



PHOTO ITEM

MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE HOSTS RIBBON CUTTING FOR *VERY ERIC CARLE* EXHIBIT ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Students from local schools followed in the footsteps of the Very Hungry Caterpillar, the Very Busy Spider, the Very Lonely Firefly and more at the exhibit, which is presented by Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and Florida Prepaid College Savings Plans.

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (October 5, 2022) – The ribbon cutting for the newest traveling exhibit at the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS), *Very Eric Carle*, took place Friday, September 23 at 10:30 a.m. The event featured remarks by Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO of MODS, Caitlin Stella, CEO of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, and Ann Briggie Fonts, spokesperson for Florida Prepaid College Savings Plans, and was followed by exhibit exploration.

Very Eric Carle is presented by Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and Florida Prepaid College Savings Plans. The exhibit will run through Monday, January 9 and is free with Museum admission.

Students from local schools attended the ribbon cutting and explored the exhibit, which included crawling through fun-sized grass, weaving webs, and more activities based on various Eric Carle children's books. The children had a wonderful time learning about these beloved books by being immersed in the pages through all the different curated experiences.

Very Eric Carle explores themes of hope, hard work, persistence and friendship by immersing children and adults into the pages of Eric Carle's colorful "Very" series picture books, all illustrated in his hand-painted tissue paper collage technique. Visitors will become the Very Hungry Caterpillar as they follow his path, weave a web with the Very Busy Spider, find their light with the Very Lonely Firefly, make the Very Clumsy Click Beetle flip and jump and compose a night symphony with the Very Quiet Cricket. Other experiences include creating artwork using many of Eric Carle's materials and techniques and enjoying a gallery of prints from Eric Carle's Very Series.

Co-organized by Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, MA, *Very Eric Carle* is the first North American traveling exhibit for children inspired by the art of beloved children's book author and illustrator Eric Carle.

Tickets can be purchased online at mods.org/tickets or at the Museum box office upon arrival.

***Very Eric Carle* assets can be downloaded here:**

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ex6go6z5u10jkd6/AADVEuBUSYKAU_CKWk-2CXrTa?dl=0

Photos of the ribbon-cutting and guests exploring the exhibit can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/k3dh2qezdvr6kjsoc43qp/h?dl=0&rkey=4mdcgusx1rvjtsywr7n6gs37l>

Photo IDs:

(Photos courtesy of Museum of Discovery and Science)

- P1.** Ann Fonts, Joseph P. Cox and Caitlin Stella
- P2.** Caitlin Stella, CEO of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and a student from Oakland Park Academy
- P3.** Student from Oakland Park Academy
- P4.** Ann Fonts, Caitlin Stella and Joseph P. Cox cutting the ribbon
- P5.** Students playing in the *Very Eric Carle* exhibit
- P6.** Joseph P. Cox, Caitlin Stella and Ann Fonts in the *Very Hungry Caterpillar* grass
- P7.** Students playing in the *Very Hungry Caterpillar* grass

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ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE (MODS):

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. MODS connects people to inspiring science, providing STEM education and cultural experiences for 450,000+ visitors annually in the 150,000 sq. ft. facility. MODS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that has been accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) for three decades (only 3% of science museums are accredited for excellence and leadership in the field). In the past year, MODS has added to that distinction by being named *Broward's Hub for Resilience Education* by the Board of the Community Foundation of Broward, selected by the LEGO Foundation as one of only 12 museums nationwide to join the *Playful Learning Museum Network* and was selected as one of 15 finalists for the prestigious *2022 IMLS National Medal for Museum Service*.

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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