



MUSEUM OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Dow Museum of Historic Houses
Gamble Place at Spruce Creek

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Children's Science Center to Open in Daytona Beach

Daytona Beach, FL –The Charles and Linda William's Children's Museum is scheduled to **open Friday, November 21, 2008** and will be the first hands-on science center in Volusia County. Its mission is to stimulate curiosity, creativity, and learning through fun, interactive exhibits designed especially for children.

The 9,300 sq. ft. space will house more than fifteen professionally designed interactive exhibits that will demonstrate various principles of science, engineering, and physics.

MOAS Executive Director Wayne David Atherholt notes, "We are very excited that we are going to be finished with construction of the building some time in early October, with exhibit installation scheduled later that month. Most of the exhibits are already built and awaiting installation in the new space; however, there are still sponsorship opportunities available. Our donors realize that their contribution to the Children's Museum is an investment in the future where science, technology, engineering and math skills determine success for the individual child and our country as a whole."

Atherholt adds, "We are proud to host the only hands-on science center in Volusia County which will also serve the surrounding counties of Brevard, Lake, Seminole and Flagler."

Daytona Beach architectural firm Hawkins, Hall and Ogle designed and Hall Construction Co. is building the newest addition to the 86,000 sq. ft. MOAS complex. The addition will be defined as a specific space for children and families through its unique contemporary architectural design and will create excitement through soaring open spaces with an abundance of windows to provide natural light and a visual link to the outside environment.

The Children's Museum will facilitate hands-on, inquiry-oriented experiences in order to develop scientific reasoning in young students. The exhibits have been designed by Hands On, Inc., an award-winning exhibition design firm with clients from major cities around the world including Cairo, Belfast, and Boston. Primary funding for the facility has been provided by Charles and Linda Williams and the Volusia County ECHO program; with additional donations and exhibit sponsorship through individuals, local civic organizations and community business partners.

"The new Charles and Linda Williams Children's Museum will be a wonderful way to stimulate our children's curiosity and creativity, and allow them to have some hands-on fun with their parents while they learn about science, engineering and technology," said Frank Bruno, Chair of the Volusia County Council. "The Museum of Arts and Sciences is a unique and essential

community resource, and Volusia County Government is pleased to have been able to contribute to this new facility through our ECHO grants program."

Images can be downloaded at www.moas.org/pressroom

See Exhibit Fact Sheet for additional information

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Diverse collections unite at the Museum of Arts and Sciences (MOAS). Located in a beautiful 90-acre natural setting in Daytona Beach, MOAS is the primary art, history and science museum of Central Florida. Planetarium and laser shows daily. Museum Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday - Saturday) and 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Sunday). Museum admission is \$12.95 for adults, \$6.95 for children 6-17, \$10.95 for seniors and students, members and children 5 and under are free. Admission includes planetarium shows. MOAS is fully accessible to the disabled. MOAS is located at 352 S. Nova Road, Daytona Beach, Florida 32114. For more information call 386/255-0285 or visit our web site at: www.moas.org.

These programs are sponsored in part by the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council and the County of Volusia. The Museum of Arts and Sciences is in association with the Smithsonian Institution.