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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Science and Art Combine in One Extraordinary Field Trip

Connecticut Science Center Partners with Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art to offer students a full day of exploration uncovering intersections between art, engineering, design, and innovation

Hartford —September 26, 2016—This fall, the Connecticut Science Center has joined forces with the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art to offer a unique joint field trip that will open students' minds to the connections between science and the arts. Taking inspiration from the Science Center's wildly popular traveling exhibit, *Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion*, these two pillars of discovery and learning in downtown Hartford will offer focused and fun guided tours tailored to middle and high school students studying not only science and the arts, but social studies, history, and Connecticut's place in the history of invention.

The Science Center has worked with the Wadsworth Atheneum to design two different field trip experiences. One trip, called ***Connecticut Innovators, Leonardo da Vinci's Engineering, and the Art of Science***, is geared toward students in grades 6 through 8, while the other, entitled ***The Renaissance Period: Art and Engineering during the Time of Leonardo da Vinci***, is best for students in grades 9 through 12. Both field trip experiences begin at the Connecticut Science Center with an in-depth look at more than 40 of Leonardo da Vinci's ahead-of-their-time inventions brought to life at the *Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion* exhibit. Students can touch and move the machines, allowing them to see how Leonardo's 500-year-old inventions were innovative for their time, and how his methods relate to present-day design and engineering.

"*Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion* has drawn thousands of visitors to the Science Center, and has shown them that innovation in engineering and design has been a part of human culture for hundreds of years," said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO. "We're proud to partner with our friends at the Wadsworth Atheneum to teach Connecticut students that invention is truly an art form. Leonardo's groundbreaking designs offer amazing examples of the beauty that can be found in machines whose primary functions weren't to be works of art, but were to increase productivity in everyday work, or to defend a city, or even to allow humans to fly. We hope that discovering the connections between art and science will inspire our state's students to pursue exciting, innovative careers of their own."

From the Science Center, students will move to the Wadsworth Atheneum for a guided tour specifically suited to middle and high school curricula. Those in grades 6 through 8 will study advances in the fields of engineering and art through the work of three Connecticut innovators: Samuel Colt, Alexander Calder, and Sol LeWitt. Topics will include machines, movement in sculpture, and engineering principles, culminating in

a design activity based on math-inspired drawings and sculptures. High school students will discover Leonardo da Vinci's influence on the artists of his time through a tour of the Wadsworth Atheneum's collection of Renaissance and Baroque art. Students will expand their understanding of the Renaissance and Baroque eras, allowing them to grasp the periods' rich historical contexts.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with the Connecticut Science Center to offer tours that add a creative and contemporary dimension for students who visit both sites," says Anne Butler Rice, Georgette Auerbach Koopman Director of Education at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. "This kind of interdisciplinary opportunity for schools speaks to the educational mission of both institutions, encouraging critical thinking and visual literacy skills. We hope this is just the beginning of our partnership."

This opportunity to tour two of Connecticut's finest cultural institutions is available through December 15. Reservations and payments for these eye-opening field trips will only be taken through the Reservation Center at the Connecticut Science Center. **To book a joint field trip for just \$13 per student, and for additional pricing and booking information, please contact the Connecticut Science Center at [\(860\) 520-2150](tel:8605202150) or book now at CTScienceCenter.org/fieldtrips.**

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About the Connecticut Science Center: The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving more than 2 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries covering a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: CTScienceCenter.org or (860) SCIENCE.