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***Big, BIG BUGS!* Will Swarm Into the Grand Rapids Public Museum
February 20 – May 31, 2010**

Exhibit Will Show Common Creatures of Uncommon Proportions

Grand Rapids, MI (December 2, 2009) – Visitors will get up close and personal with giant moving insects in the Grand Rapids Public Museum’s spring exhibit – ***Big, BIG BUGS!***, opening February 20 and running through May 31, 2010. On display will be a praying mantis, a stick insect, a caterpillar, a locust and more - shown mega-magnified and ready to be explored like never before.

Playful in both a literal and figurative sense, the exhibit skews scale and proportion to create an environment that “shrinks” the visitor to a size smaller than the insects under investigation, in a humorous role reversal. Visitors can enter the Bug House with its dirt walls and framed portraits of family members, check out the giant aerosol can of people repellent, part the grass to more closely explore the praying mantis, and enter the fighting atlas beetles’ vignette from below via worm hole.

And while the focus is on fun, the exhibit will have plenty of educational punch as well. Visitors can dig deeper into bug life and lore in regularly scheduled sessions in the Bug Lab, exploring such subjects as bug life cycles, anatomy & adaptations, and bug “jobs.” And, the “all-ages-appropriate” *Crickets & Constellations* will play in the planetarium throughout the exhibit run.

To make the exhibit more accessible, the Public Museum will extend its hours into the evening for ***Big BUG Nights*** March 1-5, April 1-9 and May 10-13. A special evening ticket package, available from 5-9 pm, includes Museum admission, special exhibit admission, a planetarium show, unlimited carousel rides and dinner for just \$10 per person. (Members pay just \$5.)

Regular Museum hours are Tues 9-8; Mon and Wed–Sat 9-5; Sun 12-5. Members are free. Admission to the exhibit is \$2 and to the planetarium show \$3 in addition to general Museum admission (Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, and Children and Students \$3. Kids under 3 are free.) For more information call 616.456.3977 or visit www.grmuseum.org.