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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY TO OPEN NEW DINOSAUR HALL ON JULY 16



**14,000-Square-Foot Permanent Exhibition—Featuring World’s Only
T. rex Growth Series and Large-Scale, Never-Before-Displayed Mounts—
Brings Paleontology Alive**

LOS ANGELES, CA — On July 16, 2011 the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM) will open its all-new, 14,000-square-foot **Dinosaur Hall**, marking the halfway point of the Museum’s seven-year transformation. Twice the size of the Museum’s old dinosaur galleries, the new permanent exhibition will feature over 300 fossils and 20 complete mounts of dinosaurs and sea creatures. The hall will rival the world’s leading dinosaur halls for the number of individual fossils displayed, the size and spectacular character of the major mounts, including the world’s only *Tyrannosaurus rex* growth series, and the accessible integration of recent scientific discoveries and research into the displays.

In the new, spacious, light-filled galleries, visitors come face-to-face—and in some cases can walk underneath—huge prehistoric skeletons, as well as see the dinosaurs as they were in life, illustrated on giant murals and animated in hands-on interactive and multi-media displays. In addition to views on this grand scale, visitors can also get a very detailed, close-up look at fossils—they can touch several, look at many through magnifying glasses as a scientist would, and in the interactive displays, excavate from simulated dirt and rock as paleontologists would.

Throughout the exhibition, visitors will encounter science not as static information, but as a vibrant, ongoing investigation into dinosaur mysteries—some resolved, and some still being explored. They will learn that the investigations are still taking place today, reinforcing the fact that discovery is not just something that happened in the past; it is work that is happening now, all around us.

“The new Dinosaur Hall is an exciting realization of the goal of our institution-wide transformation, which is to bring the Museum’s research and collections vividly to life for a public that is hungry for the real thing—an encounter with authentic fossils and with the genuine, fascinating process of scientific exploration,” said Dr. Jane Pisano, NHM President and Director. “This exhibition will emerge as one of the great dinosaur experiences in the world, and a major reason why NHM is one of America’s leading natural history museums.”



Standout Specimens

To provide insight into how scientists puzzle out answers to questions about dinosaurs—to reveal the stories *behind* these astonishing specimens—the exhibition draws from the ambitious discovery and research programs of the NHM’s in-house Dinosaur Institute (DI), directed by world-renowned paleontologist and exhibition lead curator, Dr. Luis Chiappe. The DI’s field research program has located key specimens all over the world, from the dinosaur-rich badlands of the American West to remote parts of South America and Asia.

The centerpiece of the exhibition is the ***T. rex* growth series**, containing an extraordinary fossil trio of the youngest known baby, a rare juvenile, and a recently-discovered young adult, one of the ten most complete *T. rex* specimens in the world. The Dinosaur Hall’s other standout exhibits include an imposing new ***Triceratops***; the armor-backed ***Stegosaurus***; the predator ***Allosaurus***; a 68-foot, long-necked ***Mamenchisaurus***; and **giant marine reptiles** that swam in the oceans covering what is today California. Two-thirds of the full fossil skeletons have never been displayed before. Specimens that were previously seen have all been re-articulated into more dynamic new poses based on recent scientific findings.

“We hope to inspire new generations of scientists, since this exhibition highlights the experience of going outdoors and finding treasures, and then understanding how they fit within the current scientific record,” said Dr. Chiappe. “Most dinosaur exhibitions are organized around specific types of dinosaurs or by periods of time. Our approach is to use new discoveries and research findings to bring visitors into the world of dinosaurs, exploring the great questions of how they lived, behaved, and died, and whether they still exist.”



The Exhibition Experience

The Dinosaur Hall extends through two adjoining two-story galleries. One is a part of the recently restored 1913 Building (the Beaux-Arts structure that was the Museum’s original home). The second belongs to the newer 1920s Building, which has been seismically renovated and outfitted with floor-to-ceiling windows that give passersby in Exposition Park a peek at the giants inside.

One of the exhibit goals was to bring visitors closer than ever to the real specimens—85 percent of the exhibition’s fossils are the real thing, not casts or reconstructions—and remove barriers whenever possible. To accomplish this, the major fossil skeletons were placed on special platforms that allow the fossils to be shown without glass barriers, and to pass directly underneath a dinosaur neck and stand under a *T. rex* skull.

This is a key to the exhibition’s visitor experience, as many of these fossils were prepared and articulated in recent years, using modern methods that forgo the thick layers of shellac used by paleontological conservators of decades past. Never-before-seen details of the fossils are revealed. Some specimens have rich red and green hues, colored by the minerals in the lands where they were found. Some contain visible traces of skin textures, respiratory systems, and in one instance, the stomach contents of a last meal.

The Dinosaur Hall is organized around a series of questions: What is a dinosaur? What was their world like? How did they live, grow and behave? And finally, what happened to them?

A quick walk through the exhibit reveals these main ideas, as they appear on large, colorful mural illustrations. For visitors who crave more background, context, and stories of discovery, multi-layered content is available for readers in text and in touchscreen kiosks, and for young non-readers, in simple mechanical, manual games.

Upstairs on the mezzanine are displays about the lab and field aspects of paleontology. These are hands-on experiences, with touchable specimens, magnifying glasses, and a look at the tools and tricks of dinosaur research—from a camping supply list for a fossil hunting expedition, to Dr. Chiappe’s hand-written field journals.

Gallery One

As visitors enter the exhibition’s first gallery, they are immediately greeted by a magnificent, never-before displayed *Triceratops*, mounted on a contoured platform with details of the new research that has re-interpreted, via the animal’s forelimb, how this huge creature walked in life.

Framing the gallery is a 40-foot “fossil wall” showcasing 100 diverse dinosaur specimens—an artful take on traditional paleontological display, with bones, teeth, eggs, footprints, skin patches, and coprolites (fossilized droppings). Two touchscreen kiosks work as virtual catalogs here, allowing visitors to explore what each bone is, and in some cases, turning them around 360 degrees on the screen.

The exhibition’s largest specimen, a 68-foot *Mamenchisaurus*, stands in front of the gallery’s large central windows with its long neck and tail sprawling throughout the gallery. This is one of the exhibit’s few casts—most other mounts include real fossils.

Suspended from the ceiling overhead, and also viewable from the gallery’s new mezzanine, are marine reptiles that lived in the warm sea that once covered California. Here, visitors will come face to face with the exhibit’s marine monsters. The mosasaur *Plotosaurus* and the plesiosaur *Morenosaurus* are both cantilevered over the main floor in a breathtaking, gravity-defying scene. In some cases, large fossil plaques show animals still encased in that dirt and rock—a display method that offers staggering glimpses of prehistory. There is a mosasaur plaque, for instance, that reveals traces of a partial body outline, skin color markings, external scales, a downturned tail, branching bronchial tubes, and evidence of the animal’s last meal 85 million years ago—fish.

At the end of Gallery One, visitors will get an insight into the field experiences and work done by the Dinosaur Institute expedition teams, led by Chiappe. On five synced screens, video from a recent field expeditions in Utah shows the often grueling conditions and exciting moments of discovery that characterize Dinosaur Institute excursions. Nearby, a specimen is displayed, in the plaster “jacket” with which it was transported out of the quarry it was found in.

Gallery Two – 1913 Building

The *T. rex* Growth Series

The show-stopping centerpiece in this gallery is the platform featuring a very special trio: the young adult *Tyrannosaurus rex* nicknamed Thomas after the discoverer’s brother (34 feet, and approximately 17 years old) joined by a 20-foot juvenile (approximately 14 years old) and an 11-foot baby (2 years old). The growth series is a fascinating look at the ways that *T. rex* specimens grew, a process that included incredible growth spurts and body changes. After hatching as a 2-foot, 6-pound baby, for example, a *T. rex* could reach 30 to 35 feet (10,000 to 12,000 pounds) in less than two decades.

