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NEW EXHIBIT HELPS CREATE POSITIVE AWARENESS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Fort Worth Museum of Science and History opened access/ABILITY June 3

Fort Worth, Texas -- The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is hosting *access/ABILITY*, an engaging, sensitive disability awareness exhibit that delivers the message to children, parents and educators that people are more alike than different.

This exhibit features fun activities that show the similarities and differences in how people -- with or without disabilities -- go places, communicate, have fun, and learn. Visitors can pedal on a hand-pedaled bike, use a cane and blind-fold to walk without sight, to learn phrases in American Sign Language, type their name in Braille, and take part in a multi-sensory City Walk.

Throughout the exhibit, My Way kiosks introduce individuals living with disabilities who talk about themselves, their accomplishments, and how they overcome challenges in their lives. A resource area provides a quiet space where visitors can learn more about disabilities through books and computer resources.

This exhibition was created by the Boston Children's Museum for the Youth Museum Exhibit Collaborative, of which the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is a partner. It will be in Fort Worth through Sept. 10, 2006.

Admission to *access/ABILITY* is included with regular exhibits admission to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History: \$8 for adults and \$7 for children 3 to 12 and seniors 60 and older. The Museum is located at 1501 Montgomery Street in Fort Worth's Cultural District. For more information, call 817-255-9300 or go to www.fortworthmuseum.org.

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History's Mission:

Dedicated to lifelong learning and anchored by our rich collections, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History engages our diverse community through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the stories of Texas and the Southwest.

The Museum features four core exhibit galleries, including DinoDig® and KIDSPACE®; the Noble Planetarium, Museum School®; and the Omni Theater, an IMAX dome seven stories high. Since the mid-1980s, the Museum annually welcomes more than 800,000 visitors, making it one of the most popular cultural attractions in North Texas.

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ACCESS/ABILITY FACT SHEET

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| Who | Access/ABILITY is an exhibit designed for children 5-12 and their families. |
| What | <p><i>Access/ABILITY</i> is a 1200 square foot disability awareness exhibit that puts people first, presenting people with disabilities participating in everyday life activities and settings that are familiar to children.</p> <p>Access/ABILITY is organized into six main exhibit areas:</p> <p>Going Places, where you'll get to try out a wheelchair obstacle course and a Multisensory City Walk.</p> <p>Talk With Me, where you can learn phrases in American Sign Language, type your name in Braille, and communicate using pictures.</p> <p>Just For Fun!, where you can try a hand-pedaled bike, and create art that you can experience through sight, touch, and sounds.</p> <p>Think About It, where you can test your attention and memory skills, and find out what kind of smart you are.</p> <p>Invent It, where you can experience a design challenge, see how there is more than one way to do something, and learn how things can be designed to work for the most number of people.</p> <p>Resource Area, where you can learn more through books and on-line resources.</p> |
| When | <i>Access/ABILITY</i> will open on June 3, 2006 and close in Sept. 10, 2006 |
| Where | <i>Access/ABILITY</i> will be located at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. |
| Why | <p>The Goals of Access/ABILITY are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispel myths and allay fears about people with disabilities; • Increase visitors' awareness of a broad range of disabilities, including "hidden" disabilities, such as learning disabilities; • Foster communication and social skills around disability issues; • Change disabling attitudes, foster an attitude of inclusion and encourage curiosity about strategies, tools, and technologies that enable all people to participate fully in society |

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| Other | <p>Does the exhibit cost extra to see? No</p> <p>Is there stroller access? Yes</p> <p>Is the exhibit accessible to those who are visually impaired, hearing impaired, or physically impaired? Yes</p> <p>How long does it take to go through the exhibit? It's different for everyone and depends on how involved you get in the activities, but to do everything would take at least 45 minutes.</p> |
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