This is England? What? I did not expect a sushi restaurant to be here. I did not expect all of these languages and faces. I did not expect a children’s museum like this. I try to walk around with an open heart and an open mind. But still, we all have expectations that are sometimes wrong. Certainly, things are different here from where I live, this is a bigger city and a lot of people are walking instead of driving. Also, people drive on the other side of the road from where I live. My mom says my grandmother would have said, “they drive on the wrong side of the road”. I don’t believe that. People have their own ways of doing stuff. Traveling is going to make me see the world differently. Not many of my friends at my school get to travel. They stay home or they go to the same camp the entire summer. This is a really special opportunity because there’s only like three people in my class that ever go on trips. This picture makes me think about how we don’t—we can’t—know what to expect from anyone. When I was in kindergarten, these older kids were helping us read, and they were all surprised that I could speak Spanish because my name is a French name and well, I look kind of white. Well, a little browner now because it’s summer. Anyway, we need to let go of our expectations. We can’t think we know a person (or a city) before we really get to know it.

By Roxanne and Genevieve Schroeder-Arce