

For Release
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Kingman Museum Receives Grant from Kellogg Foundation for Education Initiative

Battle Creek, MI. May 13, 2009. Kingman Museum, a natural history museum and planetarium located in Battle Creek, Michigan, announced today that it is undertaking a 17-month project to provide new learning opportunities for its visitors by creating and installing new exhibitions on the mezzanine. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded it \$350,000 for the \$468,000 project. Funding was also received from the Battle Creek Community Foundation-Hunter Fund and the Southwest Michigan Rehab Foundation. Additional money is from individual donors and local businesses in both cash and in-kind donations.

Sara Ann Briggs, CEO of Kingman Museum, said that the project would start immediately and when completed, would provide an entirely new opportunity for visitors of all ages to learn about natural history. "We will be tearing out the old exhibitions and reinterpreting the collections, placing more items on display, increasing the information presented, and aligning text and associated curriculum with all Michigan educational standards," said Briggs. Finalizing of plans will continue through the summer, with the demolition starting in early fall. They expect the mezzanine level to be closed for no more than six months. Briggs stated that the impact of this project is so great that it will entirely change the look of the museum. "Even though the lobby will not receive any new installations, this project will alter it so that when you walk in the door you will know something great awaits you," said Briggs.

This project will focus on Kingman Museum's new mission to provide lifelong learning opportunities in natural history, the universe, and world cultures for all ages for all time. It will update the scientific information presented, reinforce classroom education, provide information on career paths, feature conservation notes, and communicate the conservation status of various animals with a specific emphasis on Michigan's endangered or threatened species.

"I am thrilled about this grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which will allow Kingman Museum to completely redesign and modernize all of the exhibits on our mezzanine level. This project will help us to better meet our mission and in particular to inspire a love of science and learning in another generation of children in Battle Creek," said Chris Simmons, president of the museum's board.

"Kingman Museum will be updating its website regularly and the new exhibitions will be a regular blog topic," said special projects manager Jennifer Sellers, "as we believe it is important to keep the public involved."

Funding for this project will also trigger the final payment of the grant awarded last year by the Guido A. and Elizabeth H. Binda Foundation for the purchase of Kingman's new Digistar 3 planetarium system, sound system, and fourteen programs. Additionally, the Southwest Michigan Rehab Foundation pledged \$10,000 towards the Biological Science Hall (south end of the mezzanine level) once full funding was secured.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930. The organization supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and

society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the southern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. For further information, please visit the Foundation's website at www.wkkf.org.

Kingman Museum is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to provide lifelong learning opportunities in natural history, the universe, and world cultures for all ages for all time. Our vision is to become a Michigan destination providing exciting opportunities for our visitors to explore and discover information about our world and the universe in a self-learning environment or through structured group presentations. Kingman Museum is open 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday, and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday. Planetarium shows are Fridays at 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 1:15, 2:15, 3:15, and 4:15. Admission is \$18.00 for a family (up to 6 individuals), \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors and veterans, \$4.00 for students 3-17, and free for children 2 years of age or younger. Kingman Museum is located at 175 Limit Street in Battle Creek. You can find more information on its website www.kingmanmuseum.org or by calling 269-965-5117.