



**CARNEGIE
SCIENCE
CENTER**

One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh



Carnegie Science Center
Mike Marcus
412.237.1657
412.551.8375 (cell)
MarcusM@CarnegieScienceCenter.org

PNC Foundation
Joe Balaban
412-768-5095
412-445-4024 (cell)
Joseph.Balaban@pnc.com

SESAME STREET'S™ ONE WORLD, ONE SKY – BIG BIRD'S ADVENTURE DEBUTS AT CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER

New planetarium show for early learners made possible by PNC Foundation

PITTSBURGH, PA— Approximately 100 area preschool children today joined Elmo, Big Bird, and Hu Hu Zhu – a Muppet from the Chinese co-production of Sesame Street – as they explored the night sky in *One World, One Sky – Big Bird's Adventure*, a new planetarium show launched today in Carnegie Science Center's Buhl Digital Dome planetarium.

Created by Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street, with major funding from the National Science Foundation and the PNC Foundation, the planetarium show follows the three Muppets as they explore each others' cultures and travel to the moon. Available in English, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish, the show can be seen in the Science Center's Buhl Digital Dome hi-definition planetarium. In addition, as part of PNC *Grow Up Great*, the show will travel to area childcare centers, where it will be viewed inside a mobile, inflatable dome.

"We are excited to begin showing this extremely well produced planetarium show developed specifically to address science education and diversity with an early learner audience," said Ron Baillie, Henry J. Buhl Co-Director of Carnegie Science Center. "We have recognized the critical need for students at an early age to be exposed to scientific learning and this program, using recognizable characters with a history of encouraging exploration and creativity, will help ignite the imaginations of many young students visiting the Science Center in the coming years."

In April, the Science Center received a two-year grant of \$384,000 as part of the PNC Foundation's *Grow Up Great with Science* initiative to help foster a foundation in science for area preschoolers. The funding will allow the Science Center to provide professional development opportunities for local preschool teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and Westmoreland County, provide introductory science toolkits and curriculum, support Family Nights at local early childhood education venues, and introduce families of preschool children to science through free visits to the Science Center. In addition, educators from the Science Center will travel to classrooms to help teachers create children's activities which enable them to

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explore science with their senses and use simple tools to test their ideas. Many of the activities will receive assistance from PNC employees as volunteers.

“Our support of Carnegie Science Center comes at a time when many educators have sought increased emphasis in the sciences,” said Eva Blum, president and chief executive officer of the PNC Foundation. “The funding will help teachers guide children through inquiry-based learning that will show them how to observe, wonder, and ask questions about the world around them as they explore with their senses and use simple tools to test their ideas. Together, these two exciting initiatives are helping to make science fun and accessible for young children.”

The funding was part of \$6 million in grants to 14 regional science centers and non-profit organizations to enhance early science education in seven states and the District of Columbia. The second- and third-year funding is contingent upon successful completion of the prior year’s project goals.

With principal funding provided by The PNC Financial Services Group (NYSE: PNC), the PNC Foundation provides grants for *PNC Grow Up Great* and *PNC Crezca con Éxito*, a comprehensive bilingual, corporate-based school readiness program. Through the 10-year, \$100 million program, with a focus on underserved children, PNC provides the leadership, advocacy, funding, tools, and volunteers to help educate parents, caregivers, and communities on how to prepare young children for school and life.

Additional support for *One World, One Sky* comes from the W.L.S. Spencer Foundation, China Association for Science and Technology and the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center brings the world of science alive for visitors of all ages. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center features hundreds of hands-on exhibits, three live demonstration theaters, a four-story IMAX[®] Dome theater, an interactive full-dome digital planetarium, a Cold War-era submarine moored on Pittsburgh’s Ohio River, and a world-renowned model railroad display. Carnegie Science Center is located at One Allegheny Avenue on Pittsburgh’s North Shore next to Heinz Field. Visit CarnegieScienceCenter.org, or call 412.237.3400 for more information.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2007, the museums reached 1.3 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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