

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEMORIAL HALL (FINALLY) TAKES A BATH:

Cleaning crews wash 131 years' worth of the dirt from historic landmark

WHAT: Restoration of Please Touch Museum's future home at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park is currently in full force. The exterior of this National Historic Landmark is being returned to its original glory, as crews wash more than a century's worth of dirt from the exterior granite walls of the 131-year-old structure.

Meanwhile, the foundation of a new Carousel House has been set next to Memorial Hall. Inside, scaffolding is in place, and restoration of the Great Hall's crumbling, decorative plaster and paint is currently in progress.

WHEN: Monday, April 23
Media visits are encouraged from 10 a.m. to noon

WHERE: Memorial Hall
4231 N. Concourse Drive
Philadelphia, Pa.

ABOUT: One of America's first examples of Beaux-Arts architecture, Memorial Hall was constructed to be the Art Gallery of the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, the 100th birthday celebration of the United States. It served as the city's art museum until the Philadelphia Museum of Art opened in 1928, and was later the home of the Fairmount Park Commission. It had fallen into disrepair in recent years, but is currently being restored to serve as the new Please Touch Museum, scheduled to open in fall 2008. Memorial Hall will provide a truly unique children's museum with 36,000 square feet of new exhibits (more than triple the current 11,000), a newly restored carousel, new exhibits, parking and a restaurant.

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Please Touch Museum – Celebrating 30 Years of Learning Through Play – 1976-2006

Please Touch Museum® is dedicated to enriching the lives of children by providing learning opportunities through play. Recognized locally and nationally as one of the best children's museums, Please Touch is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$9.95 for adults and children age one and over. Children under one are free. For more information, please call 215-963-0667, visit our web site at www.pleasetouchmuseum.org or email us info@pleasetouchmuseum.org.