Museum of Discovery and Science Receives Grant from Community Foundation of Broward for LGBTQ+ Inclusivity Initiative

Fort Lauderdale, FL July 11, 2018 – On Friday, June 22, 2018, the Museum of Discovery and Science kicked off a year-round LGBTQ+ Inclusivity Initiative. The initiative will be shaped and supported by community representatives comprised of thirteen LGBTQ+ community leaders and advocates. The program has been made possible by support form the following Community Foundation of Broward Funds: Richard Frisby and Edward Burkhart Fund, Gay and Lesbian Broward Community Fund, Edwin A. and Jane N. Huston Fund, Everett H. Metcalf, Jr. Unrestricted Fund and Mary N. Porter Community Impact Fund.

On May 15, 2018, the Community Foundation of Broward announced the award of five grants totaling $300,000 as part of its Broward Pride program, with the goal of uniting Broward’s diverse community to ensure equality, justice and inclusion of Broward’s LGBT neighbors. The five innovative pilot programs were selected from 34 applications submitted in response to a request for proposals issued by the Foundation.

“The Community Foundation has been committed to addressing LGBT discrimination in Broward since our doors opened in 1984,” said Sheri Brown, the Community Foundation’s Vice President for Grants and Initiatives. “We’re proud to support this innovative initiative at the Museum, that will help create a more vibrant, inclusive and accepting Broward.”

The program aims to create a more inclusive Museum experience to better serve the community, formulate and enhance inclusivity practices and ultimately improve accessibility along with perceptions of accessibility. The advisory committee will work with Museum staff to create a formal LGBTQ+ engagement strategy focused on community partnerships, staff training, target marketing and specialized programming and events. Museum staff member, Megan Scutti, will lead the initiative enhancing our facilities and programs to become a more welcoming partner to LGBTQ+ organizations, individuals and families.

Joseph Cox, Museum President and CEO, said “Each and every day MODS welcomes the entire community into our programs and exhibits. This incredible grant from the Community Foundation of Broward will allow us to specifically welcome all LGBTQ+ individuals and families to the Museum and allow us to work with our Task Force to reach out to LGBTQ+ partner agencies.”

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Task force members include:
Chevara Orrin, HANDY
Paul Abad, PNC Bank
Adam Ackerman, United Health Group
J.W. Arnold, PRDC
Mark Budwig, S. Mark Graphics
Tobias Bushway, JetBlue
Rene Cantu, Equality Florida
Emily Cohen, MSW, SunServe
Steven O. Evans, PhD, OutClique Media
Richard Gray, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau
Beryl Kirchen, Wells Fargo
Stephanie L. Schneider, P.A
Anthony Warner, International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association

ABOUT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF BROWARD:
Founded in 1984, Community Foundation of Broward helps families, individuals, and corporations create personalized charitable Funds that deliver game-changing philanthropic impact. We provide leadership on community solutions, and foster philanthropy that connects people who care with causes that matter. Our 450 charitable Funds represent $180 million in assets and have distributed $100 million to help Broward BE GREATER. For more information about the Community Foundation of Broward, visit www.cfbroward.org or call 954.761.9503. Connect with us using @cfbroward

ABOUT MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE
The mission of the Museum of Discovery and Science is to provide experiential pathways to lifelong learning in science for children and adults through exhibits, programs and films. Founded in 1976 as The Discovery Center, the nonprofit facility serves approximately 400,000 visitors annually. Major operational support for the Museum is provided through generous support by Leadership Guild members including JM Family Enterprises, Inc., JetBlue and Wells Fargo.

The Museum is open seven days a week, 365 days a year; Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Museum ticket prices are $16 for adults; $15 for seniors 65+; $13 for active/retired military personnel; $13 for children 2 to 12. Children under 2 are free. The Museum of Discovery and Science is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum call 954.467.6637 or visit www.mods.org

Photo Caption (no photo credit is needed): Museum of Discovery and Science staff and advisory committee kicked off an LGBTQ+ Inclusivity Initiative on June 22, 2018.

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