



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“Kid City” Exhibition to Undergo Phase 1 of 2-Part Renovation

The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center’s exhibition for kids age 5 and under introduces new hands-on exhibits in 2010.

SAN DIEGO, Calif., March 29, 2010 – “Kid City,” the children’s museum within the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, will undergo Phase 1 of two phases of renovations planned for the exhibition over the next year. “Kid City” is designed especially for preschool children and features several themed areas that encourage hands-on learning for children age five and under. The exhibition will close temporarily April 12 – 16 for new installations and re-open to the public on Saturday, April 17.

Based on visitor feedback and popular demand, additions made to the exhibition will introduce visitors to several brand new hands-on features that facilitate interactive discovery and science-centered play.

The “Power Plant” will be expanded to include a permanent “Ball Wall” with multiple chutes, tubing, tracks, pinwheels and other moving objects that will excite and delight young visitors.

The “Grocery Store” will be upgraded to include a nutrition interactive that will teach children about the importance of healthy food choices. A new delivery vehicle for loading and unloading groceries and produce will also be added.

The new “Little Learner’s Lab” will feature an innovative water and sand educational play area, “Discovery Boxes” and a touch-station featuring a magnifying camera for up-close exploration.

Phase 2 of the renovation, scheduled to take place in October 2010, will bring additional improvements including new sound experiences at each of the entrances to the exhibition, a new infant area, an expansion to the “Factory,” and the installation of custom flooring and lighting.

(more)

In addition to providing educational play for children age five and under, "Kid City" has served as the catalyst for the Fleet Science Center's "Young Scientists" educational program, established in 2009. "Young Scientists" is a hands-on preschool science program that provides informal learning experiences that support and enhance exploration, create excitement and facilitate scientific discoveries. Each four-week session consists of developmentally appropriate science-related topics. "Young Scientists" begin each class by exploring the science center galleries before they open to the public, followed by 60 minutes of hands-on science activities led by a Fleet Science Center Educator. Each activity includes parent/child directed questions that help the parent, or guardian, share in the excitement and thrill of science alongside their child.

"Young Scientists" currently meets on Wednesday or Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. over the course of four-weeks. Current and upcoming class topics include: "Wind Power," "Light and Sound," "Art-ology," "Detective Science," and "Science Gear." For more information about this program, visit <http://www.rhfleet.org/site/education/youngscientists.html>.

The "Kid City" exhibition is made possible by generous gifts and grants from the Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson Foundation, ScholarShare/Fidelity Investments, the Nierman Family Foundation at the San Diego Jewish Community Foundation, an Anonymous Donor, and the Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust.

About the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

With exhibits to touch and IMAX® films to experience, the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center ("the Fleet") offers an educational and entertaining experience for visitors of all ages. Located at 1875 El Prado, two blocks south of the San Diego Zoo on Park Blvd, the Fleet is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the public understanding and enjoyment of science and technology. For information regarding current admission prices, please call (619) 238-1233 or visit our Web site at www.rhfleet.org.

###

IMAX® is a registered trademark of IMAX Corporation