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**Grand Rapids Public Museum to Host “BODIES REVEALED”
November 20, 2010 – May 1, 2011**

Grand Rapids, MI (May 5, 2010) – The Grand Rapids Public Museum is pleased to announce that it will open the highly anticipated exhibition *BODIES REVEALED* this fall. Seen by millions worldwide, the Exhibition features real, whole and partial body specimens that have been meticulously dissected and preserved, giving visitors the opportunity to view the complexity of their own organs and systems like never before. The exhibition will open to the public November 20, 2010 and run through May 1, 2011.

Visitors in and around the region will have a unique opportunity to come face-to-face with approximately 12 full body specimens, and 200 additional organs and partial specimens in a way they never have before. These dissected bodies are preserved through an innovative process called polymer preservation and are respectfully presented. This up-close look inside the skeletal, muscular, respiratory, circulatory and other anatomical systems clearly shows how lifestyle choices directly affect our health.

“The Board and staff of the Public Museum felt that the time is right to bring an exhibition of this nature to the community. As the regional economy continues to develop health science initiatives with the opening of the Secchia Center of the MSU College of Human Medicine and the expansion of our regional healthcare providers, there will be a critical need for an educated and qualified workforce. If we can inspire a youth today, who becomes a health-care worker of the future, be it doctor, researcher, nurse or technician, then we help fulfill our mission in the community”, said Dan Gaydou, Chairman of the Public Museum Friends Foundation.

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The Museum conducted a series of focus groups to determine how receptive the community might be to an exhibition of this nature. Meetings were held with representatives from the academic and medical communities as well as various religious groups to gauge reactions and gather input. According to Dale Robertson, President and CEO of the Museum, “Overwhelmingly, we heard support and enthusiasm for an Exhibition of this nature from the community. Each group saw it as an educational opportunity without parallel. Conversations centered on not only the phenomenal opportunity to learn about the science but also the wonders of the human body.”

According to Robertson, an unexpected element that arose from the focus groups was the offer from many to volunteer to participate in educational programming throughout the exhibition. “We have offers to volunteer from health care professionals, medical doctors, anatomy professors and the like—to help our visitors understand the complexity of the body and our responsibility to care for it properly.”

“For centuries, the medical community has learned about the inner workings of anatomy through the study of real human bodies, and now it’s possible for the public to gain an intimate knowledge as well,” said Dr. Roy Glover, professor emeritus of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the University of Michigan and chief medical director for BODIES REVEALED. “The exhibition will change the way people of Grand Rapids see themselves. It will enlighten, empower, fascinate, and inspire.”

The human body specimens in the exhibition are preserved through a revolutionary technique called polymer preservation. In this process, human tissue is permanently preserved using liquid silicone that is treated and hardened. The end result is a specimen preserved to the cellular level, showcasing the complexity of the body's many bones, muscles, nerves, blood vessels and organs. The full-body specimens can take more than a year to prepare.

The Museum plans an extensive array of programming, including health science career fairs, a lecture series, and opportunities for visitors to interact with health care professionals in the Exhibition.

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“The admission price to similar exhibitions in Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee has been over \$22. We were concerned that such an expensive ticket would be a barrier for many in our region, and we have been working to create a high quality experience at a more affordable price point. We are pleased to offer the experience for only \$15 for a non-member adult and \$10 for a non-member child up to age 17. Museum Members will be able to attend the Exhibition at an even lower admission fee”, said Rebecca Westphal, Director of Marketing, Communications and Customer Experience.

The Public Museum is an educational organization founded in 1854. The public exhibition facility is the Van Andel Museum Center, located at 272 Pearl St. NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan. For more information call 616.456.3977 or visit [www. grmuseum.org](http://www.grmuseum.org).

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