But the growth series is also a snapshot of dinosaur life: the terrain on which they are mounted finds Thomas and the baby standing on one side, while the juvenile lurches toward the carcass of a duck-billed *Edmontosaurus*. Though nearby content is careful to point out that theories about a long-extinct animal’s behavior are just that, the scene intends to raise questions about the behavior of the *T. rex*.

In another panel, the mystery of how and when the large dinosaurs died out is introduced, with evidence for a mass extinction event at the end of the Mesozoic. This section also highlights the evolutionary connection between dinosaurs and birds, providing compelling evidence about why the latter should be considered living dinosaurs.

The second level of the exhibition takes a closer look at the science behind these specimens, from how we know where to look for specimens to the work we do in paleontology labs. One area focuses on field work and the surprising data that a quarry can reveal in addition to its fossil treasures and examples of excavation methods (which, unlike lab work, have not changed drastically over the last several decades). Multi-media interactive kiosks allows visitors to “excavate” specimens and investigate the finds. The companion area focuses on laboratory discoveries—research tools that have evolved to include high-tech microscopes, CT scans, and genome studies.

Behind the Scenes of the Exhibition

Many of the Dinosaur Hall's specimens were discovered by the Museum's in-house Dinosaur Institute (DI), whose staff, volunteers and graduate students are under Dr. Chiappe's direction. The DI's ambitious field research program has located key specimens all over the world, from the dinosaur-rich badlands of the American West to remote parts of South America and Asia. Notable accomplishments include sauropod discoveries (including "Gnatalie," named for the biting gnats that pestered her excavators) and dinosaur trackways in Utah; research that reveals a relationship between North American and Iberian dinosaurs; the discovery of an extraordinary dinosaur nesting site, with thousands of fossil eggs, in Patagonia, Argentina; and the identification and naming of North America's tiniest dinosaur, the *Fruitadens haagarorum*.

But perhaps the DI's biggest success story is Thomas the *T. rex*, one of the most complete *T. rex* specimens in the world, and for NHM visitors, the most familiar. Excavated by DI paleontologists in Montana from 2003 to 2005, the specimen was brought to the Museum and prepared in a working paleontology laboratory in full view of the public.

Like Thomas, many specimens in the exhibition made their way from fossil fields to the Museum, to undergo conservation work and to be researched by DI staff. Footage from DI expeditions will be used in the multi-media components of the Dinosaur Hall, revealing the challenges of working in fossil beds—hardships like piercing sandstorms and the dilemma of transporting thousand-pound fossils out of remote badlands are dramatically juxtaposed against the thrilling moments of discovery.

The Exhibit Team

This is a project five years in the making with hundreds of contributors. Inside NHM, the Dinosaur Hall was supervised by Dr. Karen Wise, VP of Education and Exhibits. Dr. Chiappe was its lead curator; Jennifer Morgan was its project manager.

The exhibition was designed by Brooklyn-based Evidence Design, with graphics from Los Angeles' Kim Baer Design Associates (KBDA). Lexington was the fabricator, and New York-based Unified Field created its multi-media assets. Two of North America's finest fossil mount makers worked on the exhibition. Phil Fraley Productions—the company that headed the articulation of Sue, the iconic *T. rex* of Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History—undertook the *T. rex* specimens, the giant marine reptiles, and the *Triceratops*. The Ontario, Canada-based Research Casting International remounted the exhibition's largest specimen, the 68-foot *Memenchisaurus* and six additional medium-sized mounts.

The seismic retrofit and historic renovation of the Dinosaur Hall galleries was led by CO

Architects Principal, Jorge de la Cal, and Cordell Corporation President, Don Webb, with Matt Construction.

NHM Next

The Dinosaur Hall is the latest component of NHM Next, the \$135 million campaign that will transform the Museum and is designed to engage its public as never before in the drama, excitement and wonder of the natural world and the scientific enterprise. Over the course of seven years, NHM is restoring its magnificent home and building a soaring new public entrance; remaking its spacious grounds in Exposition Park into a new nature destination and learning environment in the heart of the city; and thoroughly reinventing its exhibitions, bringing visitors into contact in new ways with the Museum's outstanding research program.

The institution-wide self-transformation began in December 2006 with renovation work on the Museum's historic core, a Beaux-Arts structure by Hudson & Munsell that in 1913 became the first dedicated museum building in Los Angeles to open its doors. The metamorphosis continued in July 2010 with the first major new permanent exhibition—*Age of Mammals*, featuring a wealth of specimens from both the NHM's and the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits' Ice Age fossil collections. The first installations in the stain glass topped, renovated **Haaga Family Rotunda** also debuted.

Now at its midpoint, this unique public-private partnership has raised more than \$94 million — more than 70 percent of its goal. By the Museum's centennial in 2013, the NHM Next Campaign will have supported five new permanent exhibitions; a new pedestrian bridge and car park in 2011; an exhibition about Los Angeles' natural and cultural history in 2012; and 3.5 acres of urban nature experiences and the *Nature Lab* in 2013. By the centennial celebration in 2013, NHM will complete the **Otis Booth Pavilion**: a light-filled, three-story Museum entrance at the focal point of the new North Campus. The Pavilion will dramatically showcase one of the Museum's signature specimens: its 63-foot-long, 7,000-pound fin whale.

When the Otis Booth Pavilion is inaugurated, the self-transformation will be complete, and the NHM will greet its centennial as a renewed, restored and expanded institution. A total of 108,000 square feet of indoor space will have been renovated and reinstalled. Twelve new galleries and five new exhibits will bring collections and research together as never before. And NHM's new "front lawn" will spread out to Los Angeles residents and their visitors from around the world, to make the Museum what it should be—a gathering place for everyone who wants a deeper appreciation of the connections between our society and the natural world.

NHM Amenities

Coinciding with the opening of the Dinosaur Hall, NHM inaugurates the first elements of a major new public approach to the Museum. Along busy Exposition Boulevard, in between two dedicated stops that are being built for the Metro Expo Line (Los Angeles' new 8.5-mile light rail line), a new car park and Museum entrance plaza will open directly opposite the campus of the University of Southern California. The new Museum entrance will welcome visitors with amenities including a ticket booth, park benches, and a pedestrian bridge sweeping across the grounds to the building's north side.

The Museum has renovated and expanded its Museum Store to nearly three times the size and opened a satellite store next to the new Dinosaur Hall. Visitors will also find the new NHM Grill, a full-service restaurant with indoor/outdoor seating and a healthy array of breakfast and lunch items for the whole family. A new group sales program and offerings of behind-the-scenes tours for out of town visitors will be available this summer.

About the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

NHM is located at 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90012, near downtown. It is open daily from 9:30 am to 5 pm. It was the first dedicated museum building in Los Angeles, opening its doors in 1913. NHM 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 Museum (Newhall, California).

Dinosaur Hall Ticket Information

Advance online ticket sales for the Dinosaur Hall are available at nhm.org/dinosaurs. Admission to Dinosaur Hall is included in regular Museum admission: Members and children under 4 are free; children 5-12 are \$5; youth 13-17 are \$8, college students w/ ID and seniors 62 + are \$9; and adults are \$12.

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IMAGES

Dinosaur Hall

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A juvenile, baby and adult *T. rex* are featured in the Dinosaur Hall's growth series. Photo by Karen Knauer.



The *Struthiomimus* mount.
Photo by Karen Knauer.



A full body shot of the *Camptosaurus* mount.
Photo by Karen Knauer.



The *Triceratops*' skull, which weighs over 950 pounds.
Photo by Karen Knauer.



