

## **World's First ArtScience Museum to Open in Singapore**

**Marina Bay Sands Home to Over 50,000 Square Feet of Galleries Featuring Showpiece and Marquee Exhibitions**

The world's first ArtScience Museum will open at Marina Bay Sands in Singapore on the auspicious date and time of 17 February 2011 at 1.18pm.

Boasting an iconic lotus-inspired design, the ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is set to become the heart of the growing ArtScience movement as well as the premier venue for major international touring exhibitions from the most renowned collections in the world.

Featuring 21 gallery spaces totaling 50,000 square feet, the latest addition to Marina Bay Sands will deliver an impressive array of exhibits that embrace a spectrum of influences from art and science, media and technology, to design and architecture.

Marina Bay Sands President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Thomas Arasi said, "Singapore is already fast becoming the exchange capital of the world in finance, culture and knowledge. With the ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, we will deliver an internationally renowned forum for the exchange of the latest creative ideas and theories. We are proud to present to audiences in Singapore and beyond, Singapore's gift to the world and the city's new great cultural symbol."

The brief from the Government of Singapore requested that the program at Marina Bay include an iconic cultural building on the promontory, facing the water. In response, internationally renowned architect Moshe Safdie conceived of a museum that

fosters the interplay of art and science. "Some see the form of the museum as reminiscent of a lotus flower, others feel it looks like an open palm," said Safdie. "For me, the museum's design represents the forward looking spirit of Singapore."

The Museum's showpiece exhibition, ArtScience: A Journey Through Creativity, will feature a series of permanent exhibits that anchors the iconic venue at the forefront of technology, design and culture. The exhibition opens a dialog about art and science and

the symbiotic relationship between them.

Mr. Tom Zaller, Director of the ArtScience Museum, said, "What unites art and science is the instinct to observe, connect, take risks and explore new ideas and ways of understanding nature's wisdom and experiences that shape our culture. Visitors to the ArtScience Museum will explore these mysterious connections through three galleries – Curiosity, Inspiration and Expression – and embark on their own journey of creativity by standing on the





shoulders of our innovative forefathers such as Leonardo da Vinci and Lu Ban”.

“Curiosity” is an arrival gallery on the third floor of the Museum where visitors are introduced to a unique space by an ascending “floating” staircase. The gallery challenges guests with questions that have motivated artistic and scientific innovators through time via translucent scrolls hanging

from the museum’s voluminous sloping ceiling.

“Inspiration” is an interactive gallery that features six large suspended artifacts representing known inventions throughout the ages that bridge the art and science divide. These include Leonardo da Vinci’s Flying Machine, a Kongming Lantern, a high-tech Robotic Fish, a model of the ArtScience Museum, a



molecular model of a "Buckyball", and an Ancient Chinese Scroll. The gallery also features engaging touchscreen units with information on ArtScience innovations in areas such as architecture, transportation, technology and exploration.

"Expression" is a dynamic multimedia gallery that combines lighting effects, sound and moving images. Visitors will be immersed in the innovation process through kinetic images that follow the journeys of great art/scientists across time and culture. Artifacts representing an array of disciplines light up on cue during the presentation.

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands will also play host to marquee exhibitions curated by leading museums and collections from around the world.

In the coming months, the museum will launch a speaker series that will bring globally renowned thought-leaders in the field of ArtScience to Singapore to drive discussion and further generate ideas on the subject.

Fondly referred to as "The Welcoming Hand of Singapore" by Las Vegas Sands Corp. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Sheldon G. Adelson, ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands features 10 "fingers" anchored by a unique round base in the middle. The design of each finger reveals different gallery spaces featuring skylights at the "fingertips" that illuminate the dramatically curved interior walls.

"The flower-like geometry is one of the most complex we have designed," stated Safdie. "But as befitting a museum of ArtScience, it is highly mathematically ordered, for efficient construction." The Museum's dish-like roof channels rainwater through the central atrium of the building, creating a 35-meter water drop into a small, reflecting pool. The rainwater is then recycled for use in the building's restrooms. Material such as Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer (GFRP), typically used in high-performance racing yachts, which has never been used in a project in Singapore, was used for the construction of this architectural wonder.