

For Immediate Release

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**California Science Center Partners with Getty Conservation Institute on Exhibit
FADE: The Dark Side of Light
October 10, 2007 through May 31, 2008**

Los Angeles - The California Science Center <http://www.californiasciencecenter.org> in collaboration with the Getty Conservation Institute <http://www.getty.edu/> opens a new exhibit entitled *FADE: The Dark Side of Light* on October 10, 2007. The 1200 sq. ft. exhibit, which blends science and art, explores the destructive effects of light exposure on priceless museum treasures and family photos. It also offers suggestions for mitigating the damage.

FADE's interactive exhibits explain the nature of light and why it permanently changes the appearance of many objects. Using their own energy, guests can create traveling waves of different lengths to better understand the relationship between wavelength and energy. Then through an AV program, guests can zoom in and learn how light damages materials at the atomic level.

The exhibit also features a series of projected images which first appear and then slowly fade from view. The selected images span over 100 years and convey how photographs safeguard both personal and collectively held memories. Visitors see further dramatic evidence of light damage through photographs, works of art and a collection of everyday items. "This exhibit serves to increase awareness about how we're losing our past through light exposure." said Science Center curator Ken Phillips. "Creating this exhibit with the Getty Conservation Institute, which has an excellent research lab focused on this topic, was a rare and exceptional opportunity."

Tim Whalen, Director of the Getty Conservation Institute, remarked, "The Getty Conservation Institute is pleased to partner with the California Science Center on this wonderful exhibition. This kind of cross-town collaboration enriches Los Angeles and the museum community as a whole. My hope is that visitors to *FADE* will better understand how science and art work together to preserve important cultural treasures."

To discover ways of mitigating the damaging effect of light, guests experiment with how materials reflect, transmit or absorb electromagnetic energy. They also discover how scientists and museum conservators use their understanding of light to display art treasures while protecting them from light damage. For example, one interactive exhibit invites guests to illuminate paintings with selected wavelengths of light in order to compare the effect with light from the full spectrum while a companion exhibit lets guests explore how color and contrast affect their perception.

FADE: The Dark Side of Light runs from October 10 through May 31, 2008.

About the California Science Center

The California Science Center's mission is as follows: "We aspire to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone by creating fun, memorable experiences, because we value science as an indispensable tool for understanding our world, accessibility and inclusiveness, and enriching people's lives."

The **California Science Center** and **IMAX Theater** are located in historic Exposition Park just west of the Harbor (110) Freeway at 700 Exposition Park Drive, Los Angeles. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Admission to *Goose Bumps!* and general admission is free. For recorded information, including IMAX show times, call 323.SCIENCE (323.724-3623). IMAX ticket prices range from \$4.75 to \$8.00. For advance ticket purchases, group rates, or to make reservations for any visiting group of 15 or more (*required*), call 213.744-2019. Parking is available in the guest lot at Figueroa and 39th Street at \$6 per car, \$10 for buses or oversized vehicles. Both the Science Center and IMAX Theater are wheelchair accessible. For further information, please visit our website at www.californiasciencecenter.org.

About the J. Paul Getty Trust and the Getty Conservation Institute

The **J. Paul Getty Trust** is an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts that features the Getty Conservation Institute, the Getty Foundation, the J. Paul Getty Museum, and the Getty Research Institute. Additional information is available at www.getty.edu. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs serve a varied audience from two locations: the Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Getty Villa in Malibu.

The **Getty Conservation Institute**, a program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, works internationally to advance conservation and to enhance and encourage the preservation and understanding of the visual arts in all of their dimensions—objects, collections, architecture, and sites. The Institute serves the conservation community through scientific research, education and training, field projects, and the dissemination of the results of both its own work and the work of others in the field. In all its endeavors, the Institute is committed to addressing unanswered questions and promoting the highest possible standards of conservation practice.

Note to Editors: You are invited to a media preview for *FADE: The Dark Side of Light* at the California Science Center on October 9, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. RSVP required – please contact Shell Amega at 213-744-7446 or email samega@cscmail.org .