

# WITTE MUSEUM

## MEDIA CONTACTS

Jim Dalglish: 210.357.1870

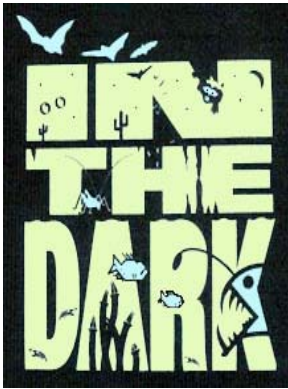
[jimdalglish@wittemuseum.org](mailto:jimdalglish@wittemuseum.org)

Shannon H. Standley: 210.357.1876

[shannonstandley@wittemuseum.org](mailto:shannonstandley@wittemuseum.org)

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## Discover the World of Things That *'Go Bump in the Night'* at the Witte Museum



SAN ANTONIO—Discover the fascinating world of things that *'go bump in the night'* at *Discovering Hidden Worlds: In The Dark*, on view in the Witte Museum's Kathleen and Curtis Gunn Gallery **February 11 through May 29, 2006**.

*Discovering Hidden Worlds* is comprised of five exciting areas enabling visitors to walk through and experience the dark, unknown environments on earth. Peek into the unknown and see what is really happening! Utilizing life-size dioramas, interactive elements, mechanical displays, chemical experiments, specimens and informational panels, this exhibition stimulates visitors' senses in each of the dark ecosystems.

Walk through diverse environments to encounter animals that appear in **Darkness of Night**. Visitors travel through a forest in the Great Smokey Mountains to see a Barred Owl, Spotted Skunk, Bobcat, Flying Squirrel and even Salamanders as they search for food. A visit to the Sonoran Desert allows visitors to watch bats feed on night-blooming cacti. The interactive games "The Viper Game" and "Flashers of the Night" allow visitors to learn how to hunt as snakes and what firefly's signals mean.

Dig into **Darkness within the Soil** to see what lives below the soil and examine what thrives just below the earth's surface. Discover the relationships of the world's underground ecosystem and the life above ground. Visitors will be submerged through a diorama of a typical backyard to learn about the animals that call this area home. Become a termite and travel into your underground colony to find food and the queen through the interactive game "Robomite."

Then, head to **Darkness Deep within Caves** where visitors are shown the natural process that allows caves to form. With dioramas of both open and "closed" caves, visitors see the difference between each unique environment. The slow process of formation is as unique as the organisms that live within the depths of a cave. In the interactive computer game "Look What I Hear," visitors simulate how bats find their way out of a cave using sound. By pretending to be a cave-dwelling creature, visitors utilize "A Cave Dweller's Survival Guide" to improve their chances for survival.

Dive into **Darkness of the Deep Sea** where the exhibition takes visitors off dry land and into the exciting regions of the sea. Visitors are shown two types of sea environments: a deep sea *vent field* and the *open sea*. In the *vent field*, life begins with bacteria, while life in the *open sea* is dependent on photosynthetic

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plankton. In an interactive experience “Keep on the Level,” visitors stand on a balancing device, similar to the body design of a jellyfish. Discover a special organ called the statocyst that helps the jellyfish move its floppy body in a balanced way through the darkness of the ocean.

Finally, discover **Darkness and Humans**. This exciting section tells visitors about how past and present humans interact with dark environments and how those interactions affect each ecosystem. Hear stories of different cultures and how they interpret night and darkness, see how animals such as dolphins, bats and owls survive in dark conditions, and engage in “Dare to Compare,” which shows human technological advances in dealing with the dark such as sonar, radar and image enhancers. Visitors can also learn the Braille alphabet and then answer trivia questions written in Braille.

*Discovering Hidden Worlds: In The Dark* is developed by Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal and generously supported by Grande Communications, Mrs. Fritzi Abbott, Natural Bridge Caverns and the Joan and Herb Kelleher Charitable Foundation. There is a \$2 surcharge for this exhibit. For more information call the Witte Museum at 210.357.1900 or visit [www.witemuseum.org](http://www.witemuseum.org).

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