The Dinosaur Hall features many large-scale murals, including this one depicting the giant *Mamenchisaurus*. Illustration by Julius Csotonyi. Courtesy of NHM.



IMAGES

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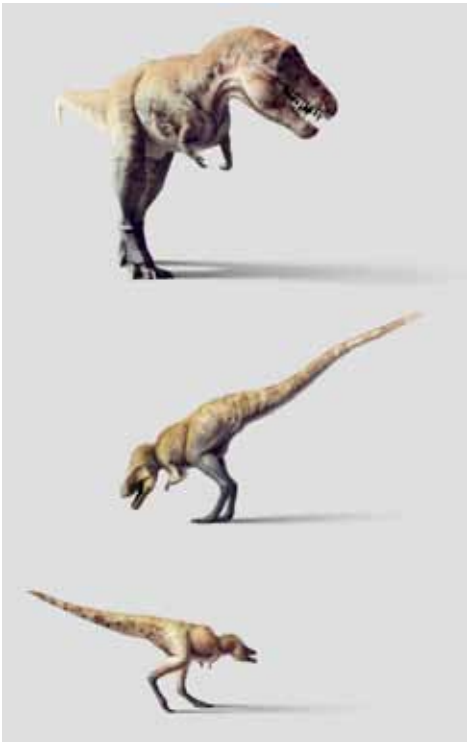
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The specimens of the *T. rex* growth series, illustrated as they may have looked in life.
By Stephanie Abramowicz, NHM.



The *Camptosaurus*, which could walk on two legs or four.
Photo by Karen Knauer.



A *Carnotaurus* specimen, remounted for the exhibition.
Photo by Karen Knauer.



Dinosaur Hall lead curator, Dr. Luis Chiappe, with the *Triceratops* mount. Photo by Karen Knauer.



Thomas the *T. rex*, the oldest member of the hall's growth series.
Photo by Karen Knauer.



The Dinosaur Institute at work in the field. Utah, 2010.
Photo by Lauren Clark.



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DINOSAUR HALL *Standout Specimens*

Spanning two spacious galleries, in the Museum's 1920s Building and the historic 1913 Building, the Dinosaur Hall features more than 300 specimens. The 20 articulated dinosaur skeletons on view range from the chicken-sized *Fruitadens haagarorum* to the massive *Mamenchisaurus*, and include the world's only exhibit of a *T. rex* "family" — a grouping of three *T. rex* specimens ranging in age from 2 to 17 years old. NHM also houses the best collection of Mesozoic (age of dinosaurs) fossils from California, and many of these local creatures will be on view.

Standout examples of the specimens in the exhibition include:

1920s Gallery

Triceratops

The imposing, never-before-displayed *Triceratops* greets visitors as they enter the exhibition at the start of the 1920s Gallery.

- It stands at approximately 25 feet long
- It is assembled from fossils discovered on 4 different Dinosaur Institute field expeditions to Montana and Wyoming between 2002 and 2006
- *Triceratops* is a late Cretaceous dinosaur, living around 66 million years ago

Fossil Wall

Adjacent to the *Triceratops* is a 43-foot-wall artfully showcasing 100 diverse dinosaur specimens such as bones, teeth, eggs, footprints, skin patches, and coprolites (fossilized droppings). The fossils range from over 200 million years old to 65.5 million years old. They also range in size from giant 5-foot long, 300-pound bones to tiny 1-centimeter long teeth.

Mamenchisaurus

The largest specimen on view in the Dinosaur Hall, this cast of a long-necked *Mamenchisaurus*

- 68 feet long, head-to-tail
- This massive beast would have lumbered in China around 160 million years ago

Fruitadens haagarorum

Visitors will encounter the smallest dinosaur in the exhibition scurrying past the massive legs of the *Mamenchisaurus*.

- The two-pound, 28-inch long *Fruitadens haagarorum* is the smallest dinosaur ever discovered in North America
- The 150-million-year-old little omnivore was discovered in Colorado in the 1970s but was only identified as a new species in 2009, and has never been exhibited before. So far the NHM holds the only specimens known of this dinosaur.

Morenosaurus

The spectacular skeleton of *Morenosaurus stocki* is suspended overhead in the section of the exhibition focusing on marine creatures that swam in the ocean that once covered California.

- Preserved stomach stones, or gastroliths, in the abdomen of *Morenosaurus* tell us information about diet
- Approximately 25 feet long
- Discovered Fresno County in 1940
- 66 million years old

1913 Gallery

***T. rex* Growth Series**

The stunning centerpiece of this gallery is the *Tyrannosaurus rex* growth series, featuring a baby, juvenile, and sub-adult *T. rex* and is the only series of its kind in the world.

- Baby – About 2 years old when it died, this 11-foot long specimen is the youngest known *T. rex* fossil in world.
- Juvenile – At the young age of 13 this *T. rex* already measured more than 20 feet long and weighed about 4,000 pounds. A rare specimen, this fossil provides a crucial link in understanding the rapid growth of the *T. rex*. It and the baby were discovered by late fossil hunter Harley Garbani in the early to mid-1960s, in the badlands of Montana, at the Hell Creek Formation.
- Thomas the *T. rex* – This never-before-seen fossil was excavated by NHM paleontologists from 2003-2005. It comes also from the badlands of Montana's Hell Creek Formation, but near the town Ekalaka.
- Thomas is estimated to be a 70% complete specimen, one of ten most complete *T. rex* specimens on Earth. At 17 years old, 34 feet long and nearly 7,000 pounds, this giant completes a series showing dramatic changes and rapid growth of *T. rex*. Mid-spurt, it's estimated that a *T. rex* could gain 1,500 pounds in a year.

Carnotaurus

Carnotaurus is a large carnivorous dinosaur known from Argentina. This dinosaur has greatly reduced arms and a large head with a mouth full of sharp teeth, indicating that it was probably a fast and effective predator.

- Only known from Patagonia, Argentina
- Approximately 25 feet long
- Lived around 70 million years ago

Stegosaurus

Stegosaurus is an armored dinosaur with a back covered in large plates and with large spikes on its tail. This *Stegosaurus* is mounted to look like a fight with the predator *Allosaurus* could be imminent. Allosaur fossils have been found that show wounds from *Stegosaurus* spikes, which is why they're posed the way they are in the Dinosaur Hall.

- Found in Utah
- Around 150 million years old

Allosaurus

Long before *T. rex*, *Allosaurus* was a top predator in North America in the late Jurassic period.

- 150 million years old
- Found in Utah

Corythosaurus

Corythosaurus is a duck-billed dinosaur, a group also known as hadrosaurs. Hadrosaurs were herbivorous dinosaurs that lived during the Cretaceous period. Many hadrosaurs had elaborate head ornamentation, like the *Corythosaurus*, which had a large dome-shaped crest. Some hadrosaurus grew to be 40 feet long, as big as a full-grown *T. rex*.

- Found in Alberta, Canada
- Found fossilized with other skeletons of the same species, indicating family or herd behavior
- About 75 million years old



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THE DINOSAUR INSTITUTE AT WORK

The Dinosaur Institute was founded in 2005 with a mission to make the Natural History Museum (NHM) the dinosaur hub of the West Coast. Housed within the NHM, the Dinosaur Institute conducts national and international research on dinosaurs and other animals that lived with them during the Mesozoic Era. It also manages an aggressive field program aimed to substantially increase the Museum's holdings of these fossils.



When Institute Director Dr. Luis Chiappe came to the Museum in 1999, the NHM already contained one of the largest collections of dinosaurs and other Mesozoic-aged fossils in North America, as well as some of the world's most renowned paleontologists. "The reason we have dinosaurs now," Chiappe says, "is largely due to the expeditions this Museum did in the 1960s and 1970s. These collections were amassed over centuries and by continuing our fieldwork, we show our commitment to the future of the Museum."

