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State Museum Hosts Happy Hubble 25 on Friday, April 24

Family-friendly celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope

COLUMBIA, S.C., Tuesday, April 14, 2015— Join the South Carolina State Museum at Happy Hubble 25, a family-friendly event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope from 5 – 10 p.m. on Friday, April 24. Tickets to the event will be offered at a special discounted price of \$5 per person (free for museum members), and the first 200 guests will receive a free astronomy poster.

The event will feature a live-stream webcast from the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum, in which guests will hear from NASA subject matter experts about the shuttle missions needed for launching and servicing the Hubble Space Telescope, learn how the telescope unlocks the mysteries of the universe with unparalleled scientific discoveries and discover the cultural impact it makes on our lives every day.

Guest will have the opportunity to observe celestial objects, such as the Moon, Jupiter and stars, in real-time through several portable telescopes lined up outside of the State Museum and along Coble Plaza, as well through the Alvan Clark telescope in the Boeing Observatory (all observing activities are weather dependent). In addition, guests can participate in fun hands-on astronomy activities, explore the entire museum, have the chance to receive free giveaways and enter in a drawing to win a beginners telescope provided by Astronomy Magazine.

“We are excited to bring awareness around the Hubble Space Telescope and celebrate 25 years since it first launched,” said State Museum director of education Tom Falvey. “The event will include several interactive and educational opportunities to showcase how space exploration has evolved over more than two decades.”

For an additional fee, guests can see *Hubble Skies*, a special 25-minute live sky tour in the planetarium focusing on important discoveries made by the Hubble Space Telescope, watch a 4D movie and explore the current blockbuster exhibit, *BUGS! Giant Robotic Creatures*.

The State Museum is one of several participating organizations across the country joining NASA to celebrate this important anniversary. Since its launch on April 24, 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope has allowed astronomers to observe the Universe in stunning clarity, revealed properties of space and time and has shed light on many of the great mysteries of the universe turning astronomical conjectures into concrete certainties. Today, the Hubble Space Telescope continues to provide views of cosmic wonders never before seen and is at the forefront of many new discoveries.

The Crescent Café will be open during the event. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door the night of the event. Visit scmuseum.org to learn more.

PHOTOS: [Click here](#) to download high-resolution photos and cutlines.

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 greatest 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 exciting 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.*

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