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PRESS RELEASE

Columbia Memorial Space Center to receive \$1M in Federal Funding

Downey, CA, January, 05 2023:

The City of Downey's Columbia Memorial Space Center has been awarded \$1 Million through a government spending bill approved by President Biden last week. The funding will allow the space center to grow its programming and complete the 2nd building expansion to house the Space Shuttle mock-up, *Inspiration*, the full-sized engineering prototype of the spacecraft that was created 50 years ago and is considered the first shuttle ever built.

"With this generous support from Congresswoman Roybal-Allard, the Space Center is excited to be able to build the next generation of awe-inspiring learning experiences for our communities to engage with. We very much appreciate this opportunity to evolve the Space Center's role as a vital resource for the public and for the Congresswoman's continued championing of our mission to ignite communities of creative and critical thinkers," said President and Executive Director Ben Dickow. "She was responsible for getting the Space Center off the ground nearly 20 years ago and is now at the forefront of launching it to its next level. We will always be deeply thankful for her and look forward to welcoming her to the new building!"

"This fantastic opportunity will enable us to continue bringing STEM activities and education to our region's youth. The funding will help us reach many more children and their families. We are grateful to Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard for her steadfast commitment to our city and for making this possible." said Mayor Claudia M. Frometa. "Since the Space Center opened its doors, it has brought the wonders of space education to Southeast LA. This funding will bring even more memorable, hands-on learning for children across the region."

This contribution will help the Space Center further its goal of displaying the Shuttle mock-up in a state-of-the-art building open to the public. The Columbia Memorial Space Center has a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation, the *Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center Foundation*, that is actively working to fully fund the building For

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

information on how to support the Space Center's mission and donate to the 501 (c)(3), contact President and Executive Director Ben Dickow at (562) 291-1200 or bdickow@downeyspacecenter.org

To learn more about the Columbia Memorial Space Center, please visit www.columbiaspacescience.org.

ABOUT THE COLUMBIA MEMORIAL SPACE CENTER

The Columbia Memorial Space Center is a space museum and hands-on STEM learning center located south of downtown LA in Downey, CA, on the former site where all of NASA's Apollo spacecraft and Space Shuttles were designed and built. The mission of the Space Center is to ignite a community of critical and creative thinkers. The center includes LA's only public robotics lab and Southern California's only Challenger Learning Center, a one-of-a-kind space mission simulator. Through engaging programs, world-class exhibits, and unique events, the Space Center strives to be the most accessible STEM opportunity in Southern California.

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