



**MEDIA ALERT | For Immediate Release**

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**CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER TO OPEN LITTLE LEARNER CLUBHOUSE**  
**NEW EARLY-LEARNER EXHIBIT GALLERY SUPPORTED BY PNC GROW UP GREAT**

**PITTSBURGH, March 1, 2018** – Aspiring scientists age 6 and under have a new exhibit space to explore at Carnegie Science Center. Little Learner Clubhouse, powered by PNC Grow Up Great®, is a nature-inspired hub for free-play and hands-on activities that will open to the public at 10 am this Saturday, March 3.

The colorful space features a host of interactive elements designed to foster scientific curiosity. Exhibit examples include “The Water Table,” with a winding stream running through a fishing pond and clawfoot bathtub; “The Button Wall,” which generates a variety of sights, sounds, and special effects; and “The Tomato Stand,” which allows youngsters to explore simple machines, such as conveyors and vacuum tubes.

“Children are born scientists, brimming with natural curiosity, and their preschool years are critical for exploration and brain development,” said Ron Baillie, co-director of Carnegie Science Center. “In pre-kindergarten years, children who engage in STEM practices such as asking questions and forming explanations, build a strong foundation for skills learned throughout their lives.”

“The Little Learner Clubhouse is the bricks and mortar portion of our vision to provide a foundation of STEM experiences for early learners, their educators, and their families,” said Ann Metzger, co-director of Carnegie Science Center. “It complements a wide range of initiatives we have in place in the community through our Early Childhood STEM Center.”

Little Learner Clubhouse is a project of the Science Center’s SPARK! Campaign, a fundraising effort launched in 2014 and completed in 2017. Other aspects of the campaign include expanding the Science Center’s STEM programming and building the new PPG Science Pavilion, slated to open in mid-June. A longtime partner to the Science Center, the PNC Foundation generously contributed \$1 million to the SPARK! Campaign to enhance early science learning.

“The Little Learner Clubhouse at Carnegie Science Center provides us an opportunity to invest further in pre-K science so young children have more STEM learning opportunities,” said Sally McCrady, chair and president of the PNC Foundation. “When children are excited about STEM, all sorts of opportunities will open up for them as they advance through school and into a profession of their choice.”

Little Learner Clubhouse is part of PNC Grow Up Great, a bilingual, early childhood education initiative that helps prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life. In addition to the new early learner space, PNC's \$1 million gift also will support complementary community-based programming, such as outreach activities for neighboring Northside families.

Little Learner Clubhouse, powered by PNC Grow Up Great, is included in general admission to the Science Center. For more information, visit [CarnegieScienceCenter.org](http://CarnegieScienceCenter.org).

**The PNC Foundation**, which receives its principal funding from The PNC Financial Services Group ([www.pnc.com](http://www.pnc.com)), actively supports organizations that provide services for the benefit of communities in which it has a significant presence. The foundation focuses its philanthropic mission on early childhood education and community and economic development, which includes the arts and culture. Through Grow Up Great, its signature cause that began in 2004, PNC has created a bilingual \$350 million, multi-year initiative to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life. For more information, visit <http://www.pncgrowupgreat.com>.

### **About Carnegie Science Center**

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center's goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

### **Accessibility: Features for All**

Carnegie Science Center welcomes all visitors. We work to assist visitors with disabilities in obtaining reasonable and appropriate accommodations, and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities. We welcome visitors in wheelchairs on the deck of our USS Requin (SS 481) submarine. Below-deck visits require full mobility. Hearing assistance devices are available for The Rangos Giant Cinema. Please ask when you buy your ticket.

Please note that requests for accommodations should be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. For specific questions about wheelchairs, strollers, or other programmatic or equipment needs, see the ticket counter located on the first floor of the main building or contact Customer Service at 412.237.1641 or [info@carnegiesciencecenter.org](mailto:info@carnegiesciencecenter.org). Please contact Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh's Accessibility Coordinator with concerns regarding accessibility for visitors with disabilities at the museums. On weekdays, call 412.622.6578 or email [accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org](mailto:accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org).

### **About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**

Established in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2017, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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