



MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE HOSTED SUPER CHARGED DAY OF SCIENCE: INAUGURAL VISIT LAUDERDALE SCIENCE FESTIVAL ON MARCH 4, 2023

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (March 30, 2023) - The [Museum of Discovery and Science \(MODS\)](#) hosted the inaugural Visit Lauderdale Science Festival, presented by Florida Prepaid College Board, on Saturday, March 4. The free large-scale Festival, which took place at both MODS and Esplanade Park, connected STEM organizations, companies and educational groups with thousands of families, science-lovers and festival-goers of all ages through an assorted line-up of exciting and interactive experiences. It was a super-fun, supercharged day of science!

“We want to thank our sponsors and guests, for making the inaugural Visit Lauderdale Science Festival a tremendous success,” said **Joseph P. Cox, president & CEO of MODS**. “Science festivals bring communities together to celebrate STEM engagement and learning. The Visit Lauderdale Science Festival enabled South Florida’s thriving STEM industries to showcase technology innovations and open minds to careers in our region’s major industries, encouraging children and adults of all ages and backgrounds to become our well-rounded innovators and leaders of tomorrow. The day was filled with incredible science shows, demonstrations, engaging exhibitions, and documentaries, all curated to inspire our community to connect, create, innovate and celebrate STEM in our lives.”

Activities took place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and featured dynamic demonstrations, mind-blowing presentations, hands-on activities and captivating experiments. Scientastic headliners included *Spheres Bubble Show*, a fusion of art, science and magic as seen on *America’s Got Talent!*; and *Dinosaurs Will Always Be Awesome*, from the video podcast series directed by paleontologist Jimmy Waldron.

One of the distinguishing highlights of the day was the *Build A Better World Challenge*, sponsored by R-Squared Charitable Fund, where students (ages 12-18) showcased their inventions. The finalists presented their inventions before a Shark Tank-style panel and were judged by leaders and innovators from South Florida’s business community. Inventions were judged based on creativity, innovation and real-world relevance. The two winning projects were: “Rainwater and Education: Road to Restoration” by Ines Rosales, Giuliana Mudryj, Karen Hendriks; and “Edible Cutlery” by Sian Kotha and Reyhaan Thummadi. They each be connected with a mentor organization and will receive a \$5,000 grand prize to fund their project.

Other notable activities included the Robot Build Challenge sponsored by Citrix, *The Panther Prowl*, an augmented reality experience sponsored by the Florida Panthers Foundation, DUPLO Coding Dance Party, LEGO® Build the Change, Coding for Early Learners, Turtle Talks, Food Forest Tours and much more. A full list of the Festival activities that took place can be [viewed here](#).

Sponsors of the inaugural Visit Lauderdale Science Festival included: Visit Lauderdale, Florida Prepaid College Board, Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Community Foundation of Broward, Save Our Seas Foundation, UKG, R-Squared Charitable Fund, Science on Screen, Xfinity, AECOM, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Jet Blue and Florida Inventors Hall of Fame.

Photos (courtesy of MODS):

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ro5pbj197euqv6s89oyir/h?dl=0&rlkey=wcy3bwmfy4luxo9ehlgh7fdtm>

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About the Visit Lauderdale Science Festival:

The Visit Lauderdale Science Festival (VLSF) brings together leaders in STEM, with families and science-lovers of all ages and abilities to celebrate the wonder of science, showcase technology innovations and open minds to STEM careers in our region's major industries! Powered by the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS), the Festival inspires our community to connect, create, innovate and celebrate STEM in our lives. This two-day science fest features spectacular events, environmental films, engaging exhibitors and exciting demonstrations to make science accessible, interactive and fun!

The Festival welcomes individuals from all walks of life to experience and discover inspiring science. It is open to everyone: individuals and families with physical and emotional disabilities and all levels of education, social and economic status. We embrace our truly diverse community including every family structure, ethnicity, religion, gender identification and sexual orientation. All are welcome here. For more information, please visit scienceunderthesun.org.

About the 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. 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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ABOUT VISIT LAUDERDALE:

Visit Lauderdale is the official destination marketing organization for Greater Fort Lauderdale and serves as the tourism department for Broward County, Florida. Visit Lauderdale promotes the area's 31 municipalities to a global audience of leisure and business travelers as the ideal place for Everyone Under the Sun in recognition of the area's diverse and welcoming vibe, and books conventions into the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center and Area hotels and resorts. Find more information at visitlauderdale.com and follow @VisitLauderdale on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Kip Hunter Marketing | Cell: 201.841.2500

Rachel Sudack // rachel@kiphuntermarketing.com

Museum of Discovery and Science | 954.713.0901

Andi Fuentes // andrea.fuentes@mods.org