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**NATIONAL FAMILY CHESS EXHIBIT MAKES ITS OPENING MOVE
AT THE WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME**

Kings, Queens & Castles Created in Collaboration with The Magic House
Opening Saturday, Oct. 31

SAINT LOUIS (Oct. 14, 2015) – Opening Saturday, Oct.31, the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) will host *Kings, Queens & Castles*, a children’s chess exhibit developed in partnership with The Magic House, St. Louis Children’s Museum. This innovative, interactive family exhibit brings the game of chess to life and provides an engaging introduction to individual chess pieces and game strategy.

“It has been a most rewarding experience to partner with the talented team at The Magic House to bring this exhibit to life,” Shannon Bailey, WCHOF chief curator, said. “The interactive and highly visual nature of the exhibit offers something for children and adults alike.”

Designed for children ages 3 to 11, the exhibit features an array of hands-on elements. A drawbridge leading to a castle greets guests, a dress-up station transforms children into royalty and life-sized chess pieces with cutouts for faces make for great photos.

“We are excited to partner with the World Chess Hall of Fame to create a nationally traveling exhibit for children designed to provide a fun, age-appropriate introduction to chess, an ageless game that develops important 21st-century skills,” said Beth Fitzgerald, president of The Magic House. “We look forward to sharing our brand of interactive learning experiences with families visiting the World Chess Hall of Fame through this unique exhibit!”

The WCHOF is the exhibit’s first stop. *Kings, Queens & Castles* will then travel to The Magic House in 2016 as well as nationally to children’s museums, libraries and other family facilities.

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Exhibit Highlights:

- Walk across a drawbridge into a medieval castle complete with turret slides and a giant chess board floor.
- Use your creativity to make a fanciful crown, then don a royal cape and sit on a majestic throne to become a king or queen.
- Design and create your own shield to become a knight.
- Build castle walls with oversized interlocking bricks.
- Play a human chess game dressed as your favorite chess piece.
- Learn how to prepare for a game by arranging a giant chess board with large-scale pieces and understand basic rules and strategies, without any prior knowledge of the game.
- Enjoy a game of chess with a friend while sitting on miniature thrones at a one-of-a-kind table.
- Take the exhibit experience home with an app that creates a personalized memory book of your visit and connects to a digital chess game.
- Exhibition-related programming including: Family Days every Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Toddler Tuesdays at 9 a.m. every Tuesday. For more information on programming, visit: <http://www.worldchesshof.org/outreach/>
- Shop gifts specifically curated for children, including custom apparel, activity books, craft projects and chess sets for all ages, both in-store and online at www.qboutiquestl.com.

***Kings, Queens & Castles* opens on Saturday, Oct. 31, and runs through Sept. 11, 2016.**

\$5 admission to *Kings, Queens & Castles*; Free for members and children under 5; Free Admission on Tuesdays; Admission to the other WCHOF exhibits is free with a suggested donation of \$5 per person. For more information, visit www.worldchesshof.org.

About the World Chess Hall of Fame

The World Chess Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization committed to building awareness for the cultural and artistic significance of chess. It opened on September 9, 2011, in the Central West End after moving from previous locations in New York and Miami. The World Chess Hall of Fame is located at 4652 Maryland Avenue, housed in an historic 15,900 square-foot residence-turned-business, and features the U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame, displays of artifacts from the permanent collection and exhibitions highlighting the great players, historic games and rich cultural history of chess. The World Chess Hall of Fame partners with the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis to provide innovative programming and outreach to local, national and international audiences.

For more information, please visit the World Chess Hall of Fame online at www.worldchesshof.org.

About The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum

The Magic House is a not-for-profit participatory museum that provides interactive learning experiences for children and families and encourages experimentation, creativity and the development of problem-solving skills within a place of beauty, wonder, joy and magic.

The Magic House is located at 516 S. Kirkwood Road, one mile north of Highway 44 in historic downtown Kirkwood.

For more information, please call 314.822.8900 or visit The Magic House online at www.magichouse.org.

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