

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 15001

Media Contact: Anna Kate Twitty, (803) 348-6010 (c), (803) 898-4948 (o), AnnaKate.Twitty@scmuseum.org

Exhibit Hashtag: #SCSMBugs

Bugs Invade the State Museum in New Blockbuster Exhibit Opening Jan. 24

BUGS! Giant Robotic Creatures features insects 40 to 120 times their size

COLUMBIA, S.C., Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015 – A 20-foot praying mantis, beetles the size of Volkswagen beetles, a mosquito head big enough to drain the blood from a bull and much more will captivate museum guests beginning Saturday, Jan. 24 when bugs officially invade the South Carolina State Museum in the new blockbuster exhibit, [BUGS! Giant Robotic Creatures](#).

Using animatronics and interactive technology, this traveling exhibit enlarges and brings to life the hidden world of insects through a variety of robotic creatures 40 to 120 times their size. Guests will discover the lives of creepy, crawly insects in an entirely new perspective and see firsthand magnified details that investigate the complexity of insect eyes, mouths, sensory organs and more.

“Although insects are often thought of as pests, many perform a vital service for the world, including keeping the land clean and pollinating trees, flowers and crops,” said Dave Cicimurri, State Museum natural history curator. “The giant bugs in the exhibit will entertain our guests as they teach them about nature’s sometimes weird ways.”

The exhibit features a variety of giant robotic creatures and hands-on stations, including a colossal desert locust extending its wings to prepare for flight, the popular Chinese praying mantis extending its limbs to reach for its next meal and a fat, squishy Lime Swallowtail caterpillar munching on vegetation.

In addition to these massive creatures, guests will encounter an insect portrait gallery, rubbing stations and a live bug zoo. Interactive dragonfly, honeybee and mosquito heads will demonstrate how these very different critters feed themselves and function. Fun photo opportunities will allow visitors to have their pictures made with a giant ladybug or as the victim of a black widow spider.

BUGS! Giant Robotic Creatures was expertly designed with close consultation from the scientific and museum community and can be seen at the State Museum through Sunday, Sept. 7. Visit scmuseum.org to learn more and to purchase advance tickets.

About the South Carolina State Museum: *As the state’s largest and most comprehensive museum, the South Carolina State Museum, offers a unique, entertaining and educational experience to visitors throughout its 225,000 square foot facility located in the heart of downtown Columbia’s Congaree Vista. The State Museum is housed in one of its largest artifacts, an 1894 old textile mill full of character and charm. In addition to beautiful meeting spaces throughout the facility, guests can explore outer space in one of the largest planetariums in the Southeast, watch an interactive 4D movie and look through a vintage telescope in a one-of-a-kind observatory. These opportunities are all in addition to the four floors of South Carolina art, cultural history, natural history and science/technology. Visit scmuseum.org to learn more.*

####

BUGS! Cutline: Explore some of the world’s most common insects like never before in *BUGS! Giant Robotic Creatures* opening Jan. 24 at the South Carolina State Museum. *Photo courtesy of the S.C. State Museum.*