

Disney confirms long-awaited *Star Wars* plans

D23 was a big weekend for Disney after the company announced details for its first Marvel attraction, a *Toy Story*-themed expansion at Hollywood Studios and the long-rumoured plans for a *Star Wars* land at two of its parks.

Speaking at Disney's biennial D23 Expo in Anaheim, California, company CEO Bob Iger called the *Star Wars* expansion "the next chapter in the long and exciting history between Disney parks and *Star Wars*."

The largest land expansion in Disney's history, the 56,655sq m (609,840sq ft) *Star Wars* Land will make its debut at Florida's Hollywood



Included in the expansion will be a Millennium Falcon ride

Studios and at Disneyland in California. Included in the expansion will be a Millennium Falcon ride allowing guests to

"take the controls of one of the most recognisable ships in the galaxy," the iconic cantina first seen in Episode IV and a new

ride themed to the upcoming Episode VII, putting the visitor in the middle of a climactic battle between the First Order and the Resistance. The *Star Wars* Launch Bay, recently announced for Shanghai Disneyland, will also be making its way to the US, with the attraction to open later this year and *Star Wars* Land to debut at a date still to be determined.

"We're creating a jaw dropping world that represents our largest single theme land expansion ever," said Iger. "Nothing in the land will be out of character or stray from the mythology of the *Star Wars* legend."

Continued on back cover

Boy punches hole in US\$1.5m painting

A 12-year-old boy took an unfortunate tumble into a 17th-century still life, puncturing the canvas with his hand as he tried to steady himself.

The incident, which happened at an exhibition in the Huashan 1914 art district in Taipei, Taiwan, left a fist-sized hole in the painting. The work itself, *Still Life of Flowers* by Italian baroque artist Paolo Porpora, dates at around 1660 and is valued at US\$1.5m (£950,000, €1.3m). The boy and his family have not been charged for the damage.

More: http://lei.sr?a=N2n8A_A

Italian museum sector gets major govt shakeup

After announcing plans in January for a historic shakeup of its museum sector, Italy's Culture Ministry has appointed a number of foreign museum directors to prominent roles for the first time in the country's history.

Among the 20 appointments, seven foreign directors have been given new roles with the hope of kicking Italy's stuttering museums into gear. In addition, 13 Italians have been appointed with four returning to the country after working in similar positions abroad.

"We are turning a page," said Dario Franceschini, Italy's culture and tourism minister. "With these appointments,



Florence's Gallerie degli Uffizi

Italy's museums will make up for lost decades. It is a historic step for Italy and its museums that will establish the basis for a modernisation of our museum system."

More: http://lei.sr?a=v4z4y_A

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Cairns Aquarium's AU\$50m development finally set to start after months of delays

Appointment of a main contractor to build a AU\$50m (US\$36.4m, €33.2m, £23.3m) aquarium in Cairns, Queensland, will be announced later this month after a detailed design and engineering phase was finally completed.

Originally slated to open in July 2016, the planned aquarium and research centre in the Australian city gained initial approval in February, but a lack of parking spots proved a challenge which almost sunk the project.

Designed by Peddle Thorp Architects in association with Architects Ellick and Partners, the



The design is made up of a series of 'tectonic plates'

three-storey, 10,000sq m (107,600sq ft) development will be home to more than 5,000 living creatures endemic to Australia's Great Barrier Reef and surrounding Wet Tropics Rainforests.

Among the planned exhibitions are a two million litre Oceanarium, which will be home to Australia's only school of scalloped hammerhead sharks.

More: http://lei.sr?a=C5F3N_A

Legoland Florida and Travelex reach deal to list Lego currency on exchange

Legoland Florida is the first theme park to have its in-park currency officially listed on an exchange after agreeing a deal with Travelex.

People will be able to purchase Legoland Dollars from the global foreign exchange company after the theme park and resort entered into an exclusive partnership with Travelex to add the Lego currency on its exchange boards at 55 Travelex locations.

Available at an exchange rate of 1:1 with the US dollar exchange, Legoland Dollars will be available for purchase at the selected Travelex locations for the busy summer season.



Lego dollars can be exchanged in locations across the US

If guests purchase 50 Legoland Dollars (US\$50, €45.78, £32.21), they will receive an additional US\$39.25 (€35.94, £25.29) in value, with free parking, passes for the Legoland

Water Park and an order of the resorts Granny's Apple Fries included. Legoland Dollars can be spent at any of the resort's restaurants, concessions and retail outlets.

