



Museum of Nature and Science

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEROT MUSEUM'S 2019-2020 SEASON LINEUP FEATURES SHOWSTOPPER EXHIBITIONS AS GROUNDBREAKING ANCIENT FOSSILS DEBUT OCT. 19 PLUS PIXAR OPENS APRIL 2020

Two traveling exhibitions – Origins: Fossils from the Cradle of Humankind and The Science Behind Pixar – headline the season, alongside National Geographic Live speakers, Social Science adult-only nights, 3D films, A Day in the Life career exploration, Discovery Camps and more

DALLAS (Sept. 5, 2019) – Embarking on a world-exclusive debut, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science announces its 2019-2020 season that includes a groundbreaking exhibition – *Origins: Fossils from the Cradle of Humankind* – featuring fossils of two newly discovered hominin (human relative) species. The historic exhibition will be presented Oct. 19 at only one venue – the Perot Museum – marking the first (and likely only) time these rare relics will leave South Africa. And coming April 2020, *The Science Behind Pixar* exhibition will offer fans of the adored films – such as *Toy Story*, *Finding Nemo*, *Cars*, *Monsters Inc.* and *The Incredibles* – an exciting look into the process, science and engineering behind Pixar's 30-plus years of award-winning productions.

"The discoveries of *Australopithecus sediba* and *Homo naledi* captured world headlines and are shaping our understanding of the complexities of the human family tree," said Dr. Linda Silver, Eugene McDermott CEO of the Perot Museum. "There is still so much to learn about our ancestry, and we are proud to not only bring this exhibition to North Texas but to have our scientists involved in the game-changing research. We hope *Origins: Fossils from the Cradle of Humankind* inspires visitors to stay curious and keep asking questions about the natural world."

Other highlights include *National Geographic Live Speaker Series*, *A Day in the Life* career-exploration opportunities, *Discovery Camps*, 3D films, adults-only *Social Science* nights and more.

For details on the Perot Museum's 2019-2020 sci-fun season, see below:

WORLD EXCLUSIVE! ORIGINS: FOSSILS FROM THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND (Oct. 19, 2019-March 22, 2020). *One venue. One time.* The Perot Museum of Nature and Science in partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits University) in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the National Geographic Society, have announced that fossils of two recently discovered ancient human relatives (*Australopithecus sediba* and *Homo naledi*) will come to the U.S. from South Africa for the first (and likely only) time. This rare exhibition will also mark the first time that ancient hominin fossils have traveled for public display since "Lucy" (*Australopithecus afarensis*) between 2007 and 2013. Discovered in 2008 by then 9-year-old Matthew Berger, *Au. sediba* were some of the most complete hominin skeletons known in the fossil record at the time. Just five years later, the first fossils of another new ancient relative, *H. naledi* (formally described in 2015), were dramatically unearthed in South Africa by a Wits University team including the Perot Museum's Dr. Becca Peixotto, Director and Research Scientist of the *Center for the Exploration of the Human Journey*. Together, these two remarkable discoveries provide further compelling evidence for the complex and nuanced processes of human evolution. Guests will have a chance to get up close with these distant, ancient relatives "to explore our shared human history" through a variety of interactive exhibits. *Origins: Fossils from the Cradle of Humankind* is presented by *Highland Capital Management* and supported locally by the *Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District*. This special exhibition requires a surcharge for members and non-members.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND PIXAR (April 25-Sept. 7, 2020). Enjoy a unique look into the Pixar process, and explore the science and technology behind some of the most beloved animated films and their characters with *The Science Behind Pixar*. Get hands on with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts used by the artists and computer scientists who help bring Pixar's award-winning films to the big screen. With more than 50 interactive elements, the exhibition takes visitors through each

step of the filmmaking process, giving an unparalleled view of the production pipeline and concepts used at Pixar every day. Participate in fun and engaging activities, listen to firsthand accounts from members of the studios' production teams, and come face-to-face with re-creations of Pixar's most beloved characters, from Buzz Lightyear, Dory, and Mike and Sulley, to Edna Mode and WALL•E! *The Science Behind Pixar* is presented by Highland Capital Management. Pixar requires a surcharge for members and non-members.

3D FILMS IN THE HOGLUND FOUNDATION THEATER. Adventure awaits with tornadoes, volcanoes, oceans, beloved dogs and fierce dinosaurs. The lineup includes *Superpower Dogs 3D* and *Wild Africa 3D* (through Jan. 5, 2020), *Volcanoes 3D: The Fires of Creation* (through March 6, 2020), *Hidden Pacific 3D* and *Tornado Alley 3D* (Jan. 6-May 21, 2020), and *Dinosaurs of Antarctica 3D* (March 7-Sept. 4, 2020). To view trailers and film times, go to perotmuseum.org. Films are presented locally by Primrose Schools. *Volcanoes 3D: The Fires of Creation* is sponsored by The Hockaday School.

PROGRAMS. The Perot Museum's popular *National Geographic Live Speaker Series* returns in January plus a slew of sleepovers, architecture tours, adults-only nights, seasonal camps and other events to entice all ages pack the calendar.

