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MOSI President and CEO Julian Mackenzie Announces Retirement

Tampa, FL (May 6, 2021) – Julian Mackenzie, President and CEO of The Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), has informed the organization’s Board of Directors of his intention to retire by the end of this summer.

Mackenzie guided the nonprofit science center through major changes during his four years with the museum, including a significant reorganization and complete refocusing of the museum’s exhibits and footprint. The changes stabilized MOSI’s finances while allowing the organization to continue delivering exceptional science education.

“After spending most of my career in business, building companies and producing goods, it has been satisfying to be part of a not-for-profit where our main product is inspiration and wonder,” Mackenzie said. “If we want to build a better region and world, we must have children and adults who understand science, technology, engineering and mathematics. I love that every person who comes through the MOSI doors brings us closer to this vision.”

Over the last four years, more people are taking advantage of the expertise and resources MOSI offers. New members are finding value in closer relationships with the museum and its robust educational programming have sparked curiosity and imagination among the community’s next generation. The museum is in a strong position to both sustain and leverage this growth in the coming years, said MOSI Board Chair Bret Feldman.

“As a community, we owe a debt of gratitude to Julian. He provided leadership during an uncertain future, bringing together the necessary pieces to refocus the museum, carry it through a crisis, and set it on a path to becoming a thriving institution,” Feldman said. “Our incredible staff and key partners such as Hillsborough County, the Vinik family, and all our volunteers and donors teamed up to bring MOSI to its current level, and we appreciate Julian for his leadership.”

Feldman also credited Mackenzie for postponing discussions about his retirement until MOSI had weathered the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

“Julian hinted about his desire to begin retirement planning over a year ago,” Feldman said. “But instead, he tabled the conversations so he could focus on seeing MOSI successfully through the pandemic. The Board looks forward to celebrating Julian when he retires this summer.”

On May 26, 2020, MOSI became the first major science center in the United States to reopen its doors to the public. This reopening also included a full slate of summer camp offerings. In the following months, MOSI remained open and attendance numbers returned to close to what they were before the pandemic.

With MOSI in a “steady state” post COVID-19, the Board of Directors will turn its attention to overseeing the selection of Mackenzie’s successor. Feldman said a Transition Committee has been formed to lead the process.

“Julian’s advance notice gives us the time we need to carefully plan for the future.” Feldman said. “We are grateful to have a strong staff who will continue to carry-on MOSI’s mission and we wish Julian great happiness in his retirement.”

About the MOSI

MOSI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community-based institution and educational resource that is dedicated to advancing public interest, knowledge, and understanding of science, industry, and technology. MOSI's core ideology is to make a difference in people's lives by making science real for people of all ages and backgrounds.

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