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PLEASE TOUCH DEBUTS TROPICAL RAINFOREST FANTASY EXHIBIT
Rainforest Rhythm exhibit to open Saturday, January 31

PHILADELPHIA, PA –The magic and wonders of a tropical rainforest come to life as visitors experience the sights and sounds of Rainforest Rhythm, Please Touch Museum’s latest addition opening Saturday, January 31. The 2,800 square foot exhibit is part of the museum’s River Adventures zone located in the First Floor East Gallery.

“As in a real rainforest, visitors will encounter diverse animals and plants on their tropical journey. The stroll through this exotic musical wonderland encourages exploration, creativity and imagination,” says Willard Whitson, Vice President of Exhibits and Education.

Children can make music on nature-inspired fantasy musical instruments. Spin segments on a rain stick log and hear the gentle sounds of a tropical waterfall or create a symphony of sounds—their own “jungle jam session”—by beating out rhythms on drums made to resemble fallen trees. Create harmonies on a bamboo reed organ and a giant spider web, or harmonize with a Toucan serenade! Nesting on a seven-foot log is a group of singing frogs that children can interact with. Also joining in the chorus of nature are a group of chattering monkeys and a nine-foot Forest Snake, whose unique texture children can explore by touching. A life-size elephant holds up a conga drum log, on which children can beat out rhythms as they join in the chorus in this lively, raucous symphony of nature.

Storybook Cottage, an area designed specifically for toddlers, provides an intimate space for storytelling and is a safe haven for reflecting on the experienced wonders. The museum’s youngest visitors can pretend to paddle down a tropical river in a dugout canoe or grab a pair of mallets and beat out rhythms on a forest marimba.

Rainforest Rhythm is also home to a collection of 12 “Totems” by Philadelphia artist James Dupree. All of the Totems are made from clay, wood, human hair, straw, acrylic paint, plastic and glass. In these artworks, visitors will see the combination of everyday objects easily recognizable brought together to evoke a sense of spirituality and humanism.

During February, the museum will also feature a special display of 24 Etch-A-Sketch art pieces by “Mr. Etch-A-Sketch,” Tim George, depicting a variety of African animals, including gorillas, crocodiles and elephants. The artworks will be located across from the Curiosity Camp tree house in River Adventures.

Rainforest Rhythm was designed by Design + Communication Inc. along with Please Touch Museum’s Exhibit Development team. Exhibit fabrication was done by Midland, Michigan-based Design Craftsman, Inc. Rainforest Rhythm is the primary exhibit in the museum’s temporary-exhibit space, which seasonally houses special exhibits, such as the Enchanted Colonial Village and traveling exhibits.

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Please Touch Museum® at Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park is dedicated to enriching the lives of children by providing learning opportunities through play. Recognized locally and nationally as one of the best children’s museums, Please Touch is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. -5 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and children age one and over. Children under one are free. For more information, please call 215-581-3181, or visit www.pleasetouchmuseum.org.

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