



Contact: Max Pipman  
Sr. Director of Communications  
412-586-6042  
[mpipman@pittsburghkids.org](mailto:mpipman@pittsburghkids.org)

## Children's Museum of Pittsburgh Announces Partnership with the Charley Harper Studio

*I AM WILD* exhibit to Open January 2025

**PITTSBURGH, PA (July 9, 2024)** Children's Museum of Pittsburgh is thrilled to announce a collaboration with the Charley Harper Art Studio to create a new traveling exhibit inspired by the work of renowned mid-century modern artist Charley Harper and the Studio's children's book series, *I Am Wild* from publisher Pomegranate Communications.

Showcasing Harper's signature style of 'minimal realism', *I AM WILD: A Charley Harper Exhibit* will explore the flora and fauna found in six different environments – City, Desert, Ocean, Rainforest, Sky and Woods. Visitors will bring these complex habitats to life by interacting with the birds, animals and insects found there in the collection of immersive, multisensory exhibits.

An art area inspired by Charley's own studio will give visitors the opportunity to learn about his process and share his appreciation for the natural world. The exhibit will also feature prints of illustrations, including sketches and other preliminary materials by Charley Harper.

"We are beyond thrilled to be working with Charley's son Brett Harper and the rest of the Charley Harper Art Studio on bringing his dynamic and unmistakable vision and artwork to life," says Anne Fullenkamp, Senior Director of Creative Experiences at Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. "I am very excited to create a hands-on exhibit that

helps teach children to appreciate the beauty of the natural world and the importance of taking care of it.”

The Children’s Museum is currently developing the exhibit and visitors may get a chance to take part in its prototyping this summer. *I AM WILD: A Charley Harper Exhibit* will open at Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh on January 25, 2025, and begin its tour to museums across the country starting in September 2025.

Why Charley Harper? “Because he makes kids smile and helps them learn STEAM concepts,” says Studio director Brett Harper, the artist’s son. “His art is fun! It has almost universal appeal. It teaches respect for animals and planet Earth with age-appropriate themes and creative activities.”

*I AM WILD: A Charley Harper Exhibit* is the 13<sup>th</sup> exhibit produced by Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh in its 40-year history. One of the first exhibits the museum produced, *How People Make Things*, is inspired by the Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood factory tours and tells the stories of how common household items are created. The exhibit has toured the country for over 12 years and is currently on display in the museum through August 25, 2024. For more information on renting any of the Children’s Museum’s traveling exhibits, please contact the museum at [exhibits@pittsburghkids.org](mailto:exhibits@pittsburghkids.org), (412) 322-5058, ext. 229.

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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, Garage, Waterplay, Kindness Gallery, Backyard and MAKESHOP®. Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh is open daily from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Admission is \$19 for adults, \$17 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).

MuseumLab, where growing kids can have cutting-edge experiences in art, tech and making, is next door to the Children’s Museum and included with museum admission. Starting June 17, MuseumLab is open daily during the summer, noon – 5:00 pm.

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### **About Charley Harper**

Charley Harper (1922 - 2007) found his love for nature and wildlife as a child growing up on a small farm in West Virginia. He began drawing creatures from his backyard creek in the fourth grade, and this passion eventually led him to Ohio to attend the Art Academy of Cincinnati - meeting his wife and eventual collaborator, Edie, on the very first day. Harper spent the majority of his adult life living and working in Cincinnati, creating a vast collection of iconic and treasured works, and left behind a legacy of clever artistry and a deep commitment to conservation.

### **About Charley Harper Art Studio**

The Charley Harper Art Studio, founded in 1947 by Charley himself, is dedicated to preserving and promoting his legacy through a small but passionate team. The studio collaborates with brands and organizations worldwide, showcasing Harper's iconic work, renowned for its distinctive minimalistic style and vibrant depiction of nature. In doing so, and in reaching very diverse audiences, these partnerships support his lifelong commitment to conservation and advance environmental awareness and education initiatives in line with Harper's vision.