



For Immediate Release
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Technology Brings the Past to Life at ScienceWorks

ASHLAND, OREGON

High-tech robotics and state-of-the-art human interactive software bring dinosaurs to life in a new exhibit slated to open at ScienceWorks Hands-on Museum on February 15th. In *Prehistoric Predators*, guests experience life in the Cretaceous Period as they explore a land filled with life-sized, meat-eating dinosaurs that see and track them in their natural environment. The exhibit was created by KumoTek Robotics in collaboration with Kokoro Dreams and is made possible with support from Evogeneao, Wells Fargo, the City of Ashland, Key Bank, Ashland Insurance, and Knife River.

“There’s nothing like dinosaurs to inspire people to learn about the past and science allows us to do that” explains Chip Lindsey, Executive Director at ScienceWorks. “Every 2 year old knows what sharp teeth mean. Paleontologists examine evidence in fossils and compare it to animals today to bring the past into sharp focus.”

As guests enter the hall they are greeted by a flesh clutching Saurornithelestes, a Velociraptor cousin, waiting in the brush for its next meal. When no guests are present, the raptor appears to be searching the area. Once a guest comes into view, the dinosaur locks onto their face and immediately switches to full interaction mode, tracking every motion they make and responding to their behaviors.

Walking around the bend, guests encounter the interactive ¾ scale T-Rex. Surrounded by fallen trees and swamp-like marshes, the dinosaur springs into action as guests approach. On a nearby monitor, visitors see their own image overlaid with the technology that reflects what the T-Rex is seeing.

“The technology in this exhibit has redefined the meaning of ‘interactive’ for museum exhibits” says Lindsey. “KumoTek Robotics has developed programming that will astonish our guests. You really feel like you’re being stared down by a T-Rex and it taps a very basic human instinct.”

ScienceWorks is open Wednesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm. Admission is \$7 for children ages 2 – 12 and seniors 65 and older, and \$9 for adults. Members and children under 2 are free. For more information, visit www.scienceworksmuseum.org.

A special pre-opening media conference to see and interact with the dinosaurs will be held on Tuesday, Feb 4 at 1pm. Exhibit creators from KumoTek Robotics will be available for interviews.

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ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum is the regional science museum for Southern Oregon and Northern California. Located at 1500 East Main Street in Ashland, the museum is home to more than 100 exhibits, and hosts themed weekends, and ongoing fun, educational, science programs for all ages year-round. For more information, call (541) 482-6767 or visit www.scienceworksmuseum.org.