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RACE: ARE WE SO DIFFERENT?
WILL HELP VISITORS EXPLORE THE REALITY – AND UNREALITY – OF RACE

Exhibit opens on October 3, 2009 at the California Science Center

Los Angeles, CA– Beginning Saturday, October 3, visitors to the California Science Center will explore the controversial issues of race and racism in the United States through the thought-provoking exhibit “*RACE: Are We So Different?*” Using interwoven perspectives, the exhibition encourages guests to examine the science, everyday impact, and history of race. *RACE* will be hosted at the Science Center until December 31, 2009.

“We are pleased to host *RACE* in its West Coast premiere,” said Jeffrey Rudolph, President and CEO of the California Science Center. “This exhibit presents an opportunity to bridge science and social issues and to discover the effects of race in our lives and within society.”

Three perspectives on a wide-reaching topic

RACE addresses the topics of race and racism from three different angles. The three sections are connected and tell a compelling story of science with deep and lasting social impact.

- **Science:** In this section of the exhibit, visitors will discover that human beings are more alike than any other living species, and no one gene or set of genes can support the idea of race.
- **Everyday experience:** Though race may not be a real biological concept, it certainly is real both socially and culturally. In this section of the exhibit, visitors will explore the personal experiences of race in our schools, neighborhoods, health care systems, sports and entertainment industries, and more.
- **History:** Ideas about race have been around for hundreds of years, and they have changed over time. This section of *RACE* demonstrates that, throughout American history, economic interests, popular culture, science, politics, and the struggle for power have played a role in shaping our understanding of race.

The exhibit features the work of photographer Wing Young Huie, who specializes in documenting the changing cultural landscape of urban environments. His *Lake Street USA* project transformed six miles of Minneapolis’ Lake Street into a public art project that earned national attention in 2000.

A project of American Anthropological Association in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota, *RACE* promotes discovery, discussion and reflection through a powerful and

interactive combination of artifacts, historic and contemporary photography, multimedia components, and interactive activities.

RACE is part of a larger public education project from American Anthropological Association and funded by the Ford Foundation and the National Science Foundation. The project is intended to inform and shape the national dialogue about race. In addition to the exhibit, the initiative includes a website, educational materials, and conferences designed to share research and information with the public. The national tour of *RACE: Are We So Different?* is presented by the Best Buy Children's Foundation. The exhibit is presented with local support from the Sempra Energy Foundation.

In addition to *RACE*, Science Center visitors are invited to view two IMAX films *Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey*, and *Across the Sea of Time*. *Pulse* is a visual and auditory celebration of diversity and culture, rhythm, and humanity. Through percussion groups from around the globe, the film chronicles a world without boundaries or prejudices and provides a striking example of the global spirit that is a common thread within us all. *Across the Sea of Time* follows a young boy's quest to connect with his relatives based on an ancestor's photographs, played out on the background of a vibrant and diverse New York. The film explores our past, and urges reflection on our collective national heritage.

Related Programming

Visitors can also enjoy the Science Matters discussion "The Medicalization of Race," on Saturday, November 21, 2009. Scientists will discuss the scientific basis of race and human variation. In this light, panelists will debate the practical costs and benefits of racial categorization in medical research and disease treatment and discuss the socio-cultural, and public policy implications associated with differing point of views.

Delve deeper with related exhibitions, programs, and films at the California African American Museum, California Science Center, and the Skirball Cultural Center.

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."

General Info: 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. 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 / Exposition Park Drive at \$8 per car, \$10 for school buses and \$25 for commercial buses or oversize vehicles. Both the Science Center and IMAX Theater are wheelchair accessible. For further information, please visit our website at www.californiasciencecenter.org.