



**FORT WORTH MUSEUM**  
SCIENCE AND HISTORY

**For Immediate Release**

August 24, 2016

## **Discovery of New Planet Raises Possibility of Other Life Forms** *Scientists Say Interstellar Mission Possible Within A Generation*

**Fort Worth, TX** – Could the discovery of a new planet only 4.25 light-years away from Earth hold clues to extraterrestrial life? That’s what researchers are asking after the discovery of what’s being called the Pale Red Dot. The planet, which orbits Proxima Centauri outside of our solar system, is believed to be capable of sustaining life. Researchers theorize that the planet’s temperature is mild enough to support water, which is the first major hurdle in finding a planet qualified to maintain life.

Sarah Twidal, Noble Planetarium Manager, explains, “We are very excited about this discovery and look forward to more information as it becomes available.” Twidal has recently spoken on the Kepler Space Telescope and how it is helping scientists find exoplanets – planets which rotate around a sun outside our own solar system. She is available to speak with reporters about the significance of this discovery and the importance it will have shaping future research.

Scientists already say they plan to compile more information on the mysterious planet over the next ten years, including hopes for an interstellar mission to visit the planet in coming years.

### **For Media Inquiries Contact:**

Rebecca Rodriguez  
Executive Director of Marketing & Communications  
(817) 255-9411  
[rrodriguez@fwmslh.org](mailto:rrodriguez@fwmslh.org)

### **About the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History**

*The Museum was established in 1941 and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Anchored by its rich collections, the Museum is dedicated to lifelong learning. It engages guests through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. The Museum is open daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. For more information, visit [www.fortworthmuseum.org](http://www.fortworthmuseum.org)*