More: http://lei.sr?a=v6n9R_A

Banksy debuts dystopian Dismaland attraction

Urban artist Banksy has created a twisted version of a Disney theme park, which made its debut as a pop-up visitor attraction in Weston-super-Mare, England last month.

The subversive theme park-cum-art exhibition has been built over the past several months under the guise of a movie set at the 10,200sq ft (950sq m) abandoned Tropicana lido, with signs at the site indicating Grey Fox Production were shooting at the site.

A sinister twist on Disneyland, the set includes an alternate version to the iconic Disney castle, a horse-like sculpture, an S-shaped 18-wheeler and an array of other odd artworks. Dismaland attractions include “Mini Gulf”, “Guerilla Island” and “Cinderella’s Castle”. Live comedy and music is also planned, with the band *Massive Attack* (from nearby Bristol) and Russian feminist punk act *Pussy Riot* among those set to play in the coming weeks.

A long list of participating contemporary artists from around the world have contributed, including



Dismaland strictly prohibits entry to ‘legal representatives of the Walt Disney Corporation’

famed BritArt pioneer Damien Hirst and scaffolding sculptor Ben Long.

Anyone planning to visit the attraction should note that the website’s small

print states that Dismaland strictly prohibits entry to “legal representatives of the Walt Disney Corporation.”

More: http://lei.sr?a=z8b8B_A

Murder mystery VR feature film lets you choose your own adventure

Click and point adventures are taking a revolutionary new step forward with the debut of the world’s first virtual reality (VR) choose-your-own-adventure feature film.

MansLaughter, created specifically for Samsung’s Gear VR headset, puts viewers at the scene of a murder, letting them choose how the story in front of their eyes unfolds in a completely immersive virtual world. In the concept, time is collapsed and four scenes (that would otherwise happen on different days in the real world) are happening simultaneously around the viewer.



MansLaughter puts viewers at the scene of a murder

Still in the early stages, several companies are currently developing cameras capable of shooting films for virtual reality. *MansLaughter* doesn’t use a 360 degree

concept possible with VR cameras, rather opting for the four simultaneous but separate scenes and letting viewers choose the way they take in the story.

More: http://lei.sr?a=v7Y2s_A



The exhibit will continuously change

Snoopy Museum coming to Tokyo in 2016

A museum chronicling the history of Snoopy and the rest of the *Peanuts* gang is coming to Tokyo in March next year.

The second such museum worldwide after the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa, California, Snoopy Museum Tokyo will open in the Japanese capital’s Roppongi shopping and entertainment district for two-and-a-half years.

The main exhibits will be the works of Schulz, who died in 2000 and was the writer and illustrator of *Peanuts*.

More: http://lei.sr?a=E9T9B_A

Toledo Zoo drafts US\$94.25m 10-year masterplan

Following a US\$25m (€21.5m, £16.4m) renovation of its aquarium earlier this year, Toledo Zoo has drafted a US\$94.25m (€86m, £60.8m) masterplan which, if approved, would be implemented over the next 10 years to modernise the Ohio visitor attraction.

The newly-drafted plan is dependant on voter approval of a capital levy renewal, to raise an initial US\$67.5m (€61.5m, £43.4m) beginning in 2017, with the draft to be placed on public ballot in November.

First on the agenda is a renovation of the zoo's Africa! exhibit to start next month, with the main feature being the addition of an aerial obstacle course with a zip line above the enclosures.

The most significant development in the masterplan will be the US\$30m (€27.3m, £19.3m) river exhibit. Included will be an expansion of the zoo's Hippoquarium. The river aquarium will also feature an outdoor brown bear exhibit, which will use an underground tunnel for visitors to pop up into viewing domes right in the centre of the enclosure.



Included in the masterplan will be an expansion of the Toledo Zoo's Hippoquarium

A representative for the zoo confirmed to *AM2* that at this stage no architects or engineers have been appointed to the masterplan, which is "in the very

beginning stages", and that the zoo is now "in the process of raising funds in order to move forward with the project."

More: http://lei.sr?a=Z3a6p_A



The exhibition comprises 40 items

Footballer Ryan Giggs gets career retrospective

The Manchester United Museum has launched an exhibition dedicated to the career of legendary player and current club assistant manager, Ryan Giggs.

Celebrating Giggs' illustrious career, the new retrospective enables fans to view some of the former footballer's most prized and treasured possessions for the very first time.

Ryan Giggs: The Man For All Seasons is open to visitors to the Manchester United Museum and