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Contact: Nicholas BeJeaux, Communications & Public Relations Manager, (225) 344-5272, ext. 125, nbejeaux@lasm.org

LASM Presents 7th Annual Engineering Day Festival in Mid-March

BATON ROUGE, LA – The Louisiana Art & Science Museum will host its 7th Annual Engineering Day festival on March 14, 2020, from 10 AM to 3 PM. In partnership with the LSU College of Engineering and one of LASM’s most popular community events, Engineering Day is sponsored by **Albemarle**, **BASF**, **ExxonMobil**, and **Olin Corporation** and is included in general admission to the Museum.

“Engineering Day has grown each year since it began at LASM in 2013; it has become a fixture in our community for visitors of all ages,” said Sheree Westerhaus, LASM’s Director of Operations & Planetarium. “The stations this year give our visitors the opportunity to participate in hands-on engineering activities and experience cutting-edge demonstrations. The activities are designed by engineers in the community as well as engineering students from LSU’s College of Engineering, who love to share their passion for engineering and design with our visitors while also inspiring, educating, and entertaining.”

The festival features as many as 25 interactive stations showcasing a wide array of engineering and design specialties, including robotics, bridge building, nanoscience, and chemistry, with the help of the Museum’s partner organizations. **For the first time**, the public will be invited to interact with LASM’s Stream Table. Normally only accessible to middle school students through The River Dynamics Experience, a free program, this state-of-the-art educational tool will demonstrate in real time the forces that shape rivers, lakes, and wetlands to visitors of all ages. Also, visitors will also have the opportunity to view *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* throughout the day in the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium. This dynamic show celebrates the human ingenuity behind engineering marvels and reveals the heart that drives engineers to create better lives for people around the world.

“The Irene W. Pennington Planetarium encapsulates the spirit of Engineering Day; it is fitting that it plays a major role in the event,” said Serena Pandos, LASM’s President & Executive Director. “It not only allows our visitors to explore the universe on many levels, including engineering principles as demonstrated in *Dream Big*, but is also a marvel of engineering itself. The Irene W. Pennington Planetarium has consistently remained one of the most technologically-advanced and largest planetariums in the southeast U.S., welcoming over 1 million visitors since its opening in 2003.”

Engineering Day is an expression of LASM’s belief that the disciplines of engineering and design impact virtually every aspect of daily life and build a bridge between art and science.

“We believe that art and science shape one another, our lives, and the world. Engineering Day provides our multigenerational audience opportunities to experience how these disciplines work together, and independently, in a series of fun, informal learning environments,” said Pandos. “Engineering Day presents experiences that are designed to help us see and think in new ways— ways that can help us discover ongoing solutions to real-world challenges.”

For more information about Engineering Day, visit www.lasm.org/events.

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Images: LASM’s 7th Annual Engineering Day will feature as many as 25 interactive stations where visitors can get hands-on with hydrology, chemistry, robot demonstrations, and more.

About the Louisiana Art & Science Museum

Housed on the banks of the Mississippi River in a historic railway station on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum believes that art and science shape each other, our lives, and the world, and presents experiences that encourage discovery, inspire creativity, and foster pursuit of knowledge. Founded in 1962 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums since 1972, the Museum welcomes approximately 175,000 multigenerational visitors – including 105,000 school program participants – annually.

The Museum is home to the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium, the largest and most advanced planetarium in Louisiana and one of the largest in the southeastern United States; a permanent collection including over 4,000 objects; one of the only permanent ancient Egypt galleries in the southeastern United States; and displays changing art exhibitions of local and international acclaim. The Louisiana Art & Science Museum is free to the public every First Sunday of the month and is free to active duty military, first responders, and their families through the Blue Star Museums program year-round. A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the Museum relies on the support of donations to operate; support the Museum at lasm.org/give.

Visit lasm.org for information about current exhibitions, Irene W. Pennington Planetarium showtimes, reservations, birthday parties, event rentals, upcoming programs, and more. Call 225.344.5272 for more information.

The Louisiana Art & Science Museum is supported in part by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council. Funding is also provided by generous corporations, foundations, and individual donors, as well as the National Endowment for the Arts, Art Works, the City of Baton Rouge, and the Parish of East Baton Rouge.