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A Festival that *Really* Rocks! Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Hosts GemFest on December 13 & 14

What: Don't miss the West Coast's largest gem and mineral show! More than 50 dealers and exhibitors will fill the Museum's halls. Visitors can purchase unique jewelry, crystals, gems and minerals from around the world and see fantastic displays of these glittering objects, like the glow-in-the-dark (fluorescent) minerals. At "Rockhound Corner," experts will help identify rocks, gems, minerals and meteorite fragments brought in by guests. Plus, young rockhounds can go on a Museum Treasure Hunt and get free mineral samples to start or add to their own collections.



Formerly known as "The Pasadena Show" the festival is organized by the Mineralogical Society of Southern California. The show had made its home in Pasadena for nearly 54 years. Last year the show premiered at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. "We felt the Natural History Museum, with one of the nation's finest collections of gems and minerals, would be a perfect fit," said Dr. Anthony Kampf, the Museum's curator of gems and minerals. "We're really excited about being the new venue for this important event."

When: Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles. Across from the University of Southern California, just off of the 110 Fwy.

Costs: GemFest is free with admission to the museum. Museum admission is \$8 for adults, \$5.50 for students and senior citizens, and \$2 for children ages 5-12. Children under 5 and Museum Members are free.

Contact: For more information the public can call 213/763-DINO.

Museum: The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is a national leader in research, exhibitions and education. Founded in 1913, it is one of the preeminent natural and cultural history museums in the United States, safeguarding more than 33 million specimens and artifacts in its collections. The kid-friendly Discovery Center welcomes children and families with hands-on natural history specimens. The accompanying Insect Zoo, the largest in the Western United States, features live insects from around the world.

Permanent exhibit halls include dramatic collections of fossils and dinosaurs, exquisite gems and minerals, grand animal dioramas, a California history hall, and a stunning Native American hall, along with ever-changing special exhibitions. For further information about the Museum, visit the Museum's website at www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-DINO.

The mission of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is to inspire wonder, discovery and responsibility for our natural and cultural worlds.

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