Berkshire Museum Press Release
For Immediate Release: January 8, 2016
Media contact: Lesley Ann Beck, Director of Communications  
413.443.7171 ext. 320; lbeck@berkshiremuseum.org

**Berkshire Museum celebrates Kid Inventors’ Day January 17, 2016**

[PITTSFIELD, MA] — Visit Spark!Lab at the Berkshire Museum to celebrate kids and their inventions as part of Kid Inventors’ Day on Sunday, January 17, from noon to 5 p.m. For this day of special hands-on challenges, kids are invited to prototype inventive solutions to local and global problems with a focus on health issues.

On January 17, Spark!Lab hosts will be on hand to share the accomplishments of notable kid inventors, from Benjamin Franklin in the 1700s to today’s Param Jaggi, a young man who invented a device to control harmful exhaust emissions in automobiles before he was old enough to drive!

The Spark!Lab hosts will be challenging young visitors and their inventive imaginations with materials and inspiration for creating new solutions to some of the important issues that face people around the world.

Visitors also will take part in the world-wide launch the 2016 global Spark!Lab Invent It Challenge, with participants ages 5 to 21 encouraged to identify a real world problem and come up with an invention to solve it. For the past four years, Spark!Lab at the Smithsonian has been working with ePals to conduct the global Spark!Lab Invent It Challenge. Learn how young inventors can enter as an individual or in a team, and earn prizes ranging from LEGO sets, books, invention camp scholarships, and even consultation services from an attorney for the patent process. Anyone, anywhere in the world can enter this online challenge; visit [http://challenges.epals.com/inventit2016/the-challenge/](http://challenges.epals.com/inventit2016/the-challenge/) for all the information! The Invent It Challenge kicks off on Kid Inventors’ Day.
Spark!Lab is a hands-on, creative laboratory that features a variety of activities that invite visitors to think like inventors using their own resourcefulness using materials and tools provided. Spark!Lab provides opportunities for children and families to explore their creativity — by designing, innovating, collaborating, and problem-solving — because these experiences empower kids to develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed today and in the future.

Developed at the Smithsonian Institution by the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation at the National Museum of American History (NMAH), Spark!Lab is part of a nation-wide initiative to engage youngsters in the act of invention and innovation. Spark!Lab is supported, in part, by the Feigenbaum Foundation, Greylock Federal Credit Union, and the Rotary Club of Pittsfield.

About the Berkshire Museum
Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $13 adult, $6 child; Museum members and children age 3 and under enjoy free admission. For more information, visit www.berkshiremuseum.org or call 413.443.7171.

In association with the Smithsonian since 2013, Berkshire Museum is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation.

Established by Zenas Crane in 1903, Berkshire Museum integrates art, history, and natural science in a wide range of programs and exhibitions that inspire educational connections between the disciplines. In the galleries, ArtZoo will be on view January 23 through May 1. Little Cinema is open year-round. Spark!Lab, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

#  #  #