



Museum of Nature and Science

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **EXOTIC DINOSAURS INFILTRATE PEROT MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE AS ULTIMATE DINOSAURS TRAVELING EXHIBITION MAKES ITS TEXAS DEBUT JUNE 23**

*Monstrous meat eaters, cannibalistic dinosaurs and prehistoric heavyweights! Ultimate Dinosaurs reveals rarely seen species – including a ferocious distant cousin to *T. rex* – that evolved in the southern hemisphere; plus, Perot Museum to unveil new paleo enhancements and interactives during its “summer of the dinosaur”*

**DALLAS (May 31, 2018)** – A dino-mite invasion makes its Texas’ debut June 23 at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. The traveling exhibition, *Ultimate Dinosaurs*, puts guests eye to eye with an incredible array of prehistoric dominators that thrived only in the southern hemisphere. With crazy claws and crocodile-like faces that would have intimidated a *T. rex*, these unique dinosaurs were funky and fierce! Presented locally by *Highland Capital Management*, *Ultimate Dinosaurs* features full-sized skeletons, plus life-sized video projections of the creatures, interactive games, augmented-reality viewers and more. Presented in English and French (with a Spanish audio guide available), the exhibition runs June 23, 2018-Jan. 6, 2019, and requires a surcharge for members and non-members. Member preview days are June 21-22.

“These are not the dinosaurs you learned about in school,” said Dr. Linda Silver, Eugene McDermott Chief Executive Officer of the Perot Museum. “*Ultimate Dinosaurs* showcases a whole new group of fossil animals that were unknown to scientists 30 years ago. We’ve all heard of *Triceratops* and *Tyrannosaurus* ... this is your chance to take a journey to the past and learn about a fascinating group of highly unusual dinosaurs from below the equator.”

The exhibition is part of the Perot Museum’s “summer of the dinosaur,” which will bring new dinosaur-related enhancements to the Museum’s iconic escalator and the *T. Boone Pickens Life Then and Now Hall* (details coming soon).

Based on groundbreaking research from scientists around the world, *Ultimate Dinosaurs* reveals rarely seen species from the other side of the world that evolved and thrived in South America and Africa. From the tiny *Eoraptor* to the massive *Giganotosaurus* (*T. rex*’s bigger, badder cousin), the exhibition is an enthralling introduction to dinosaurs that are unfamiliar to most North Americans.

“Dinosaurs are often what spark an interest in science, and this exhibition is sure to bring that interest to life for many guests who get to experience it,” said Thomas Surgent, Highland Capital Management partner and chief compliance officer. “Highland is proud to play a role in connecting people of all ages to science in such a unique, engaging way.”

*Ultimate Dinosaurs* tells the story of the breakup of supercontinent Pangaea into today’s continents and the amazing diversity of dinosaurs that evolved during the Mesozoic Era (roughly 251-65 million years ago) as a result. As Pangaea divided first into Laurasia in the north and Gondwana in the south (and later into the seven continents of today), dinosaurs were passengers on these drifting land masses. The dinosaurs’ imposed geographic location, and sometimes isolation, helped drive their evolution into an incredible array of unusual forms that dominated ancient ecosystems wherever they lived.

Visitors can feast their eyes on 17 fully articulated dinosaur casts, more than a dozen prehistoric specimens, augmented reality to experience the dinosaurs in the flesh, touchable fossilized dinosaur specimens, hands-on play spaces featuring miniature dinosaur dioramas and more.

Kids and adults alike will walk away knowing that *Argentinosaurus* was the world’s heaviest dinosaur and that the *Majungasaurus* was believed to be cannibalistic at times. *Giganotosaurus* was South America’s “king of the jungle” predator of the Late Cretaceous, and it may have been near the maximum possible size for land predators. And it turns out that *Argentinosaurus* and *Futalognkosaurus* have a Texas connection. Research by

Perot Museum paleontologists Dr. Anthony Fiorillo and Dr. Ron Tykoski revealed that the Perot Museum's own *Alamosaurus* is more closely related to these massive South American titanosaurs than to Asian titanosaurs, as had been previously believed.

**PROGRAM EXTENSIONS.** In keeping with the "summer of the dinosaur," the Perot Museum has troves of dinosaur delights planned. From two dino-themed sleepovers (July 13 and Aug. 31) to a prehistoric-themed adults-only *Social Science* (Aug. 10), there's programming to satisfy all ages. Plus, the Museum will unearth new dinosaur sights and experiences throughout the season.

**EXTENDED SUMMER HOURS.** Summer hours of operation for the Perot Museum are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.

**Member-only hours!** From 9-10 a.m. every Saturday and 10-11 a.m. every Sunday, members can enjoy exclusive access to the Perot Museum.

**HOURS.** General hours of operation for the Perot Museum (which resume Friday, Sept. 7) are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. **IMPORTANT:** The Museum will close for routine annual maintenance Sept. 4-6. The Museum will close early Nov. 9 (1 p.m.) and all day Nov. 10 for the *Night at the Museum* fundraising gala. The Museum also will close Nov. 22 (Thanksgiving) and Dec. 25 (Christmas).

**TICKETS.** Museum general admission is \$20 for adults (13-64), \$13 for youth (2-12) and \$14 for seniors (65+). Museum general admission is free for members. Children under 2 are always free. *Ultimate Dinosaurs* requires a surcharge of \$10 for adults (13-64), \$8 for youth (2-12), \$9 for seniors (65+), and free for children under 2. Member tickets are \$7 for all age levels.

The Perot Museum is DARTable with easy access on the DART bus and rail system. For route information visit [perotmuseum.org/directions](http://perotmuseum.org/directions).

The Perot Museum is located at 2201 N. Field Street in Dallas, Texas. Museum general admission is free for members. For ticket information, parking maps and other details visit [perotmuseum.org](http://perotmuseum.org) or call 214-428-5555.

*Ultimate Dinosaurs* is presented by the Science Museum of Minnesota and is supported locally by Hilton hotels of Dallas-Fort Worth and the "Explore Like a Local" program. More information at [perotmuseum.org/hilton](http://perotmuseum.org/hilton). *Highland Capital Management* is the 2017-2018 Premier Partner of the Perot Museum.

**NOTE: To obtain the news release, Perot Museum fact sheet, photos and more, please go to [perotmuseum.org/press](http://perotmuseum.org/press).**

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**About the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.** *The top cultural attraction in Dallas/Fort Worth and a Michelin Green Guide three-star destination, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is a nonprofit educational organization located in Victory Park in the heart of Dallas, Texas. With a mission to inspire minds through nature and science, the Perot Museum delivers exciting, engaging and innovative visitor and outreach experiences through its education, exhibition, and research and collections programming for children, students, teachers, families and life-long learners. The 180,000-square-foot facility in Victory Park opened in December 2012 and is now recognized as the symbolic gateway to the Dallas Arts District. Future scientists, mathematicians and engineers will find inspiration and enlightenment through 11 permanent exhibit halls on five floors of public space; a children's museum; a state-of-the art traveling exhibition hall; and The Hognlund Foundation Theater, a National Geographic Experience. Designed by 2005 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate Thom Mayne and his firm Morphosis Architects, the Victory Park museum has been lauded for its artistry and sustainability. To learn more, please visit [perotmuseum.org](http://perotmuseum.org).*

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