



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **DINOSAURS UNEARTHED AT THE DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER**

***Larger-Than-Life Exhibition Featuring More Than 20 Animatronic Dinosaurs Opens Feb. 19, 2011  
Exhibition Reveals the Story of Feathered Dinosaurs***

**DETROIT, Feb. 7, 2011** -- Get ready to explore a larger-than-life, moving, roaring, prehistoric experience at the Detroit Science Center when ***Dinosaurs Unearthed*** debuts on Feb. 19, 2011. The largest dinosaur exhibition ever to come to Detroit includes more than 20 animatronic dinosaurs, five full-size skeletons and nearly 40 fossil replicas and eggs from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Detroit Science Center will give visitors a “Gigantosaurus” experience with ***Dinosaurs Alive!*** in the Chrysler IMAX<sup>®</sup> Dome Theatre and ***Dinosaur Planet*** in the Dassault Systèmes Planetarium.

Tickets are on sale now at [www.detroitsciencecenter.org](http://www.detroitsciencecenter.org) or by calling 313.577.8400, ext. 420. Tickets are \$19.95 for adults and \$17.95 for children 2-12 and seniors 60+. Tickets include the ***Dinosaurs Unearthed*** exhibition, ***Dinosaurs Alive!*** IMAX film, ***Dinosaur Planet*** planetarium show, and all of the Science Center’s hands-on exhibits, and live shows and demonstrations.

#### **About *Dinosaurs Unearthed***

**Dinosaurs Unearthed** is a dynamic exhibition that brings inspiration, science and technology together to create a multi-sensory experience. The exhibition features a state-of-the-art showcase of 24 full-sized animatronics dinosaurs, five fully-articulated skeletons as well as an historically significant collection of nearly 40 feathered fossil replicas which includes eight feathered fossils.

Feathered fossils were first discovered in 1996, and are the strongest evidence to date that modern day birds are actually descendants of dinosaurs – a theory that had been debated for decades. A collection of eight feathered animatronics dinosaurs is one of the highlights of ***Dinosaurs Unearthed***, and offers a visual representation of the current scientific thinking that some of the best-known dinosaurs – such as **Tyrannosaurus rex** – looked very different than originally thought.

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Traditionally, dinosaurs were thought to be scaly and reptilian in appearance. Since feathered fossils have been found, scientists now know that from the time of hatching until its juvenile stage, the *T. rex* was covered in both tough skin and a downy coat of hair-like structures called protofeathers that helped regulate heat.

The stories are further articulated through a collection of fossil replicas representing species from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods. This includes the largest collection of feathered fossil replicas on display outside of China. In some cases, the feathered fossil specimen is displayed next to its animatronic counterpart to allow audiences to draw connections between the two forms.

### **About *Dinosaurs Alive!* in IMAX**

*Dinosaurs Alive!*, set to show on Michigan's largest IMAX movie screen, is a global adventure of science and discovery – featuring the earliest dinosaurs from the Triassic Period to the monsters of the Cretaceous. Audiences will journey with some of the world's preeminent paleontologists as they uncover evidence that the descendants of dinosaurs still walk (or fly) among us. From the exotic, trackless expanses and sand dunes of Mongolia's Gobi Desert to the dramatic sandstone buttes of New Mexico, the film will follow paleontologists as they explore some of the greatest dinosaur finds in history.

### **About *Dinosaur Planet* in the Planetarium**

Long before dinosaurs' massive extinction 65 million years ago, many individual species simply disappeared. Visit dinosaur graveyards, study their bones and reconstruct how these creatures lived and died to solve four famous cold cases from the age of the dinosaurs in *Dinosaur Planet*. Viewers will discover the lives of multiple species of dinosaurs, from the *Coelophysis* of 205 million years ago to the *Allosaurus* and *Diplodocus* of the mid-Jurassic period, and see that the feathered *Sinornithosaurus* of China, the *T. rex* and *Triceratops* survived and thrived until the final extinction of all dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

The Detroit Science Center is a hands-on museum that inspires its visitors to pursue and support careers in engineering, technology and science. The Science Center features five theaters, including Michigan's only Chrysler IMAX® *Dome* Theatre, the Dassault Systèmes Planetarium, the Toyota Engineering Theater, the DTE Energy Sparks Theater and the Chrysler Science Stage; a 9,000 square-foot Science Hall for traveling exhibits; hands-on exhibit galleries focusing on space, life and physical science; an exhibit gallery just for pint-size scientists; and a Special Events Lobby. The Science Center is the official home of the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America and FIRST in Michigan, and it operates the Detroit Children's Museum. For more information, please call 313.577.8400 or visit the website, <http://www.detroitsciencecenter.org>.

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