Berkshire Museum Press Release
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Berkshire Museum’s GALAxy: Party in the Cosmos a Stellar Success

The annual fundraiser was held Friday, July 27, 2018, with proceeds to benefit the Museum’s extensive education programs.

[Pittsfield, Mass.] – The Berkshire Museum held its annual fundraiser, GALAxy: Party in the Cosmos, on the evening of Friday, July 27, attended by nearly 300 guests. The out-of-this-world theme for GALAxy: Party in the Cosmos was inspired by the summer exhibition Josh Simpson: Galactic Landscapes, a solo show by renowned contemporary glass artist Josh Simpson that exemplifies the intersection of art and science. The benefit was a spectacular success, raising more than $190,000 for the Museum’s innovative Education Programs, surpassing the goals set for the event.

Thanks to the generosity of those who attended GALAxy: Party in the Cosmos, all Berkshire County schools will be able to visit the Museum for engaging class trips with free admission for the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year. Pittsfield students have been coming to the Museum on class visits free, for more than a decade, thanks to continued sponsorship from Greylock Federal Credit Union and others. Now the Museum can expand this program, increasing access to the Museum for all the schools in the county, impacting a total of more than 15,500 children.

Every year since 1957 the Berkshire Museum has hosted a gala fundraising event with the proceeds designated for the Museum’s innovative education programs that today provide more than 29,000 educational experiences to area students every year, both at the Museum and in local schools. With the notable success of this fundraiser, the
Museum will be able to increase the number of students served, from early learners and pre-school all the way through high school.

“We are so grateful to everyone who joined us for a wonderful evening, and very appreciative of the support that was so graciously given for our education programs,” says Elizabeth McGraw, president of the Board of Trustees. “We are thrilled that we will be welcoming even more local students to the Museum this coming year, thanks to the success of our gala event.”

The festivities began with a reception in the gallery featuring Josh Simpson and former astronaut Cady Coleman, who served as honorary chairs of the event. The evening continued with drinks and hors d’oeuvres in Lab 102, live and silent auctions, dinner offerings in the Crane Room, portraits by photographer Bill Wright, and a dance party. GALAxy was also supported by Methuselah, offering special cocktails, and by DJ BFG, who provided the music.

In planning the event, Museum staff exclusively selected local vendors, who all contributed significantly to the success of the evening. In addition, thanks go out to 65 local business and individual donors who made exceptionally generous contributions to the live and silent auctions.

The GALAxy Committee included Cady Coleman and Josh Simpson as honorary chairs; Jen and Bill Hines and Jayme Kurland and Ethan Klepetar as co-chairs; and committee members Courtney and Mike Addy; Carrie Barth and Adam Klepetar; Cathy Deely; Laurie and Joe Gallagher; Stacey Gillis Weber and Jeffrey Weber; Jenn Gomez and Mark Pedrotti; Wendy and Peter Gordon; Natalie Johnsonius Neubert and David Neubert; Rachel and Eric Mabee; Buzz and Robin McGraw; Heidi and Jim Nejaime; Bernadette Patynski and Stephen Bayne; Caitlin and Gary Pemble; Ashley Persip; Marianna Poutasse and Eric Korenman; Missy and Matt Scarafoni; Darcie Sosa; Colin and Jonah Sykes; Laurie and David Tiemey; Christina and Mike Wynn; and Mary Ann and Louis Yarmosky.
Among the many generous benefactors who supported **GALAxy: Party in the Cosmos** are The Donald C. McGraw Foundation; Black Rock Foundation; Buzz and Robin McGraw; Stacey Gillis Weber and Jeffrey A. Weber; Hill – Engineers, Architects, Planners; Joan and Jim Hunter; Berkshire Magazine; Blue Q; C.J. Bolster; Cathy Deely; Marita and David Glodt; Natalie Johnsonius Neubert and David Neubert; Lee Bank and October Mountain Financial Advisors; and Matthew and Melissa Scarafoni.

**About the Berkshire Museum**

Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum 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.

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. **Josh Simpson: Galactic Landscapes** is on view July 14 through January 6, 2019. **Art of the Hills** is on view now through September 3, 2018. **Curiosity Incubator** is on view. Little Cinema is open year-round. Lab 102, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

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