

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WonderLab to Present Monthly Science of Art Program in New Year

Bloomington, Indiana-The WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology's popular **Science of Art** program series moves from its traditional schedule in February to **First Friday Evening** of every month in 2012. The programs will be offered during the museum's extended evening hours from 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm, when half-price general admission (\$3.50) will be in effect. Lead sponsorship for the **Science of Art** program series is provided by F. Rudolf Turner, with additional grant support from the BEAD Arts Partner Grant Program, the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Science of Art program series offers adults and children the opportunity to explore the connections between art and science. Each month a different artist will demonstrate the process of creating original artwork and chat with visitors about the creative process and the science underlying the artistic medium. Visitors also will get to make their own work of art using similar materials. The program series was moved to **First Friday Evening** to coincide with the **Gallery Walk** presented by eleven downtown art galleries and to make it possible to offer outdoor art events during warmer weather.

"WonderLab is committed to drawing upon the arts as a way for people to learn about science. The creativity that inspires the artistic process is similar to how scientists innovate and imagine new ways to solve problems. Furthermore, these kinds of hands-on approaches to science education have been shown to attract and retain young people in the growing science and technology fields," said Andrea Oeding, WonderLab's assistant gallery operations manager and coordinator of the Science of Art program series.

To make the experience even more inviting, Bloomingsfoods Market and Deli will provide food for an on-site "museum cafe" each **First Friday Evening**. A small plate meal will be available for \$2.50.

The first program in the series, **Ice Sculpting**, will be held on Friday, January 6. Featured artist Hermann Serfling will demonstrate the process of creating a large and detailed ice sculpture from a block of ice. IU Chemistry Department science educator James Clark will make ice cream using liquid nitrogen, an extremely cold substance, which instantly changes an object's properties in surprising ways. In addition to talking with the featured program partners and sampling ice cream made through the wonders of science, museum visitors will have the opportunity to engage in the related creative process of making a colorful ice candle to take home.

Fiery Foundry, on Friday, February 3, promises to be a visual extravaganza as experts from the Sculpture Trails Outdoor Museum (Solsberry) will light up the night outside WonderLab as they demonstrate the hotel metal casting process using a traveling foundry. The white hot aluminum will be poured into scratch block molds carved by museum visitors before and at the event. The scratch blocks became available at WonderLab (\$15 each) in December. Additional support for this night's program comes from Gilbert Construction, Inc.

'Sew' Creative is the theme for Friday, March 2 to coincide with the **Indiana Heritage Quilt Show** at the Bloomington Monroe County Convention Center. Featured artist Daren Redman will demonstrate the process of machine quilting and will help museum visitors make their own drawstring bag using pieces of hand-dyed fabric.

Programs later in the year will focus on dance, limestone carving, photography, graphic design, e-textiles and more.

WonderLab is an award-winning science museum and family destination located at 308 West Fourth Street on the B-Line Trail in the heart of the downtown Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District (BEAD). The museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, and Sunday, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. WonderLab is open extended evening hours until 8:30 pm, with an admission discount, the first Friday of the month. General admission is \$7.00. Children under the age of one are free. For more information, call 812-337-1337 ext. 25 or go online to wonderlab.org or WonderLab's Facebook page.

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