



The Natural
History Museum
of Los Angeles
County

Reimagined.
Beginning
Summer 2010.

MEDIA ALERT

ATTN: BROADCAST and PHOTO EDITORS

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THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFERS “WHALE” OF A SNEAK PEEK FOR *FIN WHALE PASSAGE* EXHIBIT

AWE-INSPIRING 63-FOOT FIN WHALE RETURNS TO MUSEUM, INSTALLED IN NEWLY RENOVATED GALLERY

OPPORTUNITY

Thursday, February 25, 2010

9 a.m.

WHAT: Media sneak peek of *Fin Whale Passage* exhibit at Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County offers photo opportunities with “whale” of a specimen and interview with Museum marine mammal expert Jim Dines.

After being absent for nearly four years for intensive cleaning and conservation, the spectacular Humboldt fin whale specimen returns home to the Museum to be installed in a newly renovated gallery. The 63-foot-long specimen, which weighs more than 7,000 pounds, has been re-articulated to create a more realistic impression of the living animal. An intriguing sound installation and interactive visitor components will accompany the display, which is one of the best and most complete large-whale articulations in the world.

Originally acquired in 1926 from a whaling station in Humboldt County, California, the fin whale specimen was continuously exhibited from 1944 through 2006, when it was removed to make way for the retrofit, restoration and renovation of the Museum’s landmark 1913 Building (set to re-open in July 2010). The Humboldt fin whale specimen was sent for conservation at the famed fossil preparation house Phil Fraley Productions in New Jersey. Like the historic building that once housed it, the fin-whale skeleton has been thoroughly restored. Each of the 221 individual bones was meticulously cleaned and conserved. A new steel armature supports the completely assembled skeleton and a new sculpted tail fluke has been added.

The *Fin Whale Passage* is part of **NHM Next**, the historic transformation of one of the city's true treasures—renovating more than half of the Museum's total public spaces and creating unforgettable experiences for 21st century audiences seeking to make connections between nature, culture, and the past, present and future.

WHEN: Thursday, February 25, 2010; 9 a.m.

WHO: **Interview opportunity with Jim Dines**, NHM Mammalogy Collections Manager & Chair of the Marine Mammal Committee for the American Society of Mammalogists

WHERE: **Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County**
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles.
Fin Whale Passage exhibit (on the first floor)

Parking on Bill Robertson Lane. Please notify kiosk attendant for free parking.
Broadcast vans may park between the Rose Garden and the Museum.
For directions call (323) 841-4139.

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About the Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles. It is open daily 9:30 am to 5 pm. The Museum was the first dedicated museum building in Los Angeles, opening its doors in 1913. It has amassed one of the world's most extensive and valuable collections of natural and cultural history — with more than 35 million objects, some as old as 4.5 billion years. The Natural History Family of Museums includes the NHM, the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits (Hancock Park/Mid-Wilshire), and the William S. Hart Park and Museum (Newhall, California). The Family of Museums serves more than one million families and visitors annually, and is a national leader in research, exhibitions and education.

NHM Next

Last year's completed renovation of the Beaux-Arts 1913 Building, the original component of the NHM, has set the stage for the rollout of a series of new exhibits leading up to the Museum's centennial in 2013: *Age of Mammals* and the Haaga Family Rotunda galleries open in Summer 2010; *Dinosaur Mysteries* and programmatic gardens in Summer 2011, and *Under the Sun*, an exhibition focusing on the Southern California environmental history, in Spring 2012.