth Day," said Lore Linton, CMA interim executive director. "It will give children and their families the opportunity to experience the creolization of architectural construction using local materials in our region."

"The "*Louisiana Culture Corner*" Exhibit is the perfect venue for Ms. Desormeaux to share her knowledge of and enthusiasm about our architectural heritage," shared Amy Schwarzenbach, the CMA's grant writer and administrator. "It was designed to expose children to south Louisiana's unique flora, fauna, and cultural heritage that uniquely reflects its history."

About the Children's Museum of Acadiana: With the mission "Learning by Doing," the Children's Museum of Acadiana is a private, non-profit corporation that exists to foster a creative environment through "hands-on" exhibits and programs. (cmalaf.org)