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Life-size humpback whales installed at Loveland Living Planet Aquarium

It's the largest sculpture he's ever created; a 50-foot long, 4,400-pound Humpback whale. Local sculptor Stephen Kesler (aka Tusk) has worked for months to fabricate the sculpture, along with a 20-foot calf. These whales will be one of the first things guests see as they walk into the Aquarium.

Stephen, with the assistance of his brother Dan Kesler, knew the biggest challenge would be getting the massive sculpture through the front doors of the Aquarium. The whale was engineered to break into eight pieces in order to fit through the 6 ft. x 9 ft. door. These pieces were moved into the Aquarium one by one at the end of October. Weather was a factor because they had to avoid wind and rain when delivering each piece to the Aquarium.

Preparation for installing the whale and hanging it in the Aquarium lobby has been ongoing for months. Aquarium crews worked closely with Stephen and his team. Two structural engineers created plans on how to support and hang the sculptures. The structural plans were reviewed and approved by Draper City and a building permit was required.

The final design for the adult whale included a 3 ft. x 3 ft. tunnel, which was used to bolt the parts together. The tail and the fins were installed after the whale was secured and raised up. Stephen Kesler crawled into the belly of the whale to secure the fins. Then final patching and painting was completed. There are less than ten full size Humpback sculptures in the world.

The media is invited to film these incredible works of art and interview Stephen Kesler on Tuesday. We hope to see you there!

WHAT: Humpback Whale Sculptures installed at Loveland Living Planet Aquarium

WHEN: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 2pm to 4pm

WHERE: Loveland Living Planet Aquarium 12033 S. Lone Peak Parkway, Draper, UT 84020

About Stephen Kesler/Tusk Sculpture

Stephen's works include the Aquarium's Whale shark, Manta rays, Sperm whale, Giant squid, Leatherback sea turtle, and Poison dart frogs. Also, Utah's Hogle Zoo's giraffe family in their main plaza. Follow his sculpting process at [instagram.com/stephenkesler_tusk](https://www.instagram.com/stephenkesler_tusk).



LOVELAND LIVING PLANET
AQUARIUM

About the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium

The Aquarium is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Aquarium's mission is to inspire people to explore, discover and learn about Earth's diverse ecosystems. Advance tickets and memberships may be purchased online at www.thelivingplanet.com. Ticket sales help support the Aquarium's mission. The Loveland Living Planet Aquarium is located at 12033 South Lone Peak Parkway in Draper, Utah.

www.facebook.com/thelivingplanetaquarium

www.twitter.com/LivingPlanetUT

www.instagram.com/lovelandlivingplanet