The Dinosaur Institute has built that collection to include fine fossil specimens of dinosaurs including birds, pterosaurs, crocodiles, turtles, mammals, and extinct marine reptiles. Among the Institute's more unique treasures are a number of holotypes (specimens upon which a new species has been founded and described); fossil material such as dinosaur skin

impressions and eggs; one of the world's few growth series of *Tyrannosaurus rex* (a series of fossils ranging from juveniles through adults); and a number of exceptional fossils of the marine reptiles that lived during the Age of Dinosaurs.

During the last few years, the staff of the Dinosaur Institute has been busy creating a world-class dinosaur exhibition. After years of careful specimen conservation and interpretation, its new discoveries will be featured in the landmark Dinosaur Hall. The Institute is also extremely busy outside of the Museum. Within the U.S., Institute staff has participated in expeditions to

late Cretaceous sites in Wyoming and Montana, the late Jurassic sites of Utah, and the late Triassic sites of Arizona. These expeditions are important because they have resulted in significant collections that augment our understanding of dinosaur evolution.

During the last decade, the Institute's international expeditions have explored a number of sites distributed in Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, and Argentina with the intent of better understanding the diversity of dinosaurs and other vertebrates that lived across what is now central Asia and southern South America.

In addition to research and collections, the Institute provides mentorship and training to students and postdoctoral fellows. The Institute maintains a close academic relationship with USC's Department of Earth Sciences. In the last few years, Dr. Chiappe — an Adjunct Professor at USC — has provided supervision for several doctoral students. The Dinosaur Institute also participates in partnerships with museums and universities all over the world, including China's Dalian and Beijing Natural History Museums for collaborations based on research on a series of very primitive birds from China.

In many ways, becoming the most important center for dinosaur study and exhibition on the Pacific Rim is the Museum's destiny. According to Chiappe, no other West Coast institution has the right combination of venue, collections, and staff.

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NHM TEAM

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DR. KAREN WISE

VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION AND EXHIBITS

An archaeologist by training, Dr. Wise joined the staff of the Natural History Museum in 1991 as Assistant Curator of Anthropology, responsible for the archaeology collections. During her first 15 years at the NHM, she pursued research in South America where she led archaeological digs, helped design and develop a local archaeological museum, and developed exhibits, educational, and public programs in communities in southern Peru.

In 2001 Wise was promoted, moving from an academic position into a new leadership role at NHM. She assumed responsibility for behind-the-scenes exhibit moves and planning— a \$100 million institutional transformation that included new visitor amenities, the seismic retrofitting and restoration of existing buildings, and the creation of new exhibit spaces. By 2007, Wise's duties expanded again, and she was asked to take over the leadership and management of the exhibits that would fill the renovated and new spaces. She headed development and installation of *Visible Vault* (2008), *Dino Lab* (2009), *Age of Mammals* (2010), *What on Earth* and *Life Through Time* (2010), a redesigned hands-on *Discovery Center* (2010), and is currently at work on the Dinosaur Hall (2011), the *Nature Lab* and North Campus (2012), and a new exhibit on the cultural and natural history of Los Angeles (2012).

In the last several years, NHM's infrastructure and public face has changed radically: its brand has been updated; its approach to research and collections has become more visitor-centric and focused on relevancy to the local community and the larger world; and its new exhibitions are grander, more ambitious, and more interactive. Perhaps the biggest visible change will come with the project that is closest to Wise's heart — the North Campus — which will transform the NHM into a unique indoor-outdoor institution in the heart of Los Angeles.

Today, Wise heads the Education and Exhibits department, which was re-structured under her leadership. Her team originates and implements visitor-focused exhibits, education, interpretation and outreach, and events and programming that makes NHM research and collections accessible and meaningful to the public. Also under her purview is the fruition of the North Campus habitats and all that they entail — new venues for outdoor programming and citizen science opportunities. All of these projects are informed by a philosophical shift that Wise also steers — the transition from a traditional indoor “look but don't touch” paradigm of natural history museums to an approach that invites visitors to engage all their senses in meaningful and fun experiences with nature, and with the great stories of natural and cultural history. In 2011, Wise was selected as a 2011-2012 Fellow in the Noyce Foundation's Leadership Institute, and *Age of Mammals* received an American Association of Museums “Excellence in Exhibitions” award.

DR. LUIS CHIAPPE

LEAD CURATOR, DINOSAUR HALL

Dr. Luis M. Chiappe is Director of the Dinosaur Institute at the NHM. Dr. Chiappe has conducted extensive research on a wide range of topics related to the evolution of dinosaurs, from their reproductive behavior to their evolutionary connection with birds. He is a world authority in the origin and early evolution of birds, scientific issues that are core of his research and that of his postdoctoral fellows and graduate students. For many years, he has led expeditions to the most desolate regions of Patagonia, Central Asia, and western North America. His discovery of thousands of dinosaur eggs and babies in a remote corner of Patagonia is one of the most covered paleontological stories of the last few years. This research was featured in the *Tiniest Giants*, a large traveling exhibition that he curated at the NHM. His research and the preparation of his newly-discovered specimens for the new Dinosaur Hall have been on display in the Museum's innovative *Dino Lab* since 2008. Dr. Chiappe has published more than 100 research articles and books (*Walking on Eggs*, *Glorified Dinosaurs*, and other volumes) and his research has been featured in magazines such as *National Geographic*, *Natural History*, and *Scientific American*. He is a Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and the Alexander Humboldt Foundation, an Adjunct Professor at University of Southern California, and a Research Associate at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

JENNIFER MORGAN

PROJECT MANAGER, DINOSAUR HALL

Jennifer Morgan has over 15 years of experience managing the design, construction and installation of museum exhibitions. A veteran of previous dinosaur related projects, she came to the NHM in 2010. As the Dinosaur Hall's Project Manager, Morgan oversees the design and build of the new 14,000-square-foot exhibition, including content development, graphic design media and interactive development, illustrators, art direction, lighting design and the mounting of specimens. Working with the NHM's Dr. Luis Chiappe and Dinosaur Institute team, she also manages over 20 outside subcontractors. With a BA in psychology and a Masters in Museum Studies from JFK University, Morgan most recently managed projects for exhibit producers Seruto & Company at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History and the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Prior to that, her posts included management for design fabrication firms Lexington, Scenario Design, Vincent Ciulla Design, and Academy Studios. She was also a consulting project manager for the Smithsonian Institute.

DR. JANE PISANO PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR

Jane Pisano, Ph.D., has served as president and director of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County since November 2001. Her top priorities are to oversee the transformation of the Museum's inside and outside spaces including renovations to the 1913 Building (the Museum's original home), 12 new galleries, five new permanent exhibitions, the outdoor North Campus, and a slate of new visitor amenities; to connect the visitor experience with the Museum's research, collections, programs and exhibitions, in order to realize its mission to inspire wonder, discovery and responsibility for our natural and cultural worlds; and to enhance the Museum's role as an essential civic resource.

Under her leadership, the Museum has created compelling experiences with such exhibitions as the Dinosaur Hall, *Age of Mammals*, the *Haaga Family Rotunda*, the outdoor *Spider Pavilion*, *Treasures from the Vault*, *Thomas the T. rex Lab*, *Dino Lab*, *Visible Vault: Archaeological Treasures from Ancient Latin America*, *L.A.: light/motion/dreams*, and *Collapse?*. Upcoming exhibitions and new visitor experiences include: the Dinosaur Hall in July 2011; an exhibition that explores Southern California through the lenses of environment and culture in 2012; the North Campus learning gardens in 2012 and 2013; and the Nature Lab and a new entrance, the three-story Otis Booth Pavilion, in 2013.

