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The Pigeon Comes to Grand Rapids! A Mo Willems Exhibit

Makes Debut at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum

[Grand Rapids, MI] August 24, 2022 – *The Pigeon Comes to Grand Rapids! A Mo Willems Exhibit* makes its debut on September 17, 2022 at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum. Co-organized by *Children's Museum of Pittsburgh* and *The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art*, the exhibit is inspired by the art and characters of the beloved children's book author and illustrator, Mo Willems.

Many familiar characters will be featured, including best friend duo Elephant and Piggie, faithful companion Knuffle Bunny, and The Pigeon, the wily city bird best known for his antics in *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* Activities will give visitors the opportunity to make art that is inspired by Mo Willems and to learn about the rich social and emotional lives of the author's characters. The exhibit will also feature prints of illustrations, including sketches and other preliminary materials, by Mo Willems.

In this play-and-learn exhibit, visitors can:

- Have a hilarious conversation in the voices of Elephant Gerald and Piggie at a double-sided phone booth.
- Make Elephant and Piggie dance with old-time animation.
- Put on a wearable bus and take a drive around the exhibit.
- Spin the laundromat washing machine and uncover Knuffle Bunny and other surprises!
- Dress up Naked Mole Rat and send him down the runway for a one-of-a-kind fashion show.
- Stack lightweight blocks to create their own terrible monster or funny friend.
- Launch foam hot dogs at The Pigeon and play the plinko game to give the Duckling a cookie.
- Try out art techniques that Mo uses for his own books.





Interested in sponsoring this exhibit? Reach out to Ryan Huizenga, Director of Partnership & Events at rhuizenga@grcm.org. ***The Pigeon Comes to Grand Rapids! A Mo Willems Exhibit*** will be on display at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum through January 8, 2023.

The Grand Rapids Children's Museum is open Tuesdays from noon-7pm. Every second Tuesday of the month, the museum is open from 9am-noon for members-only play. The museum is open to the public Thursday from noon-7pm, Friday and Saturday from 9am-4pm, and Sunday from noon-4pm. Regular admission is \$10.00 per person and \$9.00 for ages 65+. Admission for teachers and active military members is \$8.00. Through Museums for All, admission for EBT and WIC cardholders is \$1.75 per person for up to 12 people per card. GRCM members and children under 1 are free! GRCM is a non-profit organization located at 11 Sheldon Avenue NE in downtown Grand Rapids. For more information and daily schedule of programming and events, please visit grcm.org.

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About Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh provides innovative and inclusive museum experiences that inspire kindness, joy, creativity and curiosity for all learners. We forge connections with artists, community partners and neighbors to work on behalf of children, youth and families. Permanent hands-on, interactive exhibit areas include The Studio, Theater, Waterplay, Kindness Gallery, Backyard and MAKESHOP®. The Museum was voted one of the nation's 10Best Museums for Families in USA Today's Reader's Choice Contest in 2022. The Children's Museum is open daily from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for children 2-18 and senior citizens. Children under two are free. The Museum is located on Pittsburgh's historic North Side at 10 Children's Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. For more information, please call (412) 322-5058 or visit the Museum website, www.pittsburghkids.org. Follow us on [Facebook.com/pittsburghkids](https://www.facebook.com/pittsburghkids) / [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/pghkids) and [Twitter @pghkids](https://twitter.com/pghkids)

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

The mission of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, a non-profit organization in Amherst, MA, is to inspire a love of art and reading through picture books. A leading advocate in its field, The Carle collects, preserves, presents, and celebrates picture books and picture book illustrations from around the world. In addition to underscoring the cultural, historical, and artistic significance of





picture books and their art form, The Carle offers educational programs that provide a foundation for arts integration and literacy.

Eric and Barbara Carle founded the Museum in November 2002. Eric Carle is the renowned author and illustrator of more than 70 books, including his classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The Carle houses more than 11,000 objects, including 7,300 permanent collection illustrations, three art galleries, an art studio, a theater, picture book and scholarly libraries, and educational programs for families, scholars, educators, and schoolchildren. Educational offerings include professional training for educators around the country and four onsite graduate programs in Children's Literature in collaboration with Simmons College. For further information, visit the Museum's website at www.carlemuseum.org.

About Mo Willems

Mo Willems is an author, illustrator, animator, and playwright. He was the inaugural Kennedy Center Education Artist-in-Residence (2019-2022), and he continues to collaborate in creating fun new stuff involving classical music, opera, comedy concerts, dance, painting, and digital works with the National Symphony Orchestra, Washington National Opera, Ben Folds, Yo-Yo Ma, and others. Willems is best known for his #1 *New York Times* bestselling picture books, which have been awarded three Caldecott Honors (*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, *Knuffle Bunny*, *Knuffle Bunny Too*), two Theodor Geisel Medals, and five Geisel Honors (The *Elephant & Piggie* series).

Mo's art has been exhibited around the world, including major solo retrospectives at the High Museum (Atlanta) and the New-York Historical Society (NYC). Over the last decade, Willems has become the most produced playwright of Theater for Young Audiences in America, having written or co-written four musicals based on his books.

He began his career as a writer and animator on PBS' *Sesame Street*, where he garnered six Emmy Awards (writing). Other television work includes two series on Cartoon Network: *Sheep in the Big City* (creator + head writer) and *Codename: Kids Next Door* (head writer). Mo is creating new TV projects for HBOMax, where his live action-comedy special *Don't Let the Pigeon Do Storytime!* currently streams. Upcoming projects include an animated rock opera special based on *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* and a series based on his *Unlimited Squirrels* books.

His papers reside at Yale University's Beinecke Library.

