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BIG STUFF From the Permanent Collection on Display at the Grand Rapids Public Museum This Holiday Season

Grand Rapids, MI (October 25, 2011) – The Grand Rapids Public Museum will unveil **BIG STUFF from the Permanent Collection** November 12 – December 31, 2011. Guests will see an inspired selection of fan favorites on display for a limited time including unique vehicles, great beasts and significant inventions. Entry is free with Museum general admission.

“The Grand Rapids Public Museum has been collecting artifacts – and their stories - for more than 150 years but because of space limitations and preservation concerns, only about 10% of the Museum’s collection is on display at any given time,” says Dale A. Robertson, President and CEO. “With this exhibit we’ve pulled back the dust covers, opened the drawers and invited a diverse group of people to act as ‘guest curators’ to choose the exhibition’s contents.”

To engage an even broader audience, the exhibit selection process also includes a public vote component. Through the Museum’s website, participants will cast their vote for one of two impressive vehicles, a 1938 Lincoln Zephyr or a 1910 REO Model B Runabout. The winning artifact will be the last piece added to the exhibit before it opens to the public. Fans can cast their vote October 17 – 28 at www.grmuseum.org or on the “Public Museum of Grand Rapids” Facebook page.

While the **BIG STUFF from the Permanent Collection** exhibit contains an impressive amount of truly sizable pieces, some were selected for reasons other than sheer girth, whether they represent monumental inventions, are reflective of major milestones in life, or belonged to significant players in local history. Artifacts in the exhibit include: a hearse, ca. 1895; the Bugs Bunny and Goofy mascots from Studio 28, ca. 1980; a Model E Indian Motorcycle, 1913; a Mastodon Foot and a Folding Boat. The train from the former Herpolshiemer’s Department Store toy department will also be on display.

The Public Museum is a collector of treasures, a motivator and resource for life-long learning, and a community partner in the pursuit of insight and understanding. For information, go to grmuseum.org or call 616.456-3977.

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