



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OISHEI FOUNDATION GRANTS \$1 MILLION TO SCIENCE MUSEUM Funding to support installation of Science Studios

BUFFALO, N.Y. (April 15, 2011) -- The John R. Oishei Foundation has awarded a grant of \$1 million to support the Buffalo Museum of Science's Master Plan. The award will be distributed over two years and has been made to provide funding for two Science Studios, a new model of interactive science exhibition, one that integrates the Museum's collections with the engagement of hands-on interactive elements. These Studios will be designed to facilitate content updates, equipment change out and ongoing exhibit experience evolution to keep the museum experience timely and relevant. Funding provided by The John R. Oishei Foundation will support the Health Sciences and Earth Systems Science Studios, and will allow the museum to begin construction immediately.

"On behalf of the Board and staff of the Buffalo Museum of Science, I want to express our sincere gratitude for this outstanding gift. We are honored that the Oishei Foundation sees the potential for, and importance of, the Buffalo Museum of Science for the people of our region," said Randall Burkard, chairman of the board of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences that operates the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Mark Mortenson, the museum's president and CEO, commented, "We are so thankful to The John R. Oishei Foundation for their show of confidence in our plan. This grant will allow us to focus on the science currently happening in Western New York. Our Science Studios will support science inquiry and stronger connections to contemporary physical science, engineering, and biomedicine, offering the community a venue to learn more about the innovation that is happening right here in Western New York. We have developed partnerships with corporate, educational and research institutions located in Western New York to showcase their innovation and research to the public. The content featured in the Science Studios, where relevant, will largely focus on regional scientific breakthroughs of these partner organizations."

"The opportunity to support the creation of engaging, hands-on science that showcases the exciting innovations taking place in our community was very attractive to our Foundation. We are pleased to support this important effort that through collaboration will bring science alive and reinvigorate one of our important cultural institutions," stated Robert D. Gioia, President of The John R. Oishei Foundation.

The John R. Oishei Foundation strives to be a catalyst for change to enhance economic vitality and the quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region. The Foundation was established in 1940 by John R. Oishei, founder of Trico Products Corporation.

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-OISHEI \$1M GRANT, cont'd-

The Buffalo Museum of Science is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 700,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo's East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year.

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