



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

ESCAPE
VELOCITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Museum of Science Fiction Co-Sponsors White House Homesteading in Space Workshop

Los Angeles, CA (Feb. 12, 2016) – The Museum of Science Fiction in Washington, DC, the world’s first comprehensive science fiction museum, is proud to have co-sponsored with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Science & Entertainment Exchange a workshop on the future of human space exploration. “Homesteading in Space — Inspiring the Nation through Science Fiction” brought together stakeholders from academia, government, the commercial space industry, and the entertainment industry to focus on developing a positive, inventive view of future space exploration.

As President Obama observed in his 2015 State of the Union, we want to be “pushing out into the solar system not just to visit, but to stay.” Workshop participants discussed the science and technology of space exploration, including mining, nanotechnology, robotics, synthetic astrobiology, habitats, and other related areas.

Participants were asked to imagine how science fiction could express positive, entertaining views of a future ‘homesteading’ in space—stories that will energize the public, inspire children to pursue STEM careers, and help make science fiction become science fact. “Just as pioneers on Earth had to live off the land as they traveled to unknown territories, space explorers will need to use resources from asteroids or other planets,” commented Tom Kalil, Deputy Director for Technology and Innovation at OSTP.

Participants at today’s workshop included about 75 space scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs, along with story-tellers, artists, directors, and producers interested in science fiction and space exploration working across all media (novels, short stories, design fiction, new media, video, film, TV, VR, gaming, etc.) – all of whom have an interest using science fiction to express positive, inspiring views of a future “homesteading” in space.

“Today begins a discussion on how we as a people may one day leave the planet and become a solar system civilization,” said Greg Viggiano, executive director for the Museum of Science

Fiction. “Achieving Earth-independence will require us to find the resources we need to survive in space after we leave home – then use and re-use those resources to make what we need as we move forward exploring new places to live.”

The Museum's educational mission is to share and use science fiction as a way to inspire imagination and motivate learning in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math. “Getting Students excited about science is one of our key missions at the Museum,” said Dr. Mason Peck, a member of the Museum's Board of Advisors and professor of aerospace engineering at Cornell University. “At today's workshop, we will share ideas on how to develop creative projects about homesteading in space that help further that goal.”

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More information about this and other activities are available here:

www.museumofsciencefiction.org

escapevelocity.events

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 engage and entertain. For a full press packet on the Museum of Science Fiction's vision and other information, please visit:

www.museumofsciencefiction.org/presspacket

About Escape Velocity 2016

The Museum of Science Fiction and NASA are partnering to bring Escape Velocity 2016 to Washington, DC. The event will be like a micro futuristic world's fair to promote STEAM educational activities within the context of science fiction using the fun of comic cons and fascination of science and engineering festivals. Escape Velocity 2016 seeks to make a measurable positive impact to boost informal learning on the more conceptually challenging academic areas. Escape Velocity's mission is to re-invigorate the interest of our young people in science, technology, engineering, art, and math by producing and presenting the most compelling, exciting, educational, and entertaining science festival in the United States using science fiction as the primary engine. Escape Velocity will achieve orbit on July 1 - 3, 2016 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in Metropolitan Washington, DC. For a full press packet on Escape Velocity, please visit: escapevelocity.events/press-media

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