



## Contact

Warren Stokes, (773) 753-6230, <u>warren.stokes@msichicago.org</u> Isabel Morales, (773) 947-6003, <u>isabel.morales@msichicago.org</u>

## MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY OPENS NEWEST SPECIAL EXHIBITION, MARVEL: UNIVERSE OF SUPER HEROES

**CHICAGO (March 4, 2021)**—The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago's (MSI) newest special exhibition, *Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes*, celebrates more than 80 years of the Marvel Universe. This expansive exhibition is spread across two galleries, featuring more than 300 artifacts including some of Marvel's most iconic costumes, props and original art.

"We are thrilled to welcome back guests to MSI to experience this immersive exhibition on Marvel's history and impact to society," said Chevy Humphrey, president and CEO of the Museum. "The Marvel universe has encouraged generations of people to utilize their abilities and ingenuity to find solutions to challenges today and in the future."

Inside *Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes*, presented by BMO Harris Bank, guests will follow the story of Marvel and its influence on visual culture, while uncovering the narratives of characters and gaining insight into how Marvel has impacted and drawn inspiration from the ever-changing tides of popular culture. Guests will:

- Explore concept sketches, props and costumes from Marvel Studios blockbusters like "Captain Marvel" and "Guardians of the Galaxy".
- Take photos next to life-size representations of favorite Marvel characters including Black Panther, Spider-Man and Ms. Marvel.
- Test the capabilities of the Iron Man armor inside Tony Stark's lab with an augmented reality experience.
- View original art from the past eight decades including the very first Marvel comic, and the cover for "Ironheart" #2 featuring the character Riri Williams, written by Chicagoan Eve Ewing.

"MSI is one of Chicago's cultural treasures, and we are delighted to help celebrate its reopening and welcome visitors safely back," said Tracie Morris, U.S. chief human resources officer and chief inclusion officer for BMO Harris Bank. "This exhibit brings to life the diversity of Marvel's expanding characters, which supports BMO's purpose to foster an inclusive world and Boldly Grow the Good in business and life."

The exhibition traces how Marvel stories have responded to historical events and addressed wider issues such as gender, race and disabilities while honoring pioneering creators such as Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, whose imagination made Marvel into the endlessly expansive fictional universe we know today.

New additions to the exhibition offer guests opportunities to learn about Marvel's expanding universe of heroes, including Shang-Chi, Marvel's first headlining Asian hero; Echo, an Indigenous American hero who is deaf; and Miss America, Marvel's first Latin-American LGBTQ character.

Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes will thrill longtime and casual fans, with its immersive set pieces and interactive installations accompanied by a soundscape created by acclaimed composer Lorne Balfe that brings the Marvel Universe to life. The exhibition has been curated by a team that includes three scholars of comics – Benjamin Saunders, Matthew J. Smith and Randy Duncan, all of whom are university professors and experts in their field. Renowned comic book writers and editors Ann Nocenti and Danny Fingeroth also contributed their time and knowledge in order to create a fully formed picture of the Marvel phenomenon.

MSI will continue to follow rigorous safety procedures to ensure guests and staff remain safe. Face coverings are required for all staff and guests ages 2 and older. A separate, timed-entry ticket is required for *Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes*. Daily capacity is limited, and timed admission tickets and physical distancing measures will reduce crowding. Online reservations are required for contactless entry. Tickets and information are available at <a href="maichicago.org/marvel">msichicago.org/marvel</a>. Media toolkit with images and video available at <a href="https://bit.ly/2MUa8fH">https://bit.ly/2MUa8fH</a>.

Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes is an exhibition by SC Exhibitions, Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP) and Marvel Themed Entertainment. Marvel: Universe of Super Heroes is presented by BMO Harris Bank and will be at MSI through October 24, 2021.

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI), one of the largest science museums in the world, offers world-class and uniquely interactive experiences that inspire inventive genius and foster curiosity. From groundbreaking and award-winning exhibits that can't be found anywhere else, to hands-on opportunities that make you the scientist—a visit to MSI is where fun and learning mix. Through its Welcome to Science Initiative, the Museum offers a variety of student, teacher and family educational programs that make a difference in communities and contribute to MSI's larger vision: to inspire and motivate children to achieve their full potential in science, technology, medicine and engineering. The Museum is exceptionally grateful for the support of its donors and guests, who make its work possible. MSI is also supported in part by the people of Chicago through the Chicago Park District. For more information, visit msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414.

**About SC Exhibitions** SC Exhibitions creates exhibitions which travel worldwide, and hosts international exhibitions in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. SC Exhibitions is a division of Semmel Concerts (<a href="www.semmel-concerts.com">www.semmel-concerts.com</a>), the large German live entertainment promoter and producer. Semmel Concerts is part of EVENTIM LIVE and organizes more than 1,600 events every year. In 2018 the parent company ranked fourth in the international Top 100 promoter list of Pollstar magazine, with almost 4.5 million tickets sold. Since SC Exhibitions started touring its exhibitions *TUTANKHAMUN – HIS TOMB AND HIS TREASURES; THE DISCOVERY OF KING TUT*; and recently *MARVEL: UNIVERSE OF SUPER HEROES*, they have reached an audience of more than seven million people worldwide, and built a strong international network within museums, science centers, cultural venues and the creative industries. The network is the basis for TEEM – The Experience Economy Meeting (Los Angeles, May 1-3, 2020, <a href="www.sc-exhibitions.com/teem">www.sc-exhibitions.com/teem</a>), the world's only conference entirely dedicated to touring exhibitions and experiences.

**About Marvel Entertainment** Marvel Entertainment, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company, is one of the world's most prominent character-based entertainment companies, built on a proven library of more than 8,000 characters featured in a variety of media over eighty years. Marvel utilizes its character franchises in entertainment, licensing, publishing, games, and digital media. For more information visit marvel.com. © 2020 MARVEL