



FORT WORTH MUSEUM
SCIENCE AND HISTORY
Learning through Innovation

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**Fort Worth Museum of Science and History
Features 62-foot-Long Dinosaur Topiary
*Living Sculpture Believed To Be World's Largest***

FORT WORTH -- The two-ton steel frame body of the *Paluxysaurus jonesi* was installed in the North Courtyard, between the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History Omni Theater and the Museum School on Sept. 3, 2009. The topiary measures 62-feet from tip of head to tip of tail. Joe Kyte, "Topiary Joe," creator and builder of the topiary said he believes it to be the longest topiary in the world. The tallest topiary is in Manipur, India and measures 61-feet high, according to the "Guinness Book of World Records."

The hand-made topiary took three weeks for Kyte and his team, Lester Harris and Paul Forkner, from Tellico Plains, Tenn. to build. Kyte said this topiary is one of his sustainable green projects. "It's a structure that lives," Kyte said. "Everything is organic except the plastic and metal." The topiary is modeled after the Texas State Dinosaur, the *Paluxysaurus jonesi*.

"We are very excited to have this wonderful, living sculpture as part of the new Museum campus," said Museum of Science and History President Van A. Romans. "It is especially fitting that we have a replica of the State Dinosaur in the Courtyard, since we have the original in our DinoLabs®."

The hydroponics topiary is meant to grow without the use of soil and will last 20-30 years, according to Kyte. The green matting, made of coconut hair and attached to the frame, consists of several different types of sedum. "It's a sustainable, low-maintenance and forgiving plant," Kyte said. "It should do very well in the Museum Courtyard."

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The topiary will require minimum water after the roots have attached to the capillary matting beneath the frame. The capillary matting is a felt-type material and helps plants grow because of its ability to spread and retain water. Kyte said rooting will take up to two months and will only require watering one to two times a week and a “haircut” once or twice a year. The topiary will weigh close to six tons once it is planted, according to Kyte.

About The Museum

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Days. For more information about the Museum visit www.fortworthmuseum.org or call 817-255-9300.

In 1939, the Fort Worth Council of Administrative Women in Education presented a successful proposal to the City Council for the creation of a children's museum in Fort Worth. Chartered with the State of Texas in 1941 as the “Fort Worth Children’s Museum,” the new \$80 million FWMSH campus marks the culmination of an extensive multi-year fund-raising campaign following a comprehensive planning effort. Dedicated to life-long learning and anchored by its rich collections, the Museum engages school children and adult visitors through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. For more than six decades, the FWMSH has provided learning opportunities for tens of thousands of area children annually among its million visitors each year, making it one of the most popular cultural attractions in North Texas.

The new Museum building, created by internationally acclaimed architects Legorreta + Legorreta with Gideon Toal, is located in the heart of Fort Worth’s Cultural District. The world-class, 166,000 square-foot facility features a collection of new, interactive exhibits and programs developed by the Museum’s staff and a team of nationally recognized designers in support of the Museum’s dedication to informal, discovery-based learning for all.

The new Museum’s environment of learning comprises state-of-the-art interactive exhibitions and components including: Energy Blast; the Fort Worth Children’s Museum; the Cattle Raisers Museum; the Noble Planetarium; Omni IMAX[®] Theater; DinoLabs/DinoDig[®] – featuring the State Dinosaur of Texas, *Paluxysaurus jonesi*; Innovation Studios/Innovation Gallery; and the 60-year-old Museum School.