

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ALDEN B. DOW MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ART ACCEPTS DONATION OF NEW AQUARIUM**

MIDLAND – The **Alden B. Dow Museum of Science & Art** at Midland Center for the Arts welcomes over 100 scaly residents to its new **450-gallon saltwater aquarium**. The recently installed aquatic habitat will delight all visitors to Midland Center for the Arts, and is made possible through a generous donation from **David & Patti Kepler** of Midland.

The project includes the tank, wooden case, over 100 tropical fish, the necessary habitat (coral, rocks and plants) and equipment (filters, aerators and internet connection to enable 24/7 remote monitoring of the aquarium by an expert). Professional saltwater aquarium contractor Pier 701 has been hired to execute the project, as well as handle day-to-day care of the exhibit.

Did you know that this is the largest salt water aquarium open for public viewing in the Great Lakes Bay Region? The public is invited to stop in and say "hi" to our new fishy friends any time during building hours – free & open to the public, it is located near the Information Desk!

Beautiful? Yes! But it's not just a pretty face: the new fish tank teaches visitors about marine flora and fauna! MCFTA and the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library are teaming up to research information about the tank and its inhabitants. Information panels will be coming soon. Come discover facts about the fishes' home regions, ecology, habitat, food, symbiotic relationships and more! Visit often, because these panels will be replaced periodically to create an ever-changing learning experience!

"We are very excited, inspired and humbled by the generosity of David and Patti Kepler in making this spectacular aquatic showpiece a reality," remarks Bruce Winslow, Museum Director. "The Keplers have a long history of contributing to the Museum and the Center in many ways: as benefactors, civic leaders, volunteers and in advisory capacities. They are such a community-minded couple; their spirit of giving will touch the hearts and imaginations of countless visitors and children for years to come!"

"The aquarium's warmth, color and the gentle movements of the fish create a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere in our lobby," says Mike Hayes, President and CEO. "This very generous gift will enhance each guest's visit, whether they are in the building to experience the Museum's exhibitions, attending a lecture or waiting for a performance."

The Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art (ABDM) provides a forum to engage the people of mid-Michigan in the constructive and creative expressions found in science and in art. Exhibitions in the Museum, classes at the Museum School, multiple outreach programs, a permanent collection and various special events are all components in the ABDM programming.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, Center Stage Theatre, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, and Music Society – Choral. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at [www.mcfta.org](http://www.mcfta.org).

Contact:

Julie Dukes  
Communications Manager  
(989) 631-5930 x 1602  
dukes@mcfta.org

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Midland Center for the Arts • 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd. • Midland, MI 48640 • (989) 631-5930 • (989) 631-7890 fax • [www.mcfta.org](http://www.mcfta.org)