



MEDIA ALERT | For Immediate Release
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Carnegie Science Center’s Miniature Railroad & Village® Reopens to the Public this Saturday with a New Model and a Family-Friendly Celebration
Pittsburgh’s Chinatown Inn brings a fascinating mix of science and history to the beloved exhibit



[High-resolution images available here.](#)

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 3, 2024 – Carnegie Science Center is excited to announce the reopening of the Miniature Railroad & Village® this Sat., Oct. 5, coinciding with the Science Center’s birthday. After a temporary closure for maintenance, this cherished exhibit is back and better than ever.

To mark the occasion, the Science Center is unveiling a new model of the Chinatown Inn with a celebration honoring the city’s Chinese American community and the once-thriving Chinatown. From 11 am–2 pm on Saturday, visitors to the “[Celebrate Chinatown](#)” event will experience Lion Dances and martial arts demonstrations along with musical and theatrical acts.

The Miniature Railroad & Village® has been a Pittsburgh tradition since 1954, when it was first displayed at the Buhl Planetarium & Institute of Popular Science. The exhibit

was created by Charles Bowdish of Brookville, PA, who began building miniature railroad villages in 1919.

His intricate models quickly became a holiday favorite, eventually finding a permanent home at the Science Center in 1992. Spanning 83 feet long by 30 feet wide, the Miniature Railroad features 57 meticulously crafted models that celebrate local history.

“We are thrilled to reopen the Miniature Railroad & Village® and celebrate the legacy of Chinatown on such a special day for the Science Center,” said Jason Brown, Henry Buhl, Jr., Director of Carnegie Science Center. “Our close collaboration with the community has been key to the Miniature Railroad tradition, allowing us to highlight local history and share amazing stories from Western Pennsylvania with our visitors.”

For more information about the Miniature Railroad & Village® and the “[Celebrate Chinatown](#)” event, please visit [CarnegieScienceCenter.org](#). Both experiences are included with general admission to the Science Center.

The Miniature Railroad & Village® is presented by Reach Cyber Charter School and sponsored by Tender Care Learning Centers. [High-resolution images available here.](#)

Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center, soon to be the Daniel G. and Carole L. Kamin Science Center, is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center’s goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh’s premier science exploration destination and the region’s most-visited museum, reaching more than 500,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

Accessibility: Features for All

Carnegie Science Center welcomes all visitors. We work to assist visitors with disabilities in obtaining reasonable and appropriate accommodations, and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities. We welcome visitors in wheelchairs on the deck of our USS Requin (SS 481) submarine. Below-deck visits require full mobility. Hearing assistance devices are available for The Rangos Giant Cinema. Please ask when you buy your ticket.

Please note that requests for accommodations should be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. For specific questions about wheelchairs, strollers, or other programmatic or equipment needs, see the ticket counter located on the first floor of the main building or contact Customer Service at 412.237.1641 or info@carnegiesciencecenter.org. Please contact Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh’s Accessibility Coordinator with concerns regarding accessibility for visitors with disabilities at the museums. On weekdays, call 412.622.6578 or email accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, [Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh](#) is a family of four dynamic, distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science

Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. The museums reach 1.5 million people a year through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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