For Immediate Release

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Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh and MuseumLab
Launch a New Outdoor Exhibit

_The Cryptid Critter Crawl is a free, self-guided outdoor experience for kids of all ages and families_

**Pittsburgh, PA (March 29, 2021)** – Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh and MuseumLab are excited to launch their latest exhibit, **The Cryptid Critter Crawl**. Eight outdoor installations created by Pittsburgh-based interactive artist Owen Lowery are ready for kids and families to explore.

Cryptids are creatures from folklore and legend, the existence of which is not proven by scientific observation. **The Cryptid Critter Crawl** features ‘artifacts’ - physical sculptures and installations located across the Children’s Museum campus - from well-known cryptids such as Bigfoot, Nessie and Mothman, plus several more to discover and learn about.

The 8 site-specific Cryptid artifact sculptures installed around the museum campus include:

- The Museum Space Goo
- Mothman’s Chrysalis
- Hibernating Jackalopes
- Nessie’s Neck Cover
- Bigfoot’s Lost Shoe
- Pegasus Nest
- Puddle of Squonk
- Yateveo’s Spice Rack

“We are thrilled to launch an outdoor, socially-distanced museum exhibit that everyone can explore and enjoy,” said Jane Werner, Executive Director of Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh. “Our recent expansion into MuseumLab has made us the largest children’s museum campus in the country. **The Cryptid Critter Crawl** extends our outdoor footprint and creates a deeper connection between the museum, our Northside neighbors and our members and visitors.”
Hand crafted signage for each artifact includes stories and directs viewers to a mobile website, [www.cryptidcrittercrawl.com](http://www.cryptidcrittercrawl.com), that offers each Cryptid's backstory, and audio tales voiced by museum staff, a map of the artifacts and supplemental material such as coloring sheets.

*The Cryptid Critter Crawl* installation is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, and does not require admission to the Children's Museum. Artifacts can be viewed and interacted with while following all social distancing guidelines, along with other items in the museum's expanding outdoor footprint such as the garden, Los Trompos and ROPE.

The installation is semi-permanent and will be featured on campus for the summer.

Artist Owen Lowery shared his hopes for the exhibit: “The Crawl was created for everyone - children, families, friends, awkward couples on a first date. I’m hoping it will let people explore something strange and curious, learn about unique folklore, have a few chuckles, and maybe spark some deeper conversations. The Cryptid Critter Crawl is a world filled with the strange and unfamiliar, just like our own, where it’s much better to be curious than afraid.”

For interview requests or a tour of the Cryptid artifacts, contact: Bill Schlageter, Director of Marketing, Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, at bschlageter@pittsburghkids.org, 412-559-2744.

High resolution photos are available here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kjk19Orgl9pf2bn18mEqxRtUleUg46CE?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kjk19Orgl9pf2bn18mEqxRtUleUg46CE?usp=sharing)

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**ABOUT OWEN LOWERY**

Owen Lowery is a Pittsburgh based interactive artist with a mission to create situations that foster intrinsic curiosity in children and adults alike. His practice involves creating interactives that lure people into acts of exploratory play. He tries to bridge the physical and the digital using super cheap second hand materials that nobody worries too much about accidentally breaking when they touch, push, shove, or knock into them.

Owen prioritizes Universal Design in his work, hoping that all people—regardless of age, height, or ability—may engage in a meaningful way. He tries to put adults and children on equal footing, making interpretation by both valid while encouraging them to explore with and learn from each other.

To Owen, his art exists within the situations he creates rather than the visuals, spaces, or structures themselves. The art lives inside the reflective moments where curiosity takes over, when a person pauses to wonder, “Is there more to this thing?” before engaging with an entirely new approach. It’s a small piece of that curiosity that Owen hopes they take away with them into their daily lives.

Owen was a Tough Artist in Residence in 2019 at Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh and his work, Cosmic Geometry, is currently on view at the Children’s Museum. The Tough Art Residency Program enables the Museum to expand its ever-growing collection of interactive artwork accessible to all.

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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, Nursery, 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 MUSEUMLAB ®

MuseumLab is a new museum located adjacent to the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, offering growing kids cutting-edge experiences in art, tech and making. With three exhibit spaces, program and rental space, a host of commissioned artwork and unique camps, workshops and afterschool activities, and multiple partners, MuseumLab sits at the crossroads of interactive museum, learning lab and one of the coolest designed spaces in Pittsburgh. With the opening of MuseumLab on April 27, 2019, Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh transformed a North Side landmark into an integral component of what is now the nation’s the largest cultural campus for children. In 2020, MuseumLab was honored to receive the Civic and Cultural Interior Design Award from Dezeen, an award we are so grateful to share with all of the partners, collaborators, and supporters of the project (https://www.dezeen.com/awards/2020/winners/museumlab/)