



**Museum of Discovery and Science, AIDS Healthcare Foundation Collaboration
Secures American Alliance of Museums MUSE Award for
*Wise Bodies: HIV/AIDS Awareness and Prevention Program***

The award recognizes outstanding achievements by museums and other institutions in the areas of innovation, education, accessibility and more.

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (September 2, 2021) – The Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) and AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) were awarded the Silver MUSE for *Wise Bodies*, a FREE virtual series that provides high school and middle school students with critical information on awareness, prevention and neutralizing stigmas related to HIV/AIDS.

MUSE awards are given by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and recognize outstanding achievement in Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums (GLAM) media, and winners are chosen by an international group of GLAM technology professionals. MUSE awards celebrate scholarship, community, innovation, creativity, education, accessibility and inclusiveness, all of which are foundational values at MODS.

“We are proud to be recognized for our award-winning series, *Wise Bodies*. Our area has one of the highest rates of new HIV infections in the United States, and MODS’ commitment to the science of health and wellness brings a responsibility to positively impact our community,” said Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO at MODS. “*Wise Bodies* has reached thousands of teens and young adults to educate and inspire them to take charge of their personal wellness status. There is still much work to do, and we urge the community to take action and watch *Wise Bodies*. Even through the pandemic, we must continue to rise up for this vital issue.”

The [12-part virtual series](#) was produced by MODS in partnership with AHF, whose mission is to provide cutting-edge medicine and advocacy, regardless of ability to pay.

“It is our honor to be awarded the Silver MUSE in recognition of *Wise Bodies*. We looked to MODS as a trusted partner in science to energize and intercept students at a young age to help fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic and strive for zero new cases in the future,” said Ebonni N. Chrispin, AHF legislative affairs and community engagement manager. “By making sure pre-teens and teenagers are educated about the epidemic, we are encouraging students to know their status and share in the community responsibility to end stigmas.”

The series and its accompanying curriculum was endorsed by Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) and made available to educators, students and parents through the district’s Canvas digital platform.

In addition to providing actionable, factual and relevant information on HIV and other communicable diseases, *Wise Bodies* also inspires students to pursue careers in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.)

Originally taught in-person in schools, the series was recreated as a virtual platform for students in 2020 and is available for viewing on the Museum's YouTube channel and at mods.org/wisebodies.

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About Museum of Discovery and Science

Founded in 1976 as the Discovery Center, today the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) is at the forefront of science education, innovation and exploration. In addition to daily hours, MODS is currently offering virtual and offsite programming, which allows us to continue connecting people around the globe to inspiring science - whether at home or in virtual classrooms. The Museum showcases more than 300 interactive exhibits, immersive films, experiential programs and an aviation-themed Makerspace. Families can enjoy super science shows and demonstrations, wild Creature Feature animal encounters, awesome avatar tours and private experiences, mind-blowing Makerspace labs, cool camps, unforgettable birthday parties, engaging field trips and STEM curricula, professional development workshops for educators, distinguished speakers, and more.

The Museum celebrates diversity and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. The Museum hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. MODS is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, please visit mods.org or call 954.467.MODS (6637).

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About AIDS Healthcare Foundation

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the largest global HIV/AIDS organization, currently provides medical care and/or services to over 1.5 million clients in 45 countries worldwide in the US, Africa, Latin America/Caribbean, the Asia/Pacific Region and Europe. In South Florida, AHF provides services in communities across Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. To learn more about AHF, please visit our website: aidshealth.org, find us on Facebook: facebook.com/aidshealth and follow us on Twitter: [@aidshealthcare](https://twitter.com/aidshealthcare) and Instagram: [@aidshealthcare](https://instagram.com/aidshealthcare)

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