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**CONTACT:**

Kate Moore, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations

(616) 929-1713; kmoore@grpm.org

**Grand Rapids Public Museum Announces New Exhibits**

**for Spring and Summer 2017**

**Grand Rapids, MI** – The Grand Rapids Public Museum (GRPM)announced today the next two exhibits as part of the lineup for 2017 that are sure to entertain, educate and intrigue visitors. Opening Saturday, March 11, ***Creatures of Light*** explores the extraordinary organisms that produce light. Opening on Saturday, May 27, ***Mindbender Mansion*** invites visitors to enter an eclectic place full of puzzles, brainteaser and interactive challenges.

In *Creatures of Light* visitors will move through a series of luminous environments, from the familiar mushrooms on land to the extreme in the deepest parts of the ocean, to explore the diversity of organisms that glow and how they do it. Visitors will discover the ways in which light is used to attract a mate, lure unsuspecting prey and defend against a predator, and to learn how, where and why scientists study this amazing natural phenomenon.

In *Mindbender Mansion*, families will enjoy exercising their minds as they try to master each of the 40 individual brain teasers and the five group activities in this fun and unconventional new exhibit. Visitors to *Mindbender Mansion* will be greeted by the wacky Mr. E., master brainteaser and puzzler extraordinaire to explain the mysteries of *Mindbender Mansion*, then will set out to gather hidden clues and secret passwords. Upon completing each of the select brainteasers and group challenges, visitors will see if they gathered the necessary clues and passwords to become a member of the Mindbender Society and add their portrait to the “Wall of Fame.”

“The Museum is excited to bring in these two new, innovative exhibits that encourage our visitors to explore more about the world around us, as well as test knowledge and skills in puzzle solving,” said Dale Robertson, President & CEO of the Grand Rapids Public Museum. “*Creatures of Light* reveals some of the most magical, wondrous, and truly extraordinary creatures and phenomena to be found in the natural world, and *Mindbender Mansion* is a family friendly way to learn and adapt constructive thinking skills.”

Admission to *Creatures of Light* will be included with general admission to the Museum, and FREE to Museum members. *Creatures of Light* will be located on the Museum’s second floor and run from March 11, 2017 to July 9, 2017.

Admission to *Mindbender Mansion* will be $10 for adults, $5 for children, $7 for Kent County resident adults and $2 for Kent County resident children, and FREE for Museum members. *Mindbender Mansion* will be located on the Museum’s third floor in the Lacks exhibit hall and run from May 27, 2017 to August 6, 2017.

**Creatures of Light: Nature’s Bioluminescence**

Visitors will explore the extraordinary organisms that produce light, from the flickering fireflies found in backyards around the world to the alien-like deep-sea fishes and other fantastic creatures that illuminate the perpetually dark depths of the oceans. Rare among organisms that live on land, the ability to glow—that is, generate light through a chemical reaction—is much more common in the ocean, where up to 90 percent of animals at depths below 2,200 feet are bioluminescent and where scientists continue to discover bizarre new bioluminescent species. Like the crystal jelly, whose glow led to a revolution in cell biology, these deep-ocean animals may hold important clues to essential questions. Scientists are in a race against time as marine habitats are increasingly threatened by pollution, overfishing, and global climate change.

Immersing within the exhibit, visitors will see and interact with bioluminescent mushrooms and flashing fireflies, see glowworms as they drop sticky threads from their bioluminescent tails to ensnare prey, learn about dinoflagellates, planktonic organisms that create a glowing halo around anything that moves through the water, and interact with the remarkable Bloody Bay Wall lit up by fluorescent corals and fishes.

Throughout the gallery, visitors can deepen their experience by interacting with iPads, which will offer engaging videos, animations, photographs and additional in-depth content about bioluminescence and related phenomena designed exclusively for this exhibition. A symphonic soundtrack, created for *Creatures of Light* by composer Tom Phillips, evokes the magical experience of bioluminescence. As visitors move through the exhibition, the music in each section sets a distinctive mood to create a fully immersive experience.

*Creatures of Light* is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York ([www.amnh.org](http://www.amnh.org/)), in collaboration with the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada, and The Field Museum, Chicago. Generous support for *Creatures of Light* has been provided by The Eileen P. Bernard Exhibition Fund.

**Mindbender Mansion**

Mister E. and the Mindbender Society invite you to enter the wonderfully puzzling world of *Mindbender Mansion*, an eclectic place full of puzzles, brainteasers, and interactive challenges guaranteed to test the brain power and problem solving skills of even the most experienced puzzlers. Adults and children alike will enjoy exercising their minds as they try to master each of the 40 individual brain teasers and the 5 group activities in this fun and unconventional new exhibit.

Visitors to *Mindbender Mansion* will be greeted by the wacky Mr. E., master brainteaser and puzzler extraordinaire, and current curator of the Mindbender Society. He will explain the mysteries of *Mindbender Mansion* and how to become a member of the eccentric Mindbender Society by gathering hidden clues and secret passwords. The clues can only be found by solving key puzzles found in select themed areas.

Throughout the exhibit visitors will find a combination of tabletop brainteasers they can solve on their own and larger group challenges that require assistance from their fellow mansion guests.

Upon completing each of the select brainteasers and group challenges, visitors will have gathered the necessary clues and secret passwords to become a member of the Mindbender Society and add their portrait to the “Wall of Fame.”

*Mindbender Mansion* was produced and is toured by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Portland, Oregon © 2009.

**Grand Rapids Public Museum**

The Grand Rapids Public Museum is an invaluable, publicly-owned institution that is home to more than 250,000 unique artifacts that tell the history of Kent County and beyond, houses the only planetarium in the region, and is responsible for protecting the Norton Indian Mounds, a national historic landmark. The Grand Rapids Public Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, with its main location in downtown Grand Rapids, MI at 272 Pearl Street, NW. For additional information including hours of operation, admission fees and exhibit/event listings, please visit [www.grpm.org](http://www.grpm.org/).

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