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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TELUS World of Science - Edmonton to Receive 2020 Leadership Award for Education from the Alberta Museums Association

September 11, 2020

Edmonton, Alberta - The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) is pleased to announce TELUS World of Science - Edmonton as the recipient of the AMA's 2020 Leadership Award for Education, in recognition of its work in creating safe and supportive spaces for science learning for girls and women.

An all-female team worked across departments to tailor programming at TELUS World of Science - Edmonton to individuals that identify as women in order to address gender gaps and improve accessibility in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning. The five distinct programs making up *Women and Girls in STEM* focus on addressing the issues that prevent women and girls from pursuing careers in science.

Presenting material in an environment that is supportive of girls and women, the programs aim to increase confidence to pursue STEM careers, decrease gender stereotyping by providing a positive space for girls to interact with professional female role models in STEM fields, and improve positive peer influence by creating safe spaces to explore STEM topics and to learn new skills in the TELUS World of Science - Edmonton makerspace.

Designed to support girls aged ten to adults, the *Women and Girls in STEM* programs promote ongoing learning at critical ages where women and girls tend to lose interest in STEM. Not only do the programs provide an opportunity for girls to interact with like-minded peers, they also foster a support network of confident female STEM researchers.

"With the *Women and Girls in STEM* programs, TELUS World of Science - Edmonton is working hard to engage future and current female researchers' hearts and minds in science," said Meaghan Patterson, Executive Director / CEO. "In empowering women and girls through these educational programs, TELUS World of Science - Edmonton is a role model to their peers and colleagues of the importance of museums as agents of social change."

Nominations for the Leadership Awards were adjudicated by the Leadership Awards Committee, comprised of Individual Members of the AMA. Historically, the Award is presented at an Awards Ceremony held as part of the AMA's Annual Conference. However, in light of COVID-19 and public health requirements, an in-person ceremony will not take place this year and the AMA will be celebrating TELUS World of Science - Edmonton virtually.

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Background

The Leadership Award for Education recognizes those who facilitate a culture of inquiry. Recipients in this category are innovative in their approach to educational program development and delivery. They view education as a core function of the museum, which is reflected in their collections research and exhibit development. They inspire lifelong learning through participatory programming, interpretation, and artifact engagement, and reach out to diverse audiences and encourage people to think critically about the world around them. They strive to make information accessible to a wide audience by considering the needs of different types of learners, using evaluation tools to understand community impact and refine their approach to programming, and providing opportunities for visitors to experience a sense of curiosity and wonder.

The AMA Leadership Awards recognize the exceptional work of Alberta museums and museum professionals in creating value, accessibility, and relevance in their communities. The Leadership Awards recognize excellence, innovation, and creativity in Alberta's museum community in three categories: Engagement, Education, and Sustainability. More information about the AMA Leadership Awards can be found on the AMA website:
<https://museums.ab.ca/what-we-do/awards.aspx>.

The Alberta Museums Association provides a variety of programs and services to over 500 museums and museum professionals across Alberta. Through its focus on community engagement, social responsibility, and sustainability, the AMA utilizes its funding, accreditation, awards, and professional development opportunities to support institutions in their vital role as leading contributors to the social, cultural, and educational fabric of Alberta. The AMA believes that museums can leverage their positions as trusted institutions to encourage respectful dialogue, provide educational opportunities, and bring awareness to some of society's most pressing issues.

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