

FORT WORTH MUSEUM

SCIENCE AND HISTORY

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NEWS RELEASE

For Information Contact:

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Becky E. Adamietz – 817-255-9411
817-980-0688 – cell
badamietz@fwmslh.org

Fort Worth Museum of Science and History Sponsors *Light the Lantern Banks: Lamplighter Contest* For Its Youngest Supporters

FORT WORTH, TEXAS — The *Light the Lantern Banks: Lamplighter Contest* is a fund-raising initiative that gives children a hands-on opportunity to help raise support for the new Fort Worth Museum of Science and History building. Children under age 12 who participate in the initiative will be entered into a contest for the chance to be the official “Lamplighter,” at a public ceremony of the lighting of the Urban Lantern scheduled for Nov. 16, 2009.

Light the Lantern banks can be picked up at the Omni Theater, 1501 Montgomery St. or at the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, 1720 Gendy St. Children can decorate the lantern banks and collect change over the summer. To be eligible for the contest, all banks and contributions must be returned by Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009 either to the Omni Theater or to the National Cowgirl Museum.

“We are so pleased that our Capital Campaign is truly a community campaign, with more than 1,300 donors thus far,” said Museum of Science and History President Van A. Romans. “It is especially rewarding that young people who have visited the Museum and have participated in our educational programs are so eager to do what they can to help build the new Museum building.

“It is also appropriate that a young person light the Urban Lantern when the Museum opens this Fall, since the majority of our guests are families with young children,” Romans added.

Entry into the Lamplighter Contest will be based on the child’s participation, rather than the amount of money raised. The winner will be chosen from a drawing of the names of all young participants in this contest.

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Light the Lantern Banks: Lamplighter Contest
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“This is a great way for children to be involved in the building campaign,” said Capital Campaign Public Phase Coordinator Paige Pate. “The Museum is a place for families, so it is great to involve our youngest supporters in such a special way.”

Light the Lantern Banks is part of the Capital Campaign to raise support for the \$80 million building campaign. This unique fund-raising idea comes from the creation of the Urban Lantern at the entrance of the new Museum of Science and History building. The concept of the 76-foot lantern comes from architect Ricardo Legoretta who said, “The idea of creating an urban lantern came from the notion of orientation within the city. In the same way that lighthouses guide ships at sea, we wanted to guide people in the city to the museum.”

The lantern symbolizes the welcoming of a greater learning environment, in tune with the Museum’s mission statement, “dedicated to lifelong learning....” This fundraiser is not merely a chance to reach the financial goal, but one to engage the community into creation of a safe haven for learning and growing for generations to come.

For more information on how to be a part of the *Light the Lantern* campaign, visit www.lightthelantern.org or contact Paige Pate, 817-937-5179 or at pbpate@scglobal.net.

About The Museum

Dedicated to life-long learning and anchored by its rich collections, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History engages its diverse community through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. Since the mid-1980s, the Museum annually has welcomed nearly a million visitors, making it one of the most popular cultural attractions in North Texas.

The Museum is currently in the process of building a new facility in the heart of Fort Worth’s Cultural District. The world-class facility, designed by internationally renowned architects, Legorreta+Legorreta, will open in late 2009 and will feature a collection of new exhibits and programs developed by the Museum’s staff and team of nationally recognized designers.