CALL TO ALL PIE PLAYERS AND CRICKETEERS

“Thinking Outside of The Box From The Inside of A Box”

What:
Consider this an invitation to design and make an interactive cricket creation that uses the context of an exhibition box to think outside of the box.

Who:
You and other playful inventers, artistic explorers and creative tinkers who are familiar with crickets or in the process of learning about crickets or the RCX.

Scope of the Project:
Yes, the box, in the form of a diorama-like box-space with a window, is ready to be transformed into an interactive experience. If you feel inspired to use crickets to reinterpret the constraints of “the box” or express its essence, consider this an invitation for creative exploration and artistic license. This is a call for interactive, playful inventions that incorporate the expressive possibilities of crickets. A selection of the “Thinking Outside of The Box From The Inside of A Box” submissions will be installed in the Invention At Play traveling exhibition being developed by the Smithsonian Museum with The Science Museum of Minnesota; others will be on display in the Lifelong Kindergarten Group at the MIT Media Lab.

Background:
This is a call for cricket creations to be installed in the Invention At Play exhibition that opens in July of 2002 at the Smithsonian Museum’s National Museum of American History in Washington D.C. before traveling nationwide for three years, or to become part of an interactive display at the MIT Media Lab. When considering this invitation, imagine a series of box like spaces that will form one wall of the exhibition area. Within this cubby like array are places for collections objects and video monitors that communicate ideas related to the history and future of play.

As part of the PIE (Playful Invention and Exploration Network) collaboration with the Lemelson Center's Exhibition “Invention At Play”, we are proposing to make interactive cricket creations that communicate the spirit of the PIE project while giving museum visitors a tangible sense of what happens when everyday materials meet digital media for playful inventions and exploration.
Design Specifications:
Cricket creations need to be designed to physically fit into the box-like spaces measuring 15” wide by 15” tall by 17” deep. There are three of these single box spaces and one that is double in width, 31” wide, by 15” tall by 17”. The front face of the boxes will be covered with a 1/4” transparent Plexiglas window. The interactions that you design can extend the experience beyond the box. Possible approaches include the use of sensors, motors, displays, speakers etc. within the box. Sensors attached to or inset into the Plexiglas window need to be able to endure demanding use by curious and enthusiastic museum visitors of all ages.

The design of engaging interactions with Museum visitors of all ages is at the heart of "Thinking Outside of The Box From The Inside of A Box ", as is design durability that supports this ongoing experience. All of the selected cricket creations will ultimately be powered with an ac adapter. We can work with you to do this part and to help with modifications that add to the essential, overall durability of your creation.

TimeLine:
Now to mid-March - Time to think with the box, work individually or Collaboratively, gather necessary resources for making your playful invention and time to make it.

March 21, 2002 - All submissions due to arrive at the Media Lab

April 5, 2002 - Everyone will be notified re: the destination of Their creation either in the “Invention At Play” exhibition or the MIT Media Lab display.

Submissions:
All playful inventions can be sent to or dropped off at: MIT Media Lab Room E15-020A Attn: Diane Willow Cambridge, MA 02139

Questions?
willow@media.mit.edu or 617-253-6739

Resources:
http://llk.media.mit.edu/projects/pie/ - Playful Invention and Exploration information
http://llk.media.mit.edu/projects/crickets/ - Cricket resources
http://www.astc.org/exhibitions/invention.htm - Description of Invention At Play
http://www.si.edu/lemelson/ - Background about the Lemelson Center
http://www.pie.exploratorium.edu/scrapbook/ - PIE charrette information