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MOSI Names John Graydon Smith as President and CEO

TAMPA, Fla. (April 13, 2022) – The Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), introduced its new leader to the museum’s staff this morning, ending a national search that began last summer. John Graydon Smith, a veteran of the museum and non-profit industries, has officially joined MOSI as its President and CEO, and will be relocating to the Tampa Bay area from Pennsylvania at the conclusion of the school year. In the meantime, Smith will split his time between Pennsylvania and Florida, but will be devoting his full efforts to MOSI, where he agreed to a contract through 2025.

Smith has a track-record in museum circles as a business leader with experience in turnarounds, a skill-set to which the MOSI Board gravitated as it looks to rebound from the COVID-19 induced setbacks to a revitalization effort that has been years in the making. Bret Feldman, Chair of the MOSI Board of Directors said, “We are thrilled to have a leader with the experience and museum knowledge John brings to MOSI. He has a grand vision, and the leadership skills to help us make it a reality.” Smith led the Children’s Museum of Science and Technology in Troy, NY from 2006-2010 as it looked to rebrand from a children’s museum into a science center, eventually making *Parents* magazine’s list of Top 20 Science Centers in the United States in 2008 and 2009. Following his success in New York, Smith oversaw a rejuvenation of the Reading Public Museum in Reading, PA cementing his reputation as a visionary leader in fundraising, visitor experiences, and management. During his tenure in Reading, which ran from 2010 until accepting the position at MOSI this month, the institution saw dramatic growth in membership, group and general public visits, philanthropy, earned revenue, and endowment size, all areas where MOSI would benefit from similar successes.

“Having first visited MOSI in 2008 and seeing what could be accomplished here back then, I know how impactful a world-class science center can be to a community like Tampa. The opportunity to lead MOSI is something that I should have pursued nearly a decade ago, but I’m thankful that the timing worked out now, so that we can begin to deliver on our mission for another generation of children and their families, which will rebuild MOSI’s position in the community once again.” Smith noted.

In addition to his more than 15 years in the museum and science center field, Smith previously served as a C-level executive for the American Lung Association in various locales, and also ran his own fundraising and marketing consulting practice in the 1990s. A native of the Chicagoland area, he holds degrees in Marketing and Political Science from the University of Indianapolis and an MBA from Butler University, also in Indianapolis. He is active on committees for the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) and the Alliance of American Museums (AAM), both associations of which MOSI is a member.

Smith replaces Julian Mackenzie, who retired from the CEO position last year, and his transition into the role will be supported by Brynne Anne Besio of Carter Global, a consultant who has served as Interim Director for the past several months. Smith, along with his wife Kimberly, and their three school-aged children, will reside in Tampa Palms, and a community “meet and greet” opportunity will be announced to the public at a later date.

MOSI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community-based institution and educational resource. For 60 years, The Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) has been offering programs to all in the Tampa Bay community that focus on a variety of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. MOSI is located at 4801 E. Fowler Avenue, Tampa, FL 33617

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