



WEEKLY "NIGHTLIFE" EVENTS AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WILL LAUNCH ON FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Every Thursday, patrons age 18 and over will be able to experience the museum at night

SAN FRANCISCO (December 11, 2008) – On Thursday, February 12, 2009, the California Academy of Sciences will launch NightLife, a weekly evening event that blends science, music, cocktails and food in a one-of-a-kind museum setting. The events will run from 6-10pm, and will be open to adults ages 18 and up.

Every Thursday, after the Academy closes, the museum will be transformed into a lively venue filled with provocative science, music, mingling, and cocktails, as visitors get a chance to explore the museum at night. Each week, entertainment and a bar stocked with food and drinks available for purchase will be set up in a given area of the museum; the locations of the bar and entertainment will rotate on a regular basis, placing the pulse of the party in different locations throughout the year. However, the entire museum will be open for exploration every week. Each event will also feature engaging activities and chances to interact with scientists and other experts. Activities will vary week to week, and will include stargazing, science cafes, informal talks by scientists, opportunities to meet aquarium animals, and more.

The science content in NightLife will delve into some of the most important topics of our time, bringing cutting edge research to visitors in an informal, social environment. Each quarter, the focus of that content will rotate – the themes in 2009 will be Evolution, Sustainability, Climate Change & Space, and Explorers.

NightLife's launch on February 12 also marks the start of EVOLVE 2009, San Francisco's city-wide celebration of evolution and the Darwin anniversaries. An Om Records DJ will set the beat in the Academy's Islands of Evolution exhibit, where cocktails and food will also be available. Visitors will be able to explore the rest of the Academy's exhibits as well, from the fish, snakes and other creatures in the aquarium, to the dioramas and live penguins in African Hall. The event on February 12th will feature an informal talk, "Who was Charles Darwin?" by Keith Thompson of the University of Oxford, and Academy scientists will be on hand to show off research specimens that illustrate evolutionary concepts.

- What:** NightLife at the California Academy of Sciences
Featuring music, cutting-edge science, and food and cocktails available for purchase
NightLife is for adults ages 18 and over
- When:** Every Thursday 6-10 pm
February 12 – October 29, 2009
- Where:** The California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park
55 Music Concourse Drive, San Francisco, CA 94118
- Cost:** \$10 per person (\$8 for Academy members)
- Details:** To be included on the NightLife email list, contact nightlife@calacademy.org.
Starting in mid-January, check www.calacademy.org for a schedule of NightLife events

The California Academy of Sciences is home to Steinhart Aquarium, Morrison Planetarium, Kimball Natural History Museum, and world-class research and education programs—all under one living roof. Admission to the Academy is: \$24.95 for adults; \$19.95 for youth ages 12 to 17, Seniors ages 65+ and students with valid ID; \$14.95 for children ages seven to 11; and free for children ages six and younger. The Academy is free to the public on the third Wednesday of each month. Admission fees include all exhibits and shows. Hours are 9:30 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Saturday, and 11:00 am – 5:00 pm on Sunday. The Academy is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas. www.calacademy.org. (415) 379-8000.