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AMEREN POWERS UP “STEM” PROGRAMS AT THE MAGIC HOUSE

Grant Promotes Learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

ST LOUIS (October 25, 2017) – The Magic House recently received a \$20,000 grant from Ameren Corporation Charitable Trust to provide educational field trips and outreach programs focused on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to students from underserved areas of the St. Louis community. The grant will enable The Magic House to provide free field trips to the Children’s Village Electric Company as well as other STEM learning environments in the Museum; present STEM-related outreach programs to schools, libraries and community centers throughout Ameren’s service area; and offer STEM family nights at the Museum to underserved schools.

The Magic House offers guided field trip programs on STEM topics such as *Wonder Works*, which introduces STEM learning concepts to young children through exploration and play; *Design Challenge*, which engages students in problem-based learning; *Dinosaur Train*, where students learn basic concepts in life science and natural history; and *Towers of Tomorrow*, where children work together to build a futuristic metropolis with over 200,000 LEGO bricks. For students unable to come to the Museum, The Magic House visits them with hands-on outreach programs in their own classrooms delivered in the Museum’s “Magic on the Move” van powered by Ameren. These include *Watt’s Up with Electricity?*, an investigation of electricity and magnetism; *Force and Motion*, which brings Newton’s laws to life; *WaterWorks*, which explores the properties of water;

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Saving the Great Outdoors, which illustrates the impact of human activity on the environment; *Binary, Bits and Bytes*, a primer on binary code; and *Backyard Bugs*, an introduction to insects and science process skills. All programs satisfy state standards, and provide free access to the Museum's resources.

The grant will provide free STEM learning opportunities during the 2018 school year and has the potential to reach more than 5,000 students.

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

The Magic House is a not-for-profit participatory museum that provides hands-on 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. Regular Museum admission is \$11 per person. Children under the age of one are free.

The Magic House is located at 516 S. Kirkwood Road, one mile north of Highway 44 in historic downtown Kirkwood. Hours during the school year are Tuesday through Thursday, 12:00 pm to 5:30 pm; Friday, 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm; and Sunday, 11:00 am to 5:30 pm. The Museum is closed on Mondays during the school year. Parking is always free at The Magic House. For more information, please call 314.822.8900 or visit The Magic House online at www.magichouse.org.

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