



Museum of Science Fiction
Washington, DC
USA: Earth: Sol: Milky Way

ESCAPE
VELOCITY

CONTACT:
Nico Pandi
+1-657-215-1701

nico.pandi@museumofsciencefiction.org

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Museum of Science Fiction Announces: *Escape Velocity*, a New STEAM and Science Fiction Con for 2016

Washington, DC (May 15, 2015) – The Museum of Science Fiction, the world’s first comprehensive science fiction museum, is thrilled to announce its first annual sci-fi, STEAM education, and entertainment convention in the nation’s capitol. The Museum will bring “Escape Velocity” to the Washington, DC metro area on the weekend of June 30, 2016. This expo debuts on *Star Trek’s* 50th anniversary and will be like a micro futuristic world’s fair, giving fans a chance to celebrate science fiction and comic con activities while tying both to STEAM education (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) through a variety of thought-provoking programs:

- Panel discussions, photos, and autographs with celebrity guests such as author **Greg Bear** of the *Eon* series, author **David Brin** of *The Postman*, *Earth*, and *Existence*, former NASA astronaut **Pam Melroy**, *Star Trek: TNG* screenwriter **Morgan Gendel**, and many more still to be announced over the coming months
- Animatronics, high resolution 3D scanning/printing, and robotics demonstrations
- Science fiction trivia celebrity shoot-out with the Museum's new mobile app
- Technology forum and over-the-horizon prototype demonstrations
- Museum exhibits, displays, and new technology video game design
- Mini film festival with the **Boston Science Fiction Film Festival**
- Costume and model building workshops and contests
- Recognition service and leadership category awards
- Exhibition floor and vendor tables
- Screenwriters workshop

"This event sits between Comic Con and the USA Science and Engineering Festival," said Mandy Sweeney, vice president, operations for the Museum and former NASA consultant. "Blending STEAM education with science fiction is central to the Museum's mission. Currently, there really aren't any large-scale, community events that intentionally deliver informal learning inspired by science fiction. We want people to have a lot fun and learn some interesting things along the way. The Museum of Science Fiction and this event are perfect vehicles to achieve that escape velocity, boost interest in STEAM, and escape to a brighter future – hence the con's name."

Museum advisory board member and dean of American University's School of Communication, Jeff Rutenbeck, PhD said, "the con will also showcase rapidly developing technologies where the mean time to reality (MTTR) continues to drop. The next 20 years promise to be very exciting as innovations build on innovations, and new technologies become ordinary more quickly. This environment presents new opportunities for institutions, such as museums and universities, to begin exploring how best to test these concepts as science fiction becomes reality at an ever faster pace."

Preregistration will be soon. For more information about the Museum of Science Fiction, please visit: www.museumofsciencefiction.org and www.facebook.com/museumofsciencefiction

About the Museum of Science Fiction

The nonprofit Museum of Science Fiction will be the world's first comprehensive science fiction museum, covering the history of the genre across the arts and providing a narrative on its relationship to the real world. The Museum will show how science fiction continually inspires individuals, influences cultures, and impacts societies. Also serving as an educational catalyst to expand interest in the science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) areas, the Museum uses tools such as mobile applications and wifi-enabled display objects to educate and entertain. For a full press packet on the Museum of Science Fiction's vision and other information, visit: www.museumofsciencefiction.org/presspacket

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