



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Max Pipman,  
Sr. Director of Communications, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh  
(412) 586-6042

# Hands-On Science Showdown Brings Hundreds of Students to a Free Interactive Field Trip in Downtown Pittsburgh

*Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Science Center and the Association for Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) are teaming up to showcase live science demonstrations from around the country on September 14, 2022*

**PITTSBURGH (August 30, 2022)** – Science educators from around the country will join local organizations to offer their favorite science and maker demonstrations and activities to hundreds of students from the Pittsburgh region at the Hands On Science Showdown. This one-of-a-kind program will be on the Ninth Street Rachel Carson Bridge from 9 am to 1:30 pm on Wednesday, September 14.

More than 1,000 science and technology museum professionals are expected in Pittsburgh for the ASTC annual conference, held this year at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center from September 11-15, with many of the organizations participating in the event. The conference itself is co-hosted by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Science Center. This has been years in the making, with delays due to the pandemic.

The event features hands-on demonstrations from leading educators and local organizations, with opportunities to make steamroller prints, take apart electronics, and see STEAM-based activities up close. Hundreds of students in grades two through eight are registered to attend.

"We love to introduce memorable and interactive experiences when we are fortunate to welcome peers from around the globe to Pittsburgh," says Jane Werner, Executive Director of Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. "Having conference attendees and local organizations

demonstrate spectacular scientific concepts and engage with local students in the most iconic of Pittsburgh locations, one of the three Sister Bridges, allows us to bring all of these resources together as we aspire to transform education.”

This is a free field trip and learning experience. Teachers/schools should reserve their spot at: [www.pittsburghkids.org/handsonscienceshowdown](http://www.pittsburghkids.org/handsonscienceshowdown). The event is also open to the public, and local food trucks will be available for a variety of lunch options.

“This is a unique event because most international conferences do not engage with the community in such a meaningful way,” says Jason Brown, Henry Buhl, Jr., Director of Carnegie Science Center and Vice President of the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. “One of the reasons the Science Center is so excited to co-host this conference is because we share in the common aspirations that will be articulated: building stronger communities, providing equitable access to educational and professional opportunities, and bringing hope and optimism for a better future.”

Pittsburgh-based Squonk will perform Hand to Hand, a humorous, uplifting visual extravaganza propelled by Squonk’s rollicking music. The show features two giant purple puppet hands, each the size of a house and rigged like a sailing ship. While Squonk’s musicians create melodious madness, audience members are invited up to power the giant fingers.

"We are thrilled to share Hand to Hand with students from all over Pittsburgh," said Jackie Dempsey, Co-Artistic Director of Squonk. "As part of Squonk's performances and demonstrations, students will handle the world's biggest puppet-hand puppets! They'll experience the stunning creative power of the human hand, a masterpiece of evolutionary engineering. And they will be propelled by community, working together."

In addition to the participants, the organizers would like to thank the sponsors of the event, including Richard King Mellon Foundation, PNC, Grable Foundation, PPG, Alco Parking, The Rangos Family Foundation and media sponsor SLB Radio Productions.

More information is available here: [www.pittsburghkids.org/handsonscienceshowdown](http://www.pittsburghkids.org/handsonscienceshowdown).

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### **About Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh**

Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh 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. Permanent hands-on, interactive exhibit areas include The Studio, Theater, Waterplay, Kindness Gallery, Backyard and MAKESHOP®. The Museum was voted one of the nation’s 10Best Museums for Families in USA Today’s Reader’s Choice Contest in 2022. The Children’s Museum is open daily from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 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, please call (412) 322-5058 or visit the Museum website, [www.pittsburghkids.org](http://www.pittsburghkids.org).

### **About Carnegie Science Center**

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center’s goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and

technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

### **About Squonk**

For 30 years, Squonk has created boisterous outdoor spectacles by fusing fantastical visual design, playful staging, and high-energy original music. Witty and whimsical, Squonk's free performances bring audiences together for a joyful celebration of humankind and our peculiar world. Since their first big show in a Pittsburgh junkyard, Squonk Co-Artistic Directors Jackie Dempsey and Steve O'Hearn have led a group of musicians, artists, designers and other creatives to produce shows with big visual and musical impact. Squonk's productions have taken them to Off-Broadway, Broadway, America's Got Talent, Europe, Asia and all over the United States. They have released 10 albums, a blend of styles propelled by driving rhythms and hypnotic riffs. Critics have called Squonk "a blazingly unique spectacle" (Time Out New York) and "ingenious, hallucinatory and hypnotic" (The New York Times).

### **About ASTC**

The Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) is a professional membership organization with a vision of increased understanding of—and engagement with—science and technology among all people and a mission to champion and support science and technology centers and museums. Founded in 1973, ASTC champions and supports more than 500 science and technology centers and museums, natural history museums, children's museums, and other STEM-rich, place-based institutions, such as nature centers, aquariums, planetariums, zoos, and botanical gardens throughout North America and in nearly 50 countries, as well as nearly 200 other organizations that share an interest in science learning and engagement. ASTC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit educational organization.