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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***The Pigeon Comes to Atlanta! A Mo Willems Exhibit***

Makes Debut at the Children’s Museum of Atlanta

**ATLANTA (Nov. 13, 2020) –*The Pigeon Comes to Atlanta! A Mo Willems Exhibit*** makes its debut on **January 16, 2021** at the **Children’s Museum of Atlanta**. Co-organized by Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art*,* the exhibition is inspired by the art and characters of the beloved children’s book author and illustrator, Mo Willems.

Many familiar characters will be featured including best friend duo Elephant and Piggie, faithful companion Knuffle Bunny and The Pigeon, the wily city bird best known for his antics in *Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* Activities will give visitors the opportunity to make art that is inspired by Mo Willems and to learn about the rich social and emotional lives of the author’s characters. The exhibit will also feature prints of illustrations, including sketches and other preliminary materials, by Mo Willems.

In this play-and-learn exhibit, visitors can:

* Have a hilarious conversation in the voices of Elephant Gerald and Piggie at a double-sided phone booth.
* Make Elephant and Piggie dance with old-time animation.
* Put on a wearable bus and take a drive around the exhibit.
* Spin the laundromat washing machine and uncover Knuffle Bunny and other surprises!
* Dress up Naked Mole Rat and send him down the runway for a one-of-a-kind fashion show.
* Stack lightweight blocks to create their own terrible monster or funny friend.
* Launch foam hot dogs at The Pigeon and play the plinko game to give the Duckling a cookie.
* Try out art techniques that Mo uses for his own books.

Locally sponsored by Fulton County Arts Council and City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, ***The Pigeon Comes to Atlanta! A Mo Willems Exhibit*** will be on display at the Children’s Museum of Atlanta through May 9, 2021.

Children’s Museum of Atlanta is now open for limited capacity in a two-hour session format. The Museum is following enhanced health and safety measures, including requiring face coverings for all guests over 5-years-old and all staff members; deep cleaning between each session and cleaning of high touchpoints during sessions; and conducing Creativity Café projects in open-air spaces. A full list of health enhancements can be found on the [Museum website](https://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/response-to-covid19/).  More information on reservations and tickets, revised operating hours and the Museum’s online programming guide can be found [here.](https://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/experiences/)

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**About Children’s Museum of Atlanta**

Children’s Museum of Atlanta is the only educational venue of its kind in Atlanta, presenting educational programs and exhibits designed for young children ages 0-9. The mission of Children's Museum of Atlanta is to change the world by sparking every child's imagination, sense of discovery and learning through the power of play. With six permanent learning zones consisting of bright, creative and hands-on exhibits, the Museum supports inventive play-based exploration and experiential learning focused on the whole child. Core competencies for literacy, math and science are promoted throughout all exhibits and programming in alignment with the state and national Core Performance Standards. Children’s Museum of Atlanta also offers parties, memberships, field trips, summer camp and private events. For more information or to support Children's Museum of Atlanta, visit [childrensmuseumatlanta.org](https://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/) or call 404.659.KIDS [5437].

**Museum Admission:** Online ticketing only is available at this time. Phone booking is available with ample notice and will be booked via online reservation. Members must pre-book and will be able to get their $5 voucher online. Babies under 12 months and members are admitted for free. All daily programs are included in price of admission. Group rates and military discounts are available. For more information regarding ticket and membership options, visit [childrensmuseumatlanta.org](https://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/).

**Museum Hours:** The Museum will operate in 3 two-hour sessions daily with one-hour cleaning in between sessions. Hours of operation for January are 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.; the Museum is closed on Wednesdays. Please check the Museum website to confirm hours of operation.

**About Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh**

Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh is a place that delights and inspires children, where they can take off on fantastic flights of imagination daily, and return to earth to hammer a nail and ink a silkscreen. With 80,000 square feet of space, the Museum welcomes more than 302,500 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, Attic, 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). In 2006, the Museum became a certified green building and was honored by the American Institute for Architects and the National Historic Preservation Trust. In 2015 the Museum was named as one of the nation’s fifteen top children’s museums by *Parents* magazine and in 2017 was Voted One of the Nation’s Ten Best Museums for Families in*USA Today* [10Best Reader’s Choice Contest for Best Museum for Families in America.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.10best.com_awards_travel_best-2Dmuseum-2Dfor-2Dfamilies-2D2017_&d=DQMF-g&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=CBzi0RUjZFFLxnr_YjT9JXphvvEpWK3KoOy6H1uryUQ&m=9m7AjbN-8rymAPb1O4pXBj6BQQhJK1MosC3WEjlyn3Q&s=-aJ60B9Oh-sIMeGSQQjo9Abw9FTx6q9C4J9uCjefDVQ&e=)

**The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art**

The mission of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, a non-profit organization in Amherst, MA, is to inspire a love of art and reading through picture books. A leading advocate in its field, The Carle collects, preserves, presents, and celebrates picture books and picture book illustrations from around the world. In addition to underscoring the cultural, historical, and artistic significance of picture books and their art form, The Carle offers educational programs that provide a foundation for arts integration and literacy.

Eric and Barbara Carle founded the Museum in November 2002. Eric Carle is the renowned author and illustrator of more than 70 books, including classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The Carle houses more than 11,000 objects, including 7,300 permanent collection illustrations, three art galleries, an art studio, a theater, picture book and scholarly libraries, and educational programs for families, scholars, educators, and schoolchildren. Educational offerings include professional training for educators around the country and four onsite graduate programs in Children's Literature in collaboration with Simmons College. For further information, visit the Museum’s website at [www.carlemuseum.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.carlemuseum.org_&d=DQMF-g&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=CBzi0RUjZFFLxnr_YjT9JXphvvEpWK3KoOy6H1uryUQ&m=9m7AjbN-8rymAPb1O4pXBj6BQQhJK1MosC3WEjlyn3Q&s=pTwrOiB5-GTOND_x-oopjrXI7houD9YputZWnrWOjwo&e=).

**About Mo Willems**

*The New York Times* best-selling author and illustrator began his career as a writer and animator for PBS’s *Sesame Street*, where he garnered six Emmy Awards for his writing. During his nine seasons at *Sesame Street*, Willems also served as a weekly commentator for BBC Radio and created two animated series, Nickelodeon’s *The Off-Beats* and Cartoon Network’s *Sheep in the Big City*. While serving as head writer for Cartoon Network’s number one-rated show, *Codename: Kids Next Door*, Willems began writing and drawing books for children. His debut effort, *Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* became a New York Timesbest-seller and was awarded a Caldecott Honor in 2004. The following year *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale* was awarded a Caldecott Honor. The sequel, *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity* earned Willems his third Caldecott Honor in 2008. In addition to picture books, Willems created the *Elephant and Piggie* books, a series of beginning readers, which were awarded the Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal in 2008 and 2009 and Geisel Honors in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Willems’ drawings and sculptures have been exhibited in numerous galleries and museums across the nation, and his graphic story about his family experiences during 9-11 for DC Comics resides in the Library of Congress’s permanent collection. Willems has written the script and lyrics for three musicals, *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical*, *Elephant & Piggie’s We Are in a Play!* (both commissioned by the Kennedy Center) and *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience* (commissioned by The Seattle Children’s Theater). His monumental sculpture, *The Red Elephant*,can be viewed in the courtyard of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Willems lives in Massachusetts with his family.