



## For Immediate Release

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# **The Pigeon Comes to Pittsburgh! A Mo Willems Exhibit Returns to Children's Museum of Pittsburgh in January 2022**

*Also Now Available at the Museum is Mo Willems' Latest Book, Opposites Abstract, Signed Copies Are Now in Stock*

Pittsburgh, PA (Tuesday Oct 19, 2021) – We're excited to introduce a new book from the *New York Times* best-selling children's book author and illustrator Mo Willems and welcome back a favorite exhibit based on his work!

A limited number of exclusive signed-by-the-author copies of Mo's new book, *Opposites Abstract*, are now available for purchase in the Children's Museum Little Orange Store. The book explores opposites in a nontraditional, artistic way, with 18 beautiful abstract images. Grab a copy or two as a wonderful holiday gift for the early learners, new readers and Mo Willems fans in your life. Learn more about the book at [www.pigeonpresents.com](http://www.pigeonpresents.com)

And for even more Mo, we are thrilled to announce that *The Pigeon Comes to Pittsburgh! A Mo Willems Exhibit* is returning to our traveling gallery on January 22, 2022.

"We are so thrilled to have a new and innovative book on our shelves, where kids and families can explore the concept of opposites. All of Mo's books are so beloved, and we can't wait to share this with our visitors," said Anne Fullenkamp, Senior Director of Creative Experiences at Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

As part of Mo Willems' recent Education Artist-in-Residency with the Kennedy Center, the author/illustrator created a series of abstract paintings—inspired by Beethoven's music—for the celebration of Beethoven's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. As one project often leads to another, the idea for a book about abstract opposites took shape.

Later this year, tickets will be released for *The Pigeon Comes to Pittsburgh!*, where families can spend the day with beloved characters from Mo's books, including best friend duo Elephant and Piggie, faithful companion Knuffle Bunny, and wily city bird The Pigeon, best known for his antics in *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* This play-and-learn exhibit lets visitors explore the rich social and emotional lives of the author's characters as they get creative with animation, games, a fashion show, art making inspired by Mo Willems and buses to drive – both life-sized and wearable. Prints of illustrations by the author, including sketches and other preliminary materials, will also be on display.

The exhibit, which will run through May 8, 2022, is co-organized by Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Initial exhibit development was funded by the William V. and Catherine A. McKinney Charitable Foundation and the Robert and Mary Weisbrod Foundation.

For the latest hours at Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and MuseumLab and to reserve your timed tickets, please visit our website [www.pittsburghkids.org](http://www.pittsburghkids.org). Admission is \$16 for adults, \$14 for children 2-18 and senior citizens. Children under two are free. The Museum is located on Pittsburgh's historic North Side at 10 Children's Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. For more information or questions about your visit, please call (412) 322-5058, email [hi@pittsburghkids.org](mailto:hi@pittsburghkids.org) or visit [www.pittsburghkids.org](http://www.pittsburghkids.org).

[Click here](#) for the latest COVID-19 guidelines.

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## **ABOUT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF PITTSBURGH**

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh is a place that provides innovative and inclusive museum experiences that inspire kindness, joy, creativity and curiosity for all learners. We forge connections with artists, community partners and neighbors to work on behalf of children, youth and families. With 80,000 square feet of space the Children's Museum welcomes more than 307,000 visitors annually and provides tons of fun and loads of "real stuff" experiences for play and learning. Permanent hands-on, interactive exhibit areas at the Museum include The Studio, Theater, Waterplay, The Kindness Gallery, Backyard and MAKESHOP®. The Museum's award-winning, three-story, center building is screened by a shimmering wind Sculpture and connects two historic structures (Allegheny Post Office Building & the Buhl Building).

## **About The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art**

The mission of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, a non-profit organization in Amherst, MA, is to inspire a love of art and reading through picture books. A leading advocate in its field, The Carle collects, preserves, presents, and celebrates picture books and picture book illustrations from around the world. In addition to underscoring the cultural, historical, and artistic significance of picture books and their art form, The Carle offers educational programs that provide a foundation for arts integration and literacy. Eric and Barbara Carle founded the Museum in November 2002. Eric Carle is the renowned author and illustrator of more than 70 books, including classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The Carle houses more than 11,000 objects, including 7,300 permanent collection illustrations, three art galleries, an art studio, a theater, picture book and scholarly libraries, and educational programs for families, scholars, educators, and schoolchildren. Educational offerings include professional training for educators around the country and four

onsite graduate programs in Children's Literature in collaboration with Simmons College. For further information, visit the Museum's website at [www.carlemuseum.org](http://www.carlemuseum.org).

## About Mo Willems

Mo Willems is an author, illustrator, animator, playwright, and the inaugural Kennedy Center Education Artist-in-Residence, where he collaborates in creating fun new stuff involving classical music, opera, comedy concerts, dance, painting, and digital works with the National Symphony Orchestra, Ben Folds, Yo-Yo Ma, and others. Willems is best known for his #1 New York Times bestselling picture books, which have been awarded three Caldecott Honors (*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, *Knuffle Bunny*, *Knuffle Bunny Too*), two Theodor Geisel Medals, and five Geisel Honors (The *Elephant & Piggie* series). Mo's art has been exhibited around the world, including major solo retrospectives at the High Museum (Atlanta) and the New-York Historical Society (NYC). Over the last decade, Willems has become the most produced playwright of Theater for Young Audiences in America, having written or co-written four musicals based on his books.

He began his career as a writer and animator on PBS' *Sesame Street*, where he garnered six Emmy Awards (writing). Other television work includes two series on Cartoon Network: *Sheep in the Big City* (creator + head writer) and *Codename: Kids Next Door* (head writer). Mo is creating new TV projects for HBO Max, where his live action-comedy special *Don't Let the Pigeon Do Storytime!* currently streams. Upcoming projects include an animated rock opera special based on *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* and a series based on his *Unlimited Squirrels* books. His papers reside at Yale University's Beinecke Library.

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