



PPG Science Pavilion

at Carnegie Science Center

For Immediate Release

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THE ART OF THE BRICK, THE WORLD'S LARGEST DISPLAY OF LEGO® ART NOW OPEN AT CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER'S NEW PPG SCIENCE PAVILION™

THE EXHIBITION FEATURES 100 INCREDIBLE WORKS OF ART FROM CONTEMPORARY ARTIST NATHAN SAWAYA, PLUS HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES WITH LEGO BRICKS

PITTSBURGH, June 21, 2018 – World-renowned LEGO® artist Nathan Sawaya has reinterpreted a beloved icon of Steel City architecture in celebration of the Pittsburgh opening of **THE ART OF THE BRICK**, a captivating exhibition featuring intriguing works of art made exclusively from one of the most recognizable toys in the world, the LEGO brick. On June 15, Nathan Sawaya joined Carnegie Science Center Co-Directors Ann Metzger and Ron Baillie to unveil a LEGO sculpture created by Sawaya just for this exhibition. The sculpture was inspired by the Three Sisters Bridges - the Roberto Clemente, Andy Warhol, and Rachel Carson bridges. It measures 46" x 67" x 45" and contains 12,380 LEGO bricks.

THE ART OF THE BRICK, which opened to the public Saturday, June 16 at Carnegie Science Center's new *PPG Science Pavilion*, features 100 creative and inspiring sculptures and is on display through Jan. 7, 2019.

THE ART OF THE BRICK is the first major museum exhibition to use LEGO bricks as the sole art medium. Sawaya transforms LEGO bricks into tremendous and thought-provoking sculptures, elevating the toy to the realm of art. Sawaya's ability to transform this common toy into something meaningful, his devotion to spatial perfection, and the way he conceptualizes action, enables him to elevate what almost every child has played with into the status of contemporary art.

Designed to inspire ingenuity and creativity, THE ART OF THE BRICK is the world's largest and most elaborate display of LEGO art. Visitors will get up-close with the fan favorite, Yellow, a life-size sculpture of a man ripping his chest open with thousands of yellow LEGO bricks cascading from it. Other favorites include a 20-foot-long T-Rex dinosaur skeleton and a giant skull made with LEGO bricks. The LEGO art collection features original pieces as well as re-imagined versions of some of the world's most famous art masterpieces like Van Gogh's *Starry Night* and Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, as well as a gallery showcasing an innovative, multimedia collection of LEGO brick-infused photography produced in tandem with award-winning photographer Dean West.

After being inspired by Sawaya's artwork, visitors will discover their inner architect in **The Science of the Brick**, Carnegie Science Center's hands-on builder activity area. It features 17 activity tables with eight different brick building challenges and interactives, plus free-play and demonstration areas. Visitors will be able to create their own brick masterpieces, build a maze out of LEGO bricks, design a brick race car, and more.

"THE ART OF THE BRICK takes LEGO somewhere you wouldn't expect and shows you things you have never seen before," said artist Sawaya. "The goal with this collection of art is to demonstrate the potential of imagination and the power of creativity."

THE ART OF THE BRICK is the inaugural exhibition for the new Scaife Exhibit Gallery, located inside Carnegie Science Center's new *PPG Science Pavilion*, a 48,000-square-foot, \$33 million expansion.

"Whether you're a child learning how to piece LEGO sets together, an adult who remembers creating imaginative displays in your younger days, or an art enthusiast, THE ART OF THE BRICK is for everyone," said Carnegie Science Center Co-Director Ann Metzger. "Just like the Science Center, THE ART OF THE BRICK aims to delight and inspire people of all ages. This exhibition will appeal to anyone who has ever picked up a LEGO brick and let their imagination run free."

“THE ART OF THE BRICK ties together engineering, design, and creativity, making it a perfect complement to the Science Center’s STEM-focused mission,” said Carnegie Science Center Co-Director Ron Baillie. “We’re excited to see how this exhibit will encourage young minds to build.”

For more information, visit CarnegieScienceCenter.org.

To schedule a media tour of THE ART OF THE BRICK, please contact Manager of Marketing, Public Relations, and Social Media Nicole Chynoweth at ChynowethN@CarnegieScienceCenter.org or 814.421.5315.

THE ART OF THE BRICK is sponsored by Arch Masonry & Restoration, Baierl Subaru, Baierl Toyota, Citizens Bank, Isaly’s, and Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School.

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About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center’s goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh’s premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

Accessibility: Features for All

Carnegie Science Center welcomes all visitors. We work to assist visitors with disabilities in obtaining reasonable and appropriate accommodations, and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities. We welcome visitors in wheelchairs on the deck of our USS Requin (SS 481) submarine. Below-deck visits require full mobility. Hearing assistance devices are available for The Rangos Giant Cinema. Please ask when you buy your ticket.

Please note that requests for accommodations should be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. For specific questions about wheelchairs, strollers, or other programmatic or equipment needs, see the ticket counter located on the first floor of the main building or contact Customer Service at 412.237.1641 or info@carnegiesciencecenter.org. Please contact Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh’s Accessibility Coordinator with concerns regarding accessibility for visitors with disabilities at the museums. On weekdays, call 412.622.6578 or email accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Established in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2017, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

ABOUT NATHAN SAWAYA & THE ART OF THE BRICK

Former NYC corporate lawyer turned contemporary artist, Nathan Sawaya is the first artist ever to take the LEGO brick into the art world as a medium. Sawaya has earned a top position in the world of contemporary art and has created a new dimension by merging Pop Art and Surrealism in awe-inspiring and groundbreaking ways. Sawaya’s touring exhibition – THE ART OF THE BRICK® – has entertained and inspired millions of art lovers and enthusiasts around the world. CNN heralded, THE ART OF THE BRICK is one of the top ten “must-see exhibits in the world!” Sawaya is an author, speaker and one of the most popular, award-winning contemporary artists of our time. For more information visit www.brickartist.com.

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