



PHOTO ITEM

MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE HITS RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE AT INAUGURAL WELLNESS & PREVENTION CHECK-IN

More than 7,000 people attended the event held in partnership with United Way of Broward County's Commission on Behavioral Health & Drug Prevention and Broward Behavioral Health Coalition.

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (September 29, 2022) – More than 7,000 guests relaxed and recharged at the Museum of Discovery and Science's (MODS) free **Wellness & Prevention Check-In Day** on Saturday, September 17, setting a new attendance record for the museum. The full day of activities focused on well-being was held in partnership with United Way of Broward County's Commission on Behavioral Health & Drug Prevention and the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition.

"Community health and wellness are major goals of MODS, and we are excited to welcome so many community members into the Museum to have these important conversations," said **Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO of MODS**.

Guests discovered wellness through interactive activities, exhibits, shows and demonstrations including:

- **Brain Agility Challenges:** Attendees learned tips on boosting mental agility by participating in these challenges.
- **Movement & Music:** Young learners delighted in wiggle time, dance breaks and bubbles.
- **Watch an IMAX movie on the Giant Screen:** Viewers joined Morgan Freeman in learning about the bond between humans and animals in *Born to Be Wild*.
- **Mental Health Storytime:** Bookworms engaged with beloved children's books by Eric Carle that contain beautiful and accessible mental health themes.

- **Puppet Show & Art:** Guests experienced the Jim Hammond Puppet Show followed by a make-and-take puppet project.
- **Sensory-Friendly Activities:** Guests were able to enter a quiet room where they could unwind without interruption and stimulation.
- **Broward Health Exhibit:** Future doctors and nurses were inspired by this powerful, hands-on exhibit that highlights the human body and the tools used by health professionals to keep the community healthy.
- **Community Partners:** MODS' partners provided resources and programming on an array of topics regarding mental health and substance abuse prevention.
- **Sociodrama with Dr. Grace Telesco:** Guests experienced this interactive family-appropriate sociodrama that raises awareness on suicide prevention.

“United Way of Broward County is proud to be able to partner with MODS on important initiatives like this that support essential health and well-being for members of our community,” said **Kathleen Cannon, president/CEO United Way of Broward County.**

The impact of this event was strengthened by community support from the following organizations:

- 211 Broward
- AARP South Florida
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- Broward Health
- Broward House
- Broward County Public Schools
- Canine-Assisted Therapy
- Children's Service Council of Broward County
- Children's Bereavement Center
- Flipany
- Florida Blue
- Greater Fort Lauderdale Diaper Bank
- Nova Southeastern University Art Museum
- Nova Southeastern University Florida Sociodrama Ensemble Stage For Change
- Older Adults Technology Services
- Rachel Greene, Certified Trainer
- SunSurve

Photos from the event can be downloaded here:

www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/iavnv8mkyt41p2ppcyqzx/h?dl=0&rlkey=81thvb8x0769ntlsitfhz1jik

Photo IDs:

(Photos courtesy of Museum of Discovery and Science)

P1. Event attendees

P2. Event attendees

P3. Event attendees

P4. Event attendees

P5. Event attendees

P6. Joe Cox, president and CEO at MODS, and Kathleen Cannon, president/CEO United Way of Broward County

P7. Angela Ventura, with United Way of Broward County's Commission on Behavioral Health & Drug Prevention, Maria Hernandez, Community Impact Chief Program Officer with the United Way of Broward County, Joe Cox, president and CEO of MODS, Meredith Feder, deputy director of MODS, and Kathleen Cannon, president/CEO United Way of Broward County

P8. Event attendees

P9. Event attendees

P10. Event attendees

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ABOUT UNITED WAY OF BROWARD COUNTY:

United Way of Broward County is a volunteer driven, community-based, non-profit organization servicing Broward County for more than 80 years. United Way of Broward County fights for the Health, Education and Financial Prosperity of EVERY person in our community. United Way of Broward County is the catalyst for change and convener of partnerships that unite the hearts, minds, and resources within the Broward community. For more information, visit UnitedWayBroward.org.

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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