

Water's EXTREME Journey

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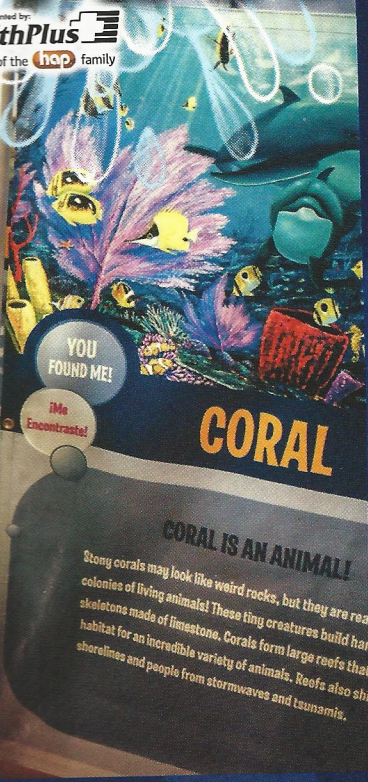


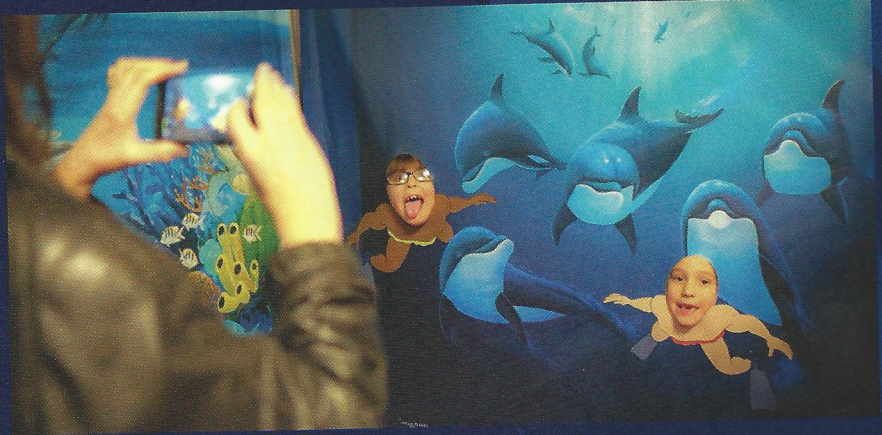
EXHIBIT EXPLORES SCIENCE AND HISTORY OF FLINT'S WATER SYSTEM

Journey through an interactive maze that engages visitors in an exciting quest to stay clean, while flowing through rivers, lakes, backyards, and into homes. Through play, scientific inquiry, and art, *Water's Extreme Journey* empowers visitors to take action, commit to clean water, and express their support for clean water initiatives. After exploring the maze, delve into Flint's water system history, learn the science of filtration, examine current issues and solutions, and investigate the Flint River today.

While investigating winding pathways, visitors are challenged to navigate through Non-Point Source Pollutants originating from agriculture, development, litter, and our homes. Will the farm they pass by be organic? Did their neighbor pour leftover paint down the drain? *Water's Extreme Journey* illuminates human impacts great and small while teaching visitors how to contribute to healthy, safe water in their community and beyond.

Developed with world-renowned marine life artist Wyland, *Water's Extreme Journey* takes visitors on an exciting and important adventure quest for clean water. Visitors experience the watershed as a water drop, exploring first-hand the science behind the water cycle. But it's not all wet and wild – through powerful interactive and local messaging, visitors will realize that even their daily decisions can immediately improve the watershed in their own backyard.

"My 7-year old wouldn't leave until he had explored every optional route through the maze."
- Bruce Stewart, Program Director, Birch Aquarium at Scripps



Why Water?

Water is among the hottest conservation topics in the news today, and Americans rank water pollution as the number one environmental concern facing the country. *Water's Extreme Journey* is a front line effort to empower millions of people with the knowledge to create a positive, immediate impact through action.

"...water pollution has been the top-ranking environmental issue of

It's Local

Clean water in your own backyard.

In response to the ongoing Flint water crisis, Sloan Museum commissioned a traveling exhibit *Water's Extreme Journey* presented by HealthPlus. The exhibit opened January 23 and will close May 8. Sloan Museum has also curated a local exhibit component and public programs, with the goal of educating and empowering visitors to take action on local water issues.

Water's Extreme Journey is an interactive maze that challenges visitors to explore the water cycle from the perspective of a water drop trying not to become polluted. By teaching about human sources of water pollution, the exhibit empowers visitors to adopt clean water practices in their homes and become advocates for clean water initiatives in their communities.

The localized portion of the exhibit includes a timeline exploring the history of Flint's drinking water, beginning in 1873. The timeline, according to Curator of Collections Jeremy Dimick, "chronicles the triumphs and challenges Flint has had providing drinking water to its residents, but focuses primarily on the sequence of events that brought us into the current lead-in-water crisis."

The exhibit also tells the story of the Flint River itself, beginning with Native Americans' relationship with the river and continuing through European settlement, the pollution of the river, and the progress of the Flint River Watershed Coalition's conservation efforts.

"One of the takeaways for the public should be that the health of the Flint River is actually quite good," Exhibit Manager Warren Lehmkuhle said. "It was the lack of corrosion treatment, treatment that even lake water goes through, that caused the problem with our water."

The maze concludes with a community comment board where visitors can post notes about local water issues and share their experiences of the Flint water crisis. These comments will remain posted in the exhibit, and will later be entered into the Sloan Museum collection as part of the record of the Flint water crisis.



Sloan Museum's continuing goal is to preserve everyday life in Flint and Genesee County, and the localization of *Water's Extreme Journey* is a rare opportunity for the museum to involve the community in a large scale documentation effort of a dramatic historic event. "Usually, because in-house exhibits take so much time to develop, the community has moved on from issues by the time the museum can get an exhibit together," Dimick said.

Although Sloan Museum has offered exhibits on historic events like Buick's 100th Anniversary and cultural phenomena like the history of local turndabism, *Water's Extreme Journey* marks the first time the museum has been able to proactively document an ongoing local event through a public exhibit.

"I think we have a responsibility to document as much as possible now for future generations because, as with any kind of museum collecting, it is much easier to accumulate artifacts pertaining to current events now, rather than waiting 50 years when they are considered historic," Dimick said. "If we do a good job collecting items and information now, the community will be better able to look back on the event 50 and 150 years from now."

Water's Extreme Journey presents opportunities for local messaging through programming. Sloan Museum is offering educational programs for youth and adult audiences on topics ranging from the science of water filtration, testing, and conservation, to the Flint River Watershed Coalition's efforts to protect and preserve the Flint River as a vital natural resource. Guest speakers will include Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright, who will speak about the Karegnondi Pipeline, and Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha of Hurley Medical Center, who will discuss her research on Flint residents' blood lead levels. Flint Journal reporters will also lead a panel discussion on their coverage of Flint's water crisis.

**WATER'S EXTREME JOURNEY
PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

- February 11 **Flint's Water Crisis:
A Timeline of Events**
- February 15 Water Works
- February 25 **Build Your Own Watershed**
- February 27 Down at the Pond
- March 3 **Dr. Hanna-Attisha Lecture**
- March 17 **Karegnondi Pipeline**
- March 31 **Water Pollution:
What You Can Do**
- April 9 Water Wise
- April 14 **The Flint River**
- April 30 Wild, Wacky, Water Critters
- May 7 **Project GREEN Water Testing**

Events in **bold** are adult programs. Get details and register for all of these events on our website SloanMuseum.org.

Concern to Americans in each Gallup reading since 1989." – Gallup.com