The Museum has developed innovative programming with First Fridays and Weekends @ NHM; supported important research initiatives such as Dinosaur Institute; strengthened connections to the community through school visit programs; and built partnerships that position the Museum as a forum for public dialogues on current issues.

Prior to joining NHM, Dr. Pisano was an officer of the University of Southern California for 10 years: as senior vice president for External Relations from 1998 to 2001; as vice president for External Relations from 1994 to 1998; and as dean of the USC School of Public Administration from 1991 to 1998. As senior vice president for External Relations, Dr. Pisano provided strategic and administrative leadership for the university's external relations programs, including alumni

relations, civic and community relations, government relations, and public relations. She remains a tenured full professor in the School of Public Policy, Planning and Development at USC.

Before 1991, Dr. Pisano was president of Los Angeles 2000 and The 2000 Partnership, a civic organization working to improve the quality of life in Southern California. She led the development of a civic action agenda based on the policy recommendations in "L.A. 2000: A City for the Future," a report prepared by the Los Angeles 2000 Committee.

Prior to her arrival in Los Angeles, Dr. Pisano was on the faculty of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and served as a White House Fellow on the National Security Council staff. She earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University, and a B.A. degree in political science from Stanford University.



NHM PARTNERS

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EVIDENCE DESIGN EXHIBIT DESIGN

Evidence Design is an award-winning studio creating new directions for spatial communication and learning for over a decade. Located in the energetic community of DUMBO, Brooklyn, the company's personnel are architects, industrial designers, graphic designers and content specialists who plan and design museum exhibits and other dynamic information environments. Its services include architectural design, interpretive planning, content development, interactive media, and script writing. Since opening in March 2010, Evidence Design's groundbreaking exhibition *Science Storms* at the Museum of Science and Industry Chicago has enthralled thousands of visitors and garnered almost every significant industry and design award, including the 23rd Excellence in Exhibitions Award, a Gold IDEA Award from the Industrial Designers Society of America, and TimeOut Chicago's Best of Shows.

Evidence Design leveraged NHM's specimen collection and historic architecture towards creating a dynamic day-lit exhibition where visitors are allowed nearly unfettered views of these amazing fossils. Past projects include the South Fork Natural History Museum of Long Island, NY, the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, and a factory tour center for the Harley-Davidson Motor Company. Evidence Design is currently creating an Interpretive Center for the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center in Englewood, NJ and developing a richly participatory exhibit on Future Energy for the Museum of Science and Industry Chicago.

KBDA GRAPHIC DESIGN

KBDA has worked with NHM for the past several years on a comprehensive branding program, with a focus on enhancing the visitor experience across all platforms. As an extension of that work, KBDA completed the content development and graphic design for *Age of Mammals*, NHM's first permanent exhibits in 25 years. The exhibit received the American Association of Museum's Excellence in Exhibitions award in 2011, with a Special Achievement Award for Clarity of Message.

KBDA has gone on to work on the content development for the Dinosaur Hall, creating all of the exhibition's graphics. KBDA has created research-driven work for clients as diverse as The Getty, Amgen, Inner-City Arts, Nike, UCLA, Hilton Hotels and the Skirball Cultural Center. Consistently honored by every major design organization in the country, KBDA has produced work that has been featured in the Library of Congress and regularly published in design anthologies. Premiere design magazines have also regularly showcased the firm's work and methodology.

KBDA's principal, Kim Baer, frequently judges design competitions and speaks at conferences across the country. She recently received the Fellows Award from the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) in honor of lifetime achievement. She is the author of the recently published "Information Design Workbook" from Rockport Publishers, an in-depth look at best practices in information design from around the world.

PHIL FRALEY PRODUCTIONS

SPECIMEN MOUNTING, RESTORATION AND RE-ARTICULATION

Phil Fraley Productions (PFP) is a museum exhibit fabrication company comprised of a cohesive group of creative professionals who build natural history exhibits that are scientifically accurate, yet visually engaging. While they have a wide range of fabrication capabilities, they are best known for their innovative, scientifically accurate dinosaur fossil mounts comprised of hand-forged armatures that securely and beautifully cradle each bone. Working in collaboration with museum staff and the entire exhibit team, their approach takes into account the specific features of each specimen, the overall design plan and necessary engineering — with the end result being a dynamic, life-like mount. Its in-depth knowledge and detailed research, combined with their artistic skills and talent make them the ideal partner for the NHM in mounting our most important dinosaur specimens.

Founder Phil Fraley has over 30 years of experience producing natural history museum exhibits, including projects at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, the Field Museum in Chicago, and the American Museum of Natural History in New York. From their studios in Paterson, New Jersey and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the PFP team worked on a variety of specimens for NHM's Dinosaur Hall, including the *T. rex* growth series, the *Triceratops*, and the *Morenosaurus*.

RESEARCH CASTING INTERNATIONAL

SPECIMEN MOUNTING, RESTORATION AND RE-ARTICULATION

Peter May founded Research Casting International with the experience he gained from collecting, preparing, molding, casting and mounting dinosaur fossil bones at the Royal Ontario Museum and the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology. He led the molding and casting department at the ROM and helped to establish the exhibits and field program at the Royal Tyrrell Museum. May established Research Casting International in 1987. Over the past 24 years, Research Casting has received major commissions from the American Museum of Natural History in New York (the rearing five-story tall *Barosaurus* defending its youngster from an attacking *Allosaurus* — the tallest free-standing dinosaur mount in the world), the Natural History Museum in London, and the National Science Museum in Tokyo, and has become a renowned designer and fabricator of museum exhibits.

Specializing in molding and casting, RCI has applied its expertise to fossilized and recent bone, rock faces, trees, archeological finds, sculpture and architectural elements. Its services include large- and small-scale molding and casting, sculpting and painting, welding and machining, blacksmithing, and onsite fabrication and installation. The company is able to cast in any medium including bronze, glass-fiber reinforced concrete, fiberglass, urethane and epoxy.

LEXINGTON DESIGN + FABRICATION

EXHIBIT TECHNICAL DESIGN AND FABRICATION

Lexington is an award winning full-service, creative design and custom fabrication company known for its expertise in producing a wide variety of technically complex projects. The company, in existence for over 25 years, has extensive experience performing world class projects in its five primary business categories for museums, theme park attractions, casinos and architectural features, retail and high definition broadcast television. Lexington's reputation is enhanced by its practice of nurturing artisans in every fabrication category that excel in bringing unique visions to reality.

The company is a unique one-stop shop known performing all of its work under one roof. Our worldwide portfolio is populated with some of the most recognizable brands like Disney, Universal, Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Coke, ESPN, NBC and Nintendo and Microsoft to name a few. Lexington's work can be experienced locally at *Noah's Ark* at the Skirball Cultural Center, Kidspace Children's Museum, the California Science Center, the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Boa, Sushi Roku, The Red O restaurants, Forever 21, Disneyland and Universal Studios, and is televised on ESPN SportsCenter and CNN L.A.

ELY, INC.

FOSSIL MOUNTING

Ely, Inc. is a fine art services company located in Washington DC and Los Angeles, CA , providing a wide range of expert services to museums. Ely focuses on using, maintaining and developing the best practice standards in the art services industry. Our staff includes museum trained professionals, artists and craftspeople with diverse sets of skills and areas of expertise.

Ely, Inc. designs, fabricates and installs custom mounts for art, artifacts, books and textiles with the security and safety of each object a primary objective. Ely has produced mounts for objects ranging in size from a single pearl to a full sized spaceship. Fine art and artifact installation is a very specialized area of art handling that requires well grounded technical skills in design, engineering, rigging, lighting, construction, conservation and an aesthetic sensitivity. For the Dinosaur Hall, Ely has mounted and installed more than 300 fossils, providing both safety for the object and prime visibility for the visitor.