2020 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE SPEAKERS SERIES. Lions, great white sharks and life on Mars? Hear from three world-renowned explorers who work at the forefronts of space and wildlife as they headline the Perot Museum's *National Geographic Live Speaker Series*. The 2020 season kicks off **Jan. 15** with wildlife photographer and cinematographer **Shannon Wild**, who's been mauled by a cheetah; charged by lions, buffalo and an elephant; and bitten countless times by snakes and lizards. On **March 25**, the series continues with marine biologist-turned-photographer **Thomas Peschak**, who's found himself paddling kayaks alongside great white sharks in South Africa, swimming among hundreds of one-ton manta rays in the Maldives and keeping pace with massive whale sharks in the Arabian Sea. Culminating the series **May 6** is the young and dynamic NASA mechanical engineer **Kobie Boykins**, who is on the front line of Mars exploration, having monitored headline-making studies including proof of the former presence of water on Mars (indicating that the red planet could have supported life). Lectures take place at 7 p.m. in *The Hogleund Foundation Theater*. Tickets go on sale Oct. 7. Season ticket packages guarantee a seat to all three lectures. Individual tickets are \$35 for Museum members and \$40 for non-members. *National Geographic Live* is presented nationally by *The Great Courses Plus* and presented locally by *Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*

A DAY IN THE LIFE. Curious about a career in science? *A Day in the Life* offers guests a unique and immersive opportunity to engage with an expert and step into their career while participating in activities illustrating what it means to be a scientist working in a particular field. Through personal stories and community interaction, ticket holders can think, do, taste and banter with other like-minded folks while reaching a deeper connection to a field of science that piques their interest. Upcoming dates are Nov. 23 (Archaeologist) and April 25 (Animator) at 9 a.m. (Complimentary breakfast served at 8:30 a.m.) Tickets – which include general admission – are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. *Supported by the King family.*

SOCIAL SCIENCE. The ultimate Friday-night adult play date, *Social Science* events are geared exclusively for the 21-and-older crowd complete with cocktails, craft beers, food by Wolfgang Puck Catering, performances, innovative experiments, engaging discussions and cool inventions. Upcoming events are from 7-11 p.m. on Oct. 18 (Mystery), Jan. 24 (Eng-inuity) and April 17 (Artificial Intelligence). Tickets are \$20 for members and \$29 for non-members. *Social Science* is supported by *Highland Capital Management and Park Place Dealerships. Please drink responsibly.*

SLEEPOVERS. Soak up some science, then catch some zzz's! A Perot Museum sleepover gives kids and their adult chaperones an unforgettable after-hours experience to explore all five levels, enjoy a live science show, see a 3D film and more. Upcoming events are Oct. 25 (Zombie Survival), Nov. 1 (Girl Scout Investigation), Nov. 22 (Bone Diggers), Jan. 4 (Wizardsing Science), Feb. 7 (Girl Scout Think Like an Engineer), Feb. 15 (Mad About Science), March 14 (Sports Science), April 4 (I Spy: Investigation), May 1 (All Girls Sci-Fi Fun) and May 22 (Fantastic Flyers). Sleepovers start at \$45 per child and \$30 per adult chaperone for members and \$50 per child and \$35 per adult chaperone for non-members. Visit perotmuseum.org for dates and themes.

ARCHITECTURE TOUR. Ever wonder how the Museum appears to "float" at night or why its glass-encased escalator only goes up? Learn all about the structure *Architectural Digest* named one of the "10 best-designed buildings in the world" on a *Perot Museum Architecture Tour*. See this award-winning

museum – lauded for its bold artistry and sustainability and designed by 2005 Pritzker Prize Laureate Thom Mayne and his firm, Morphosis – in a whole new light. Tours, which last 1-1.5 hours, are available to individuals or groups up to 20 at a fee of \$5 per person. The tour is only available with the purchase of Museum general admission and must be purchased in advance.

DISCOVERY CAMP. Hey parents! While schools are closed for fall, winter and spring breaks, kids (pre-K-6th grade) can engage in amaze-your-brain fun at the Perot Museum’s seasonal *Discovery Camps* chock full of educational STEAM-inspired activities. Half-day camps are available for pre-K children with full-day camps for K-6th graders. All camps feature hands-on science experiments, creative projects, interactive investigation and exploration led by expert camp instructors. Before and after care is available for K-6 graders. Visit perotmuseum.org/camps for dates, themes and prices.

HOURS. General hours of operation for the Perot Museum are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. **IMPORTANT:** The Museum will close early Nov. 8 (1 p.m.) and all day Nov. 9 for the *Night at the Museum* fundraising gala. The Museum also will close Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving) and Dec. 25 (Christmas).

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, plus member-only access to the *Moody Family Children’s Museum* on Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon.

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. For groups of 10 or more, call for special rates at 214-428-5555 ext. 8. All prices are subject to change.

The Perot Museum is located at 2201 N. Field Street in Dallas, Texas. For ticket information, parking maps and other details visit perotmuseum.org or call 214-428-5555.

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

Highland Capital Management is the 2019-2020 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.

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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 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 Heglund Foundation Theater. 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.*

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