An Evening in the South Pacific Gala Presented by PNC Bank Raises $375,000 for the Museum of Discovery and Science.

Ron Book was the 2018 Community Leadership Award Recipient

Fort Lauderdale, FL October 23, 2018 – The Museum of Discovery and Science hosted An Evening in the South Pacific Gala presented by PNC Bank on Saturday, October 20, 2018. Guests enjoyed a formal South Pacific themed evening complete with dining and dancing at the Museum.

During the event, Ronald L. Book was honored with the 2018 Community Leadership Award for his commitment to the Museum and community at large. The event hosted 400 guests who experienced an evening complete with a high-energy cocktail reception, silent auction and glamorous dinner and wine pairing. The essence of the South Pacific came alive with performances by Polynesian Proud Productions. Later in the evening, the crowd danced the night away to live music by Private Stock and competed for luxurious live auction items.

The evening’s host, Kavita Channe, led the crowd through the night’s festivities and live auction, including impressive items such as a one-week stay in a private residence at the Four Seasons Costa Rica and a one-week stay at a South African Safari at Thulani Private Lodge. Of course, local auction items of note include Hamilton tickets, a Florida Panthers VIP Experience and a Goodyear Blimp Experience.

This year, guests were invited to support the Museum’s accessibility program with a match challenge of $50,000 by the Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation, Inc. Guests helped the museum surpass the challenge. This will enable the Museum to offer the Museums for All program, a low income access program offered at over 250 museums nationally which offers admission fees of $2 for EBT card holders.

Joseph P. Cox, Museum President and CEO said “It was fantastic to see the enormous community support for the Museum and our great honoree Ron Book. Throughout his board tenure, Ron has been instrumental in growing relationships with governmental agencies at the local and state levels garnering support for the Museum.”

This year’s event chairs were Cressman Bronson, Regional President of PNC Bank, and Juliet Roulhac, Regional Manager for Corporate External Affairs of Florida Power & Light Company, who, along with their committee members, volunteered many hours to create this successful event.

All proceeds benefit the Museum’s Opening Doors program, a push to facilitate and improve accessibility to education, experiential pathways and resources in families and educational groups that might otherwise not be able to do so.

**Gala Images:**
[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9nl9dgmksrpfcra/AAB3oobtZsSadcD1fPyun1Swa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9nl9dgmksrpfcra/AAB3oobtZsSadcD1fPyun1Swa?dl=0)

**ABOUT THE 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., Jet Blue and Wells Fargo.

The Museum of Discovery and Science 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. The Museum is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, visitors should call 954.467.MODS (6637) or visit our website at www.mods.org

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