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CONTACT:

SHELBY DOBSON
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND PR
CELL: 435.760.1549
OFFICE: 801-355-3474 EXT. 226
shelby.d@thelivingplanet.com

More to Explore at Loveland Living Planet Aquarium

A Sneak Peek of the NEW Rio Tinto Kennecott Plaza Opens to Aquarium Guests

Draper, UT (July 2, 2020) - Loveland Living Planet Aquarium will soon welcome guests to the Rio Tinto Kennecott Plaza, part of the new Science Learning Campus. Many passersby will recognize the expansion by the 165-foot tall EECO (Ecosystem Exploration Craft & Observatory) structure at the center of the plaza. EECO was formerly used as U2's stage for their 360° World Tour and continues to include a stage for events and performances. Now, guests will be able to get an up-close look at the structure, walk the various pathways and gardens, and experience the sights and sounds of the plaza. The Aquarium's new Welcome Center where guests will check in is also opening.

The Rio Tinto Kennecott Plaza is created around three educational themes: Curiosity, Connections, and Choices. In the Curiosity section, guests will be able to explore the microscopic world and learn about creatures such as mites and Tardigrades (also called water bears). In the Connections area, guests will learn about migration and water, and how we are all interconnected with animals and ecosystems around the world. In the Choices section, there will be a coral community play area and displays focusing on how our choices make an impact.

"Our expansion allows us to expand our mission and reach more guests from Utah and beyond. We want visitors to learn that we can have a big impact on the world through our choices," said Aquarium Founder and CEO Brent Andersen. "There will be learning experiences for every age, from two to 92."

The plaza is sponsored by Rio Tinto Kennecott, as they have a shared goal of educating and inspiring students to explore the natural sciences and pursue interests in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) fields.

"Through our partnership, we can work together to develop and share STEAM programs, help kids learn about the natural sciences, and direct money to support Title 1 schools. These efforts are important steps to help kids explore opportunities, gain skills and find what they are passionate about. We believe our partnership will shape the lives of many youth and influence families for generations," said Amanda Boren, Vice President of Finance at Rio Tinto Kennecott.

The Aquarium will host special events on the plaza, including a soon to be announced, adult-only evenings with access to the Aquarium as well as the plaza, with EECO lit up at night.



The plaza is also open for private outdoor rentals, from family gatherings to corporate picnics.

The Science Learning Campus will also include a 90,000-square-foot Science Learning Center. Fundraising is underway for the project. For more information on the Aquarium's expansion, go to thelivingplanet.com/plaza.

The Aquarium and plaza are currently open with limited capacity and social distancing measures in place. Guests may reserve a time to visit on the Aquarium's website at thelivingplanet.com/welcomeback.

WHAT: Loveland Living Planet Aquarium opens the Rio Tinto Kennecott Plaza and new Welcome Center

WHEN: Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: 12033 S Lone Peak Parkway, Draper, UT 84020

Photos and video available at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eKQSnlfAqrBP-VhtP1_DT6m2BJwuj4JV

If you'd like to schedule a tour of the plaza, please reach out to Shelby.

About Loveland Living Planet Aquarium

LLPA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that inspires people to Explore, Discover, and Learn about Earth's diverse ecosystems. A world-class facility, LLPA provides learning opportunities at all levels, interests, and ages. Since opening in Draper in March 2014, the Aquarium has welcomed more than 5 million visitors. Additionally, LLPA reaches more than 82,000 Utah students each year through its Outreach Education programs. LLPA is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).
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