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For Information Contact:

Becky E. Adamietz – 817-255-9411

Cell: 817-980-0688

badamietz@fwmslh.org

Ana Bak – 817-255-9412

abak@fwmslh.org

**Fort Worth Museum of Science and History
Includes State-of-the-Art Planetarium
Unequaled In The Southwest**

***Noble Planetarium Features First Zeiss-Manufactured
Hybrid Planetarium System***

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – When the newly constructed Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (FWMSH) opens to the public Friday Nov. 20, 2009, it brings the first Zeiss-manufactured hybrid planetarium system – an immersive all-dome video combined with a fiber optic dual-hemisphere star projector to see more than 7,000 stars – to the Southwest United States.

The new Planetarium also features an exhibit area that provides large screens with up-to-the-minute views of the Sun, as well as downlinks offering the latest information from the Hubble Telescope.

“Our new Noble Planetarium is a giant leap into the 21st century, incorporating the very latest cutting-edge technology in the planetarium field,” said Planetarium Director Linda Krouse. “Guests to our new facility need to bring only one thing – their imagination – and we will whisk them away as real-time explorers through the incredible wonders of our universe!”

New Noble Planetarium Details:

- Zeiss SKYMASTER ZKP-4 star projector which projects thousands more stars more clearly than ever before.
- Two (2) star balls that cover the entire sky – both the northern and southern hemispheres.
- Sciss UniView flies Planetarium visitors to the edge of the universe and back. This live-action software allows real-time visits to any location in the known universe.
- 890-square foot, pre-show area features:
 - an official Sputnik satellite;
 - a replica of NASA’s original Manned Maneuvering Unit, which allowed astronauts the ability to fly without a tether to the Space Shuttle;

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Fort Worth Museum of Science and History – New Noble Planetarium
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- one (1) large plasma screen with ViewSpace, real-time information from the Hubble Space Telescope and other up-to-the-minute space news;
- four (4) large plasma screens presenting real-time images from the Charlie Mary Noble Solar Observatory at the University of North Texas;
- a beautifully-displayed 400-pound rare pallasite meteorite from the Brenham meteorite field in Kansas; and
- an ever-changing exhibit case, initially containing the 100-pound *Blue Mound, Texas* meteorite.

Upon opening, programming in the 100-seat Planetarium will feature *Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity*, an all-dome production by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. It offers guests a visual experience of the black hole, providing a complete picture of this mysterious phenomenon. *Texas Sky Tonight... LIVE!* will offer a real viewing of the sky, revealing the wonder of the stars, constellations and planets. These two shows will run until early February 2010.

“Creation of this exemplary new Planetarium is an enormous step forward in reaffirming our dedication to Charlie Mary Noble and the work she did,” said Museum of Science and History President Van A. Romans. “The state-of-the-art equipment and software, as well as the brilliantly purple-colored exterior dome, symbolize what Miss Noble stood for and our dedication to expanded planetarium programs that will continue to touch the lives of children and their families.”

BACKGROUND:

The Fort Worth Children’s Museum was the first children’s museum in the world to house a planetarium, which it received in 1949. It was an oblate spheroid, 18 feet in diameter, constructed of plywood and cardboard erected under a tent in the museum’s backyard. It was in this setting that one of Spitz’ first instruments, a model "A-1," was used. The seating consisted of steel folding chairs.

When the Museum moved to its location on Montgomery Street, the Spitz A-1 moved under a spherical 30-foot dome of plaster. In 1955, this planetarium was dedicated to Miss Charlie Mary Noble, a local teacher of mathematics. It was the first planetarium in the world to be named for a woman.

In 1968, the Fort Worth Children’s Museum became the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

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About The Museum

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Days. For more information about the Museum visit www.fortworthmuseum.org or call 817-255-9300.

In 1939, the Fort Worth Council of Administrative Women in Education presented a successful proposal to the City Council for the creation of a children's museum in Fort Worth. Chartered with the State of Texas in 1941 as the “Fort Worth Children’s Museum,” the new \$80 million FWMSH campus marks the culmination of an extensive multi-year fund-raising campaign following a comprehensive planning effort. Dedicated to life-long learning and anchored by its rich collections, the Museum engages school children and adult visitors through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. For more than six decades, the FWMSH has provided learning opportunities for tens of thousands of area children annually among its million visitors each year, making it one of the most popular cultural attractions in North Texas.

The new Museum building, created by internationally acclaimed architects Legorreta + Legorreta with Gideon Toal, is located in the heart of Fort Worth’s Cultural District. The world-class, 166,000 square-foot facility features a collection of new, interactive exhibits and programs developed by the Museum’s staff and a team of nationally recognized designers in support of the Museum’s dedication to informal, discovery-based learning for all.

The new Museum’s environment of learning comprises state-of-the-art interactive exhibitions and components including: Energy Blast; the Fort Worth Children’s Museum; the Cattle Raisers Museum; the Noble Planetarium; Omni IMAX® Theater; DinoLabs/DinoDig® – featuring the State Dinosaur of Texas, *Paluxysaurus jonesi*; Innovation Studios/Innovation Gallery; and the 60-year-old Museum School.