



Museum of Science Fiction  
Washington, DC  
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VELOCITY

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## **NASA and Museum of Science Fiction Sign Space Act Agreement**

**Washington, DC (May 19, 2015)** – The Museum of Science Fiction, the world’s first comprehensive science fiction museum, has entered into a Space Act Agreement (SAA) with National Aeronautics and Space Administration to further public outreach and education in science. Through this partnership, the Museum will have access to NASA’s vast resources and be able to share important accomplishments by NASA scientists and engineers with the Museum's student community. “One of NASA's core goals is inspiring students to be future scientists, engineers, and explorers,” said Jason Derleth, Program Executive, NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC), Space Technology Mission Directorate. “We look forward to working with the Museum of Science Fiction to expand the public's knowledge of space exploration.”

One of the first major activities planned for the two organizations is “Escape Velocity,” a three-day STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) event in June, 2016. Escape Velocity will be like a micro-futuristic world’s fair, blending education with science and science fiction, through a variety of thought-provoking programs:

- Panel discussions, photos, and autographs with celebrity guests such as former NASA astronaut **Pam Melroy**, author **David Brin** of *The Postman*, *Earth*, and *Existence*, author **Greg Bear** of the *Eon* series, *Star Trek* screenwriter **Morgan Gendel**, and many more still to be announced over the coming months
- Animatronics, high resolution 3D scanning/printing, and robotics demonstrations
- 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 and leadership category awards, and exhibition floor

“Every day, NASA is turning science fiction into reality,” said Mandy Sweeney, Vice President of Operations for the Museum of Science Fiction and former NASA consultant. “We are thrilled to partner with them through this SAA. There’s no doubt having access to the incredible minds at NASA will be a tremendous benefit to the Museum’s community and its educational programs - highlighting over-the-horizon technologies.” Article 2 of the SAA reads:

*The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Museum of Science Fiction ("the Museum") enter an agreement for collaboration on increasing awareness of and interest in innovation, inspiration, technology, and technology-related careers. In accordance with this partnership, NASA and the Museum agree to share content and expertise to deliver inspirational programming to the public that inspires innovation and interest in aerospace technology, science, and exploration. A defining characteristic of the Museum's mission and program delivery is the coupling of science fiction with science fact to inspire imagination, learning, and ultimately innovation. Accordingly, NASA's participation will be led by the NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) Program, in the Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD). NIAC is a visionary, far-term research program that has already performed credible study of several concepts that originated in science fiction, so NIAC is a natural partner for the Museum. NASA's participation, expertise, and content in Museum programming will make it more relevant and effective in reaching the desired audiences and inspiring them to action.*

*The NASA-Museum collaboration will allow the parties to: 1) participate in and increase awareness about Museum and NASA events and programming that marries the themes of science fiction to science fact, 2) share content and ideas for exhibitions; and 3) enhance Museum classroom programs, related to aerospace and technology, for students.*

For more information about the Museum, please visit:

[www.museumofsciencefiction.org](http://www.museumofsciencefiction.org) and [www.facebook.com/museumofsciencefiction](https://www.facebook.com/museumofsciencefiction)

For more information about NASA, please visit: [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

### **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, please visit [www.museumofsciencefiction.org/presspacket](http://www.museumofsciencefiction.org/presspacket)

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