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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Admission this Summer at the Connecticut Science Center, Funding Provided by a Grant from CT Humanities

It's time to explore all things science for free this summer

Hartford, CT July 1, 2022- The Connecticut Science Center was recently awarded a grant from Connecticut Humanities to support our participation in the CT Summer at the Museum initiative.

The program invites Connecticut children ages 18 and under plus one accompanying Connecticut resident adult to visit participating museums free of charge from **July 1 through September 5, 2022**. Funding for the initiative is provided by the CT General Assembly, with the support of Connecticut Humanities and the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the federal ARPA.

The CT Summer at the Museum program was extremely successful in the summer of 2021, with museums throughout the state hosting hundreds of thousands of children, many of whom would not otherwise be able to afford admission. This program is even more important in 2022 given that inflation and high gasoline prices are already adversely impacting attendance at Connecticut institutions, especially among lower income families.

Given the impacts on our economy, The Connecticut Department of Transportation has extended free public bus fare through December 2022 which means all families can access museums across Connecticut by free transit this summer. The Connecticut Science Center is an influential and exemplary leader in reaching families of all socioeconomic levels by creating equitable engagement and access to STEM learning opportunities and STEM careers.

"The Connecticut Summer at the Museum initiative is a fantastic way for families to enjoy meaningful, fun experiences close to home," said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO. "The feedback from last summer's program was overwhelmingly positive. We're so glad to be part of the program again. We hope even more families will take advantage of this opportunity to create memories and leave energized and inspired."

Free Summer at The Connecticut Science Center:

- FREE General Admission at the Connecticut Science Center is valid through September 4, 2022, for Connecticut children ages 18 and under, plus ONE accompanying adult (18+)
- Online tickets are required in advance of the visit

- Walk-up tickets are extremely limited and not guaranteed
- Any additional adults and/or non-Connecticut visitors can purchase tickets online at the regular admission rates.
- Verification of Connecticut residency is required
- All visitors using CT Summer at the Museum tickets MUST HAVE A PHOTO ID.
- Schools, camps, day care centers and other large group programs are NOT eligible.

With admission for free summer, you can also purchase a Science Center Membership for up to 25% off retail price (on-site only). New Memberships will start on September 1. Connecticut Science Center members receive added benefits that are not included in General Admission or the free summer initiative such as a 20% gift shop discount, 20% discount at the new on-site coffee and snack shop, discounted stage shows, \$5 flat rate parking, and many other perks and benefits throughout the year.

Tickets include all day-access to the Connecticut Science Center's exhibits, including its blockbuster traveling exhibit, *Mummies of the World: The Exhibition*. Parking is available at regular rates. Visitors are strongly encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance of their visit to guarantee entry for the day. Tickets are available online at CTScienceCenter.org.

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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 4 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries and 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, a function room, a gift store, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a 501(c)(3) 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 of the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers, offering powerful professional development for educators. More information: CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.

About Connecticut Humanities

CT Humanities (CTH) is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. CTH connects people to the humanities through grants, partnerships, and collaborative programs. CTH projects, administration, and program development are supported by state and federal matching funds, community foundations, and gifts from private sources. Learn more by visiting cthumanities.org.

About Connecticut Office of the Arts

The Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) is the state agency charged with fostering the health of Connecticut's creative economy. Part of the state's Department of Economic and Community Development, the COA is funded by the State of Connecticut as well as the National Endowment for the Arts.