



FORT WORTH MUSEUM
SCIENCE AND HISTORY

Learning through Innovation

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Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

Innovation Gallery Features Hands-on Exhibition, *Tinkering*,

Designed to Illicit Inquiry and Whimsical Play

Tinkering Opens Friday Nov. 20, 2009 and Runs Through Sunday May 30, 2010

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – Upon opening, Innovation Galleries within the newly constructed Fort Worth Museum of Science and History (FWMSH) presents *Tinkering* an exhibition on loan from the San Francisco Exploratorium as part of the EXnet partnership that supports the Museum's goal to provide discovery learning opportunities for all guests. *Tinkering* is on exhibition through Sunday May 30, 2010.

With more than 15 exhibits, *Tinkering* blends together a collection of experiences that best supports open-ended exploration, social learning, and whimsical play. Building on the extensive research done by the Exploratorium on via efforts such as Playful Invention and Exploration and Active Prolonged Engagement, *Tinkering* creates an environment where children and adults can engage at their own pace, together, in experiences that relate to their sense of play and curiosity. Guests can freeze their shadows, paint masterpieces with light, or construct a sonic pinball course.

“It is believed that tinkering – focused activity with the right materials in the right environment – can not only lead to great new inventions, but more importantly builds self-confidence, critical thinking skills, and crucial attitudes that scaffold people's interest in science, technology, engineering, and math,” said Museum of Science and History Executive Vice President of Innovation Colleen Blair. “In keeping

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with the goals of the Innovation Studios, the *Tinkering* exhibition reinforces to guests of all ages that they too can create new inventions – that they can dream new things, and then actually build them.”

Elements within *Tinkering* include:

- **Shadow Box and Light Room Painting:** This exhibit combines the Shadow Box and a new activity, Light Painting. The shadow box uses a strobe to capture the guest’s shadow on a glow in the dark background. The exhibit can be changed over to a light painting activity that is captured on a digital camera and displayed on a monitor. This is an activity that allows guests to creatively express ideas by experimenting with the color and qualities of the light source, and other elements that affect the aesthetic qualities of the light painting.
- **Light Island:** At Light Island, guests can play and experiment with various aspects of optics. From a 200-watt light source in the center of the table, beams of white, red, green and blue light created by color filters, radiate out onto the table. Mirrors, lenses, prisms and filters can be placed in the path of these beams to reflect, bend or mix the light in many ways.
- **Bicycle Wheel Harp:** Multiple bicycle wheels mounted to a table top create a cacophony of sound.
- **PinBell Machine:** Place one or more balls in the slot in front of the plunger. In a single motion, pull back the plunger and release it quickly. Listen to the melody as the ball strikes the bells. Move the bells around to make new melodies.

In recognition of the family’s generous gift to the Museum’s campaign to construct the new building, the gallery space will be known as the Paul E. Andrews, Jr. Foundation Gallery.

ExNET Partners, representing large and small museums in Europe, Mexico, and the United States, organize around the exchange of exhibits, people, and expertise to contribute to building a worldwide culture of learning. Partners meet semi-annually to share ideas, coordinate activities, and plan future projects.

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About the Museum

Located at 1600 Gendy Street, 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.