UNIFIED FIELD

INTERACTIVE MEDIA

Unified Field is a full service digital design, consulting, and production studio that uses high-tech to create high-touch — merging innovative technology with elegant design, to create engaging interactive experiences, stunning immersive environments, captivating websites and accessible programs for mobile devices. Unified Field's creative approach is to use media technology in innovative ways, to transform content and information, through art, into a living experience.

The company has forged new ground in the creation of new media technologies in museum settings and learning environments, contributing to a paradigm shift in thinking about and understanding content in relation to ourselves. The core of its expertise is in the creation of new, open architecture

and visual 'environments' that deliver upon new ways of thinking and understanding. All of Unified Field's programs clearly communicate potentially complex information to diverse audiences, in a way that is engaging, functional, and beautiful. Children, experts, and a wide ranging general public audiences use these to easily access information to learn, explore, complete tasks and communicate. The company works in close collaboration with clients to deliver extraordinary visitor experience: bright ideas, close collaborations, polished holistic designs, tight integration, solid advanced technology and measurable results.

FOCUS LIGHTING

LIGHTING DESIGN

Focus Lighting is an award-winning 30-person architectural lighting design firm based in New York City. Founded in 1986 by Paul Gregory, Focus Lighting works with world-renowned architects and designers on a variety of projects from large entertainment and retail facilities, to hotels, restaurants, and high-end residences. The firm is rooted in the belief that a sense of drama and theatre is essential to any successful architectural project. Patrons' initial views when entering a museum, or hotel, or their first look at a lit façade at night, should be as stunning and memorable as the moment the curtain rises on a Broadway stage.

Among Focus Lighting's projects are Crystals at CityCenter (Las Vegas) designed by Daniel Libeskind and Rockwell Group, Atmosphere on the 122nd floor of the Burj Khalifa (Dubai) designed by Tihany Design, Metal Shutter House by Shigeru Ban (NYC), Atlantis -The Palm (Dubai), *Science Storms* exhibit at Museum of Science and Industry (Chicago), FAO Schwarz Flagship Store (NYC), the 100th + 101st Anniversary Times Square Ball, and Wukesong Arena for the 2008 Olympic Games (Hong Kong). Focus Lighting strives to provide architects and owners with innovative, well-designed lighting, tailored to each individual structure. At NHM, the lighting adds a sense of strength and power to complement the Dinosaur Hall, and create a lasting impression with the viewer. On a technical level, the lighting highlights the fine bone details, without adding too much drama. Each specimen stands out on its own, but also contributes to the overall composition of the exhibit.

ARCHITECTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

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CREATING THE DINOSAUR HALL GALLERIES

Project Description: The new Dinosaur Hall is a large-scale permanent exhibition that will be presented in two light-filled galleries — twice the size of the Museum’s former dinosaur galleries — that span both the Museum’s original 1913 Building and the later addition, nicknamed the 1920s Building. The building team had to make both structures functional and stunning by doing four things: a seismic retrofit and systems upgrade, bringing in natural light, connecting the two buildings, and creating vertical circulation through a new mezzanine level. In 2008, the team embarked on an investigative process for the most effective way to fortify the buildings, given the dearth of original plans of the historic structures. They then worked closely with the exhibition designers to create a space that allows visitors to be eye-to-eye with dinosaur specimens when on the mezzanine level.



“Museum-goers are given the spatial experience of seeing the mezzanine stretch out and then crossing an elevated walkway through a sculptural void,” says Fabian Kremkus, AIA, senior designer with CO Architects, of the Dinosaur Hall. “We wanted to make the space as clear and unobtrusive as possible so as not to interfere with what’s inside.”

Building Team:

Project Management: Cordell Corporation

Project Architect: CO Architects

General Contractor: Matt Construction

Structural Engineers: John A. Martin & Associates

Mechanical & Electrical Engineers: IBE Consulting Engineers

Special Features:

- To create a **natural flow between the buildings**, a new mezzanine level was constructed in the 1920s Building and connected to the 1913 Building's historic mezzanine via an elevated walkway. Glass balustrades, steel framing, expansive natural lighting, and retro-plated concrete floors are used in both galleries, which aesthetically connect the two adjacent structures.
- A **glass elevator**, viewable from the exterior of the building, connects the Dinosaur Hall and new Mezzanine to the Level 2 Discovery Center. Glass on the outside allows views of the butterfly pavilion and gardens, and heightens the dramatic moment when the elevator doors open into the galleries.
- The plan to make the building **seismically stable** included stiffening the north-south axis with the addition of a massive concrete sheer wall, while reducing the mass of the east-west wall by replacing masonry wall sections with a series of three-story glass sections.
- Drawing from the prior architectural language used in the 1913 Building, the structurally **glazed curtain walls** relate to the **modern skylights** installed in the 1913 galleries. In addition to balancing the force and tension in the structural walls, these wide-span curtain walls bring in **natural light and views to the south**.

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FAMILY OF MUSEUMS

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NATURAL HISTORY FAMILY OF MUSEUMS

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (Exposition Park, CA)



The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM) holds, in public trust, more than 35 million objects — from meteorites 4.5 billion years old to new species of insects discovered just weeks ago. These collections allow the curatorial staff to perform groundbreaking scientific and cultural research now and into the future. But NHM also shares these collections with the public today, as they form the foundation of its programs and exhibits. NHM curates new, immersive experiences, such as *Age of Mammals* and the Dinosaur Hall, that give visitors the opportunity to explore the “big picture” of our planet — extraordinary specimens collected through time and their behind-the-scenes stories (how scientists discover, collect and research them). When NHM opens its North Campus wilderness habitats in 2012 and 2013, it will become a unique indoor *and* outdoor exploration of nature.

900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90007. Open seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$12 for adults; \$9 for college students with ID and seniors 62+; \$8 for youth 13-17; \$5 for children 5-

12; FREE for children 4 and under, Museum members, LAUSD students and teachers, and military personnel and families. For further information, visit the Museum's website at www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-DINO.

Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits (Hancock Park, CA)



Located in the heart of metropolitan Los Angeles, the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits represents one of the world's most famous fossil localities, and the only active urban paleontological excavation site in the United States. This onsite Museum displays Ice Age fossils — including saber-toothed cats, dire wolves and mammoths — from 10,000 to 40,000-year-old asphalt deposits. But visitors can also watch the processes of paleontology unfold. Every day inside the glass-enclosed Fish Bowl Lab, scientists and volunteers prepare fossils including “Zed,” a recently discovered male Columbian mammoth. The Page Museum is currently excavating and studying a cache of recently unearthed fossils known as *Project 23*, an endeavor that could double the Museum's already tremendous collection of more than three million Ice Age specimens and inform decades of new research. Outside the Museum, in Hancock Park, iconic life-size replicas depict several of the extinct mammals that once roamed the Los Angeles Basin.

5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. Open seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$11 for adults; \$8 for college students with ID, seniors 62+ and youth 13-17; \$5 for children 5-12; FREE for children 4 and under, Museum members, LAUSD students and teachers, and military personnel and families. Admission is free for children under 4 and Museum members. For further information, visit the Museum's website at www.tarpits.org or call (323) 934-PAGE.

William S. Hart Museum (Newhall, CA)



In 1921, silent film star William S. Hart purchased a ranch house and surrounding property in Newhall, north of Los Angeles. He built a 22-room mansion and filled it with Western art, Native American artifacts, and early Hollywood memorabilia. Hart bequeathed this 265-acre estate to Los Angeles County for the enjoyment of the public at no charge. The majority of the mansion's rooms are open to the public, and tours and programs take place frequently. Among the ranch's permanent residents is an assortment of animals, including a small herd of bison, a gift from the Walt Disney Studios in 1962.

24151 Newhall Avenue, Newhall, CA, 91321. Open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with tours every half hour. Admission is free. For further information, visit the Museum's website at www.hartmuseum.org or call (661) 254-4584.



DINO SUMMER

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Dinosaur Encounters

Close enough to count teeth! NHM's Dinosaur Encounters is a performance-based interpretive program that lets visitors get up close and personal with a realistic, life-sized juvenile *T. rex* and *Triceratops* puppets. NHM commissioned a team of paleontologists, engineers, artists, and puppeteers to bring these prehistoric animals to life, and now interpretive staff guides the audience through 20-minute presentations. *Wednesdays Fridays: 10:30 am, 11:30 am, and 1:30 pm; Saturdays and Sundays 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Times subject to change. Visit nhm.org/explore-exhibits.*



Camp Dino Overnight Adventures

At these action-packed expeditions, guests unfurl their sleeping bags to spend the night in the Museum, and learn all about dinosaurs in the process. Before lights out, participants will tour the hall, meet some live dino relatives, play prehistoric games, and make real casts of fossils to take home. *For groups of 10 or more. Weekend dates August through December, 2011. Visit nhm.org/site/activities-programs.*



B-Movies and Bad Science

Bring your picnic blanket and cozy up to watch a movie in Hancock Park at the Page Museum at La Brea Tar Pits. NHM scientists and historians wonder aloud, in the discussion before the movie, whether there's any common ground between science fact and science fiction in the evening's film. There will be spotlighted science specimens from the Museum's collection and colorful B-movie memorabilia, including lobby cards, posters, and movie props. Since this summer will be all about dinosaurs and their sci-fi counterparts, ironically taking place at the Page Museum at La Brea Tar Pits, a dinosaur-free environment. *Season runs July 23-August 27. Visit nhm.org/site/activities-programs.*

Museum Information and Admission

The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90007. Open seven days a week from 9:30 am to 5 pm. \$12 for adults; \$9 for college students with ID and seniors 62+; \$8 for youth 13-17; \$5 for children 5-12; FREE for children 4 and under, Museum members, LAUSD students and teachers, and military personnel and families. For further information, visit the Museum's website at www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-DINO.

TIMELINE OF THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- 1848** The parcel of land that is now Exposition Park, and was once part of the Spanish Crown territories, was transferred to the United States government.
- 1852** The land was given to Henry Hancock in return for his work surveying the Los Angeles region.
- 1872** Ownership passed to the Southern District Agricultural Society, a private corporation that intended to mount agricultural expositions but failed to raise enough capital.
- 1880** The site changed hands again, going to the Sixth District Agricultural Association, which acquired the property on behalf of the State of California. By this time, the property had increased in value, resulting in legal challenges to the State's title. Because the State was hampered in asserting its ownership rights, and because the property then lay outside the city limits, the primary use of Agricultural Park became gambling, with a track for horse racing and rabbit coursing dominating the grounds.
- 1898** Attorney William M. Bowen began the fight to replace the track with cultural institutions.
- 1908** The California Supreme Court ruled in favor of State ownership. At its westernmost point, the property claimed by the State in 1908 extended to the edge of Hoover Street. This land lay under what is now, approximately, the eastern half of the Natural History Museum.
- 1909** A Beaux-Arts site plan was developed that included a County-funded Museum of History, Science and Art (now part of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County); a State-funded exposition building (now the north facade of the California Science Center); and a State-funded armory.
- 1910** The Board of Directors voted to change the site's name to "Exposition Park," and cornerstones were laid for both the County museum building and the State exposition building.
- 1910-1913** The Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art was built as a T-shaped building, with three wings radiating from a central Rotunda. The north

wing housed the history exhibits, the south the science exhibits, and the west the art exhibits. This building, known as the "1913 Building," is now the core of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

The original Museum's holdings of artifacts included collections from the Ramona Chapter of the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Southern California Historical Society, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and individual donors. Many of the artifacts from these original collections are still on display in the Natural History Museum's California Hall.

The Museum's first director, Frank S. Daggett, obtained much of the collection of the Cooper Ornithological Club for display in the science wing. Moreover, in 1913 the County Museum was given the exclusive rights to remove fossils from the tar pits at the Rancho La Brea. The prehistoric mammal skeletons continued to dominate the science wing of the Museum until 1976, when they were moved to the Cenozoic Hall and to the George C. Page Museum (part of the NHM family of museums).

Obtaining a collection for the art wing, however, proved more difficult. The Museum had to borrow the artworks for its opening exhibition. Art associations that brought their shows to the Museum in the early years included the California Art Club, the Photographic Salon, the Book Plate Society, and the American Federation of Arts.

1913 November 6 marked the beginning of two weeks of celebrations opening Exposition Park and its facilities. An estimated 35,000 people attended the events, which included athletic games and a military pageant. These festivities also celebrated the opening of the Owens River Aqueduct, an event marked by the dedication of the site of a fountain that would occupy the center of a sunken garden. The fountain would not be constructed until 1929.

1914 The City of Los Angeles obtained the property to the west. This land lay under what is now approximately the western half of the Museum. Los Angeles County has never owned the property under its Museum building but leases it from the State and the City.

The first work of art commissioned by the Museum was the statue of *Three Muses* (also known as *Heroic Figures*) by Julia Bracken Wendt, which was unveiled on May 30, 1914. Considered the city's preeminent sculptor during the first half of the 20th century, Bracken Wendt was trained by famed Illinois sculptor Lorado Taft. She was the wife of noted California Impressionist William Wendt, and the two were instrumental in founding the California Art Club, one of the first artist organizations to permit female members. The sculpture

represents art, history and science, reflecting the Museum's three original disciplines.

- 1924-25** The original structure of the 1913 Building was expanded to hold the Museum's growing history, science and art collections. Galleries and exhibit halls were added to the basement and first two floors (including the North American Mammal diorama halls) and a third floor with offices was provided.
- 1927-30** A second addition added the elaborate Grand Foyer and public circulation areas, relocating the primary entrance from the east to the south elevation; added the African and Exotic Mammal diorama halls and other exhibit spaces and offices; and introduced a fourth floor with office space.
- 1958-60** The Jean Delacour Auditorium was added to the western end of the 1927-30 addition.
- 1961-65** The Museum's art division moved to a new facility on Wilshire Boulevard, forming the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.
- 1965** The name of the Museum was changed to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.
- 1974** The fourth floor was expanded to accommodate paleontology laboratories and taxidermy laboratories.
- 1976** The final major alteration was completed, when the North Wing added a new main entrance; provided space for exhibits, offices, shops, and laboratories; and added a plaza with a water feature between the entrance and Exposition Boulevard.
- 1977** The George C. Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits opened with new exhibits dedicated exclusively to the Ice Age fossils that are continually excavated on this world-renowned site.
- 2005** The three wings and Rotunda of the 1913 Building were closed for seismic retrofitting, historic restoration and renovations to the public spaces.
- 2010** *Age of Mammals* in the North Wing and new exhibitions in the Haaga Family Rotunda opened on July 11, 2010, marking the public re-opening of the Museum's restored 1913 Building and the first completed phase of an institution-wide transformation.



NHM AT A GLANCE

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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Inspiring wonder, discovery, and responsibility for our natural and cultural worlds — the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is one of the preeminent natural and cultural history museums in the United States.



The Rotunda of the 1913 Building, the Museum's original structure, is graced with the "Three Muses" sculpture and topped by a stained glass dome.

Founded in 1913, NHM has amassed one of the world's most extensive and valuable collections of natural and cultural history — more than 35 million objects, some as old as 4.5 billion years. With these collections, the Museum aims to show its visitors the planet's biodiversity, and the increasing ways in which the natural and cultural worlds intersect.

Permanent exhibition halls include dramatic collections of fossils and dinosaurs, exquisite gems and minerals, grand habitat dioramas, and behind-the-scenes experiences such as the *Dino Lab* and *Visible Vault: Archaeological Treasures from Ancient Latin America*. In July 2010, the Museum debuted *Age of Mammals*, a showcase of living and extinct mammals which describes how they evolved over the past 65 million years. The new Dinosaur Hall opens in July 2011. Featuring extraordinary specimens, many of which have never been displayed before, the exhibit features a transparent treatment of science — that it is active and ongoing, and that real people do it.

The newly-relocated Ralph M. Parsons Discovery Center welcomes children and families with hands-on natural history specimens, science activities that draw children to look at binoculars at the birds and critters in the Butterfly Pavilion outside. The Insect Zoo, the largest in the Western United States, presents live insects from around the world.

This family learning experience will extend soon. The Museum is currently building a new outdoor component in its North Campus — 3.5 acres of outdoor wilderness experiences and exhibits that will serve as a new nature destination for visitors of all ages. For the 2013 opening, the Museum is designing a new slate of outdoor tours, events, and science programs that will extend the visitor experience from an incredible collection of specimens indoors, to a natural environment where plants and animals can be interpreted in a living context.

Permanent Exhibits and Public Spaces

- Three world-famous habitat halls showcase African and North American mammals in their natural environments.

- More than 2,000 gem and mineral specimens are on view in the Gem and Mineral Hall. The hall features one of the largest gold exhibits in the world, and includes more than 300 pounds of natural gold along with gold mining artifacts and other memorabilia. The walk-through Hixon Gem Vault houses such spectacular treasures as exquisite star rubies, emeralds, and sapphires.
- With lifelike *T. rex*, *Triceratops*, and Saber-Toothed Cat puppets, Dinosaur Encounters and Ice Age Encounters programs captivate audiences first with stunningly realistic visuals. To this rapt audience, the educators and performers then present a show that explores ongoing discoveries in paleontology.
- In the uniquely interactive Ralph M. Parsons Discovery Center, children of all ages can explore specimens and artifacts from the Museum's collections. Almost all are "touchable" — a life-sized *T. rex* puzzle, minerals, bones and microscopes. Live animals such as snakes, fish, turtles and lizards are on display, and animal presentations and feedings take place throughout the week.
- In the Insect Zoo, tarantulas, scorpions, Madagascar hissing cockroaches, giant spiny stick insects, and centipedes are residents. Kids can gain a deeper understanding of this group of animals from interactive displays.
- Animated birds, three walk-through habitats, and 27 separate learning stations are featured in the popular Ralph W. Schreiber Hall of Birds. More than 500 bird specimens from around the world are on display.
- In *Visible Vault: Archaeological Treasures from Ancient Latin America*, over 700 treasures from ancient civilizations of Mexico, Central, and South America are on display. The contents are beautiful in and of themselves; they also provide a dramatic encounter with the ancient civilizations of the New World.
- The *Dino Lab* is a working paleontological laboratory. Through transparent walls, visitors can watch lab preparators work on fossils, many of which will appear in the new Dinosaur Mysteries hall, opening in 2011.

Research and Collections

The Museum's curators are widely recognized authorities in their fields. They serve as faculty and research associates at universities, museums, and other institutions. Like university professors, curators are engaged in field and on-site research, teaching, and public speaking. Their responsibilities also include building and preserving the Museum's collections.

- Containing examples of nearly half of the 25,000 known fish species, the Museum's ichthyology collection is one of the largest in the nation. It is also recognized as an International Resource Center for fish.

- The Museum boasts the world's largest collection of southwestern moths and butterflies and one of North America's largest collections of ants.
- The Museum's herpetology collection of reptiles and amphibians is particularly rich in specimens from North and South America, eastern and southern Africa and Australia.
- Beginning with 250 specimens in 1913, the Museum's ornithological collection now numbers more than 112,000 birds, including more California condors than any other institution in the world. (The condors were presented to the Museum by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).
- The Museum houses the second largest collection of marine mammals in the world. Curators in marine mammalogy are actively involved in the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response program administered by the National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Marine invertebrates account for much of the oceans' biodiversity and are crucial to the ecology of the seas. The Museum has the most extensive collection of West Coast invertebrates in the world, and its holdings incorporate such specimens as deep-sea and coral reef crabs, sea stars, snails, and worms from exotic locales including the Antarctic, Galapagos Islands, and the Caribbean.
- The Museum has the largest catalogued vertebrate fossil collection and the sixth largest invertebrate fossil collection in North America.
- The Seaver Center for Western History Research is responsible for a large collection of photographs, manuscripts, maps, posters, and ephemera, and is particularly rich in photographs documenting the growth of Southern California. Housed within the Museum, it is an important source for the general public, as well as history students and scholars.
- Originally developed from loans and donations of items relating to the Hispanic period of the American Southwest, the History Collections remain rich in materials from this era. The collections also include textiles, scientific instruments, arms and armor, dolls, toys, games, and many more artifacts of American History.

Educational Programs

- School groups receive free admission to the Museum, throughout the year. Groups with 10 or more students, grades Pre-K to 12, from public schools, private schools, home schools, Head Start programs, and child development centers are considered school groups.
- The Museum's halls and galleries meet California State curriculum standards. Through its School Visits office, and the Museum website (www.nhm.org), educators can download lesson plans and activities to make their field trips full-fledged learning experiences.

- The Museum's Classroom Collections Service lends scientific specimens, historical models and artifacts, slides and graphics to more than 150,000 school children in five Southern California counties.
- The Museum's mobile education programs — the Earthmobile, Skymobile, and Seamobile — are unique classrooms, situated in modified tractor-trailers that simulate science research environments. These programs are free and available to Los Angeles Unified School District elementary and middle schools, thanks to the generosity of The Maxwell H. Gluck Foundation.

Museum Information and Admission

The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90007. Open seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$12 for adults; \$9 for college students with ID and seniors 62+; \$8 for youth 13-17; \$5 for children 5-12; FREE for children 4 and under, Museum members, LAUSD students and teachers, and military personnel and families. For further information, visit the Museum's website at www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-DINO. The Natural History Museum Family includes the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits, and the William S. Hart Park and Museum.

TRANSFORMATION TIMELINE

NHM TRANSFORMATION

On the heels of the milestone re-opening of the Museum's 1913 Building and the exhibition *Age of Mammals* in 2010, the July 2011 opening of the **Dinosaur Hall** is a touchstone of the Museum's transformation. Physically, that transformation includes five new exhibitions, new visitor amenities, and a brand new outdoor component opening each year over the next three years. Philosophically, there is a new approach to exhibits and programs — one which reveals the thrill of discovery, the processes of science, and the ongoing, evolving endeavor that is scientific investigation. It is a thoughtful reconsideration of what science and the story of life on Earth mean to our visitors.

The NHM transformation includes:

- Summer 2011: The highly-anticipated new Dinosaur Hall opens.
- Summer 2011: The first outdoor components in North Campus open: the **car park, transition garden, and pedestrian bridge** leading to the north entrance.
- 2012: A new permanent exhibition exploring the natural and cultural history of Los Angeles and Southern California.
- 2012/2013: The full **North Campus** opens, with 3.5 acres of green space filled with nature experiences, community science projects, and programming space.
- 2013: The **Nature Lab**, an indoor/outdoor hub of scientific activities.
- 2013: The three-story **Otis Booth Pavilion**, the new main entrance of the Museum, with a 63-foot fin whale specimen as its beacon.
- 2013: The celebration of **NHM's centennial**. By the time of the NHM's 100-year anniversary, the Museum is an indoor/outdoor experience, with improved visitor amenities (new stores, café, restrooms, and elevators) and in all, 12 new galleries and five new exhibitions have opened.