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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Receives \$136,490 Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services**

The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum was one of five Michigan museums to be awarded a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the 2009 Museums for America (MFA) grant initiative. Awards were given to 167 museums selected from 433 applicants across the United States.

The \$136,490 award will support hiring a public programs manager to manage the creation and delivery of new public programs for families and other audiences, as well as a visitor studies expert to help determine audience needs. The public program focus will be on the Museum's Sciencepalooza Street Fair, a monthly weekend event of experiments, activities and special guests.

IMLS awarded more than \$19 million in MFA grants in 2009. MFA grants support high-priority activities that advance the missions and strategic goals of museums across the country, helping them to serve the public more effectively.

"On behalf of the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, we are grateful to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for once again investing in the programs and activities of the Museum," said Mel Drumm, Executive Director, Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. "IMLS provides invaluable support in furthering our attempts to inspire young people and their families to explore, science, technology, math, art and culture."

Over the course of 2009 and 2010, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum will begin to expand its public programs with the grant funding provided by IMLS.

### **About the Institute of Museum and Library Services**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.

### **About the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum**

The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum provides more than 250 interactive exhibits that spark the imagination. The Museum is a regional destination attracting over 200,000 visitors every year. The mission of the Museum is to inspire people to discover the wonder of science, math and technology. Visit [www.aahom.org](http://www.aahom.org) or call 734.995.5439 for more information.

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