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## Local Sculptor Stephen Kesler Creating new Works of Art for Loveland Living Planet Aquarium's Science Learning Campus

**Draper, UT (February 14, 2020)** – Loveland Living Planet Aquarium is getting closer to opening their new Science Learning Campus, a nine-acre expansion just south of the Aquarium. As part of the campus, there will be several new sculptures for guests to interact with, including a four-foot tall Hermit crab, and a Giant moray eel drinking fountain. These pieces are being produced by wildlife artist Stephen Kesler and his team at Tusk Sculpture.

"The Aquarium believes that investing in art is an important part of our mission. We use sculptures and other art to inspire curiosity, and teach guests about the natural world in engaging ways that otherwise might not be possible," said Brent Andersen, Aquarium Founder and CEO.

Kesler, with the assistance of his brothers Dan and Ken Kesler, created a series of sculptures for the Aquarium, including a 50-foot long, 4,400-pound Humpback whale, and her 20-foot calf. He also created a Whale shark, a Leatherback sea turtle, two Poison dart frogs, and a Sperm whale and a Giant squid found throughout the Aquarium.

Kesler discovered his love for sculpting 10 years ago after getting modeling clay as a gift for Christmas one year. He quickly made a name for himself by creating larger-than-life sculptures that Aquarium guests have enjoyed for the past six years. The new sculptures will be an integral part of the Science Learning Campus, where guests will explore how we are all connected and part of one global ecosystem: the Living Planet.

Media is invited to Kesler's downtown workshop to get a preview of the Hermit crab and Moray eel on Tuesday, February 18. Kesler and his team will be painting the sculptures and getting the final touches together.

**WHAT:** Preview of two sculptures in progress for Loveland Living Planet Aquarium's expansion

**WHEN:** 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18

**WHERE:** 800 S 300 W, Salt Lake City; across the street from Fisher Brewing Company.

### About Tusk Sculpture

Stephen Kesler began sculpting in 2010, first creating a small African elephant. He found his passion and has since created numerous, large scale and lifelike sculptures for Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, Utah's Hogle Zoo, and the Red Iguana restaurant in Salt Lake City. Now working under his brand, Tusk Sculpture, Kesler is



focused on innovating cost-saving methods that ensure his works of art are available to organizations and the public. He is also a Signature Member of the Society of Animal Artists. You can see more of his work at [www.tusklife.com](http://www.tusklife.com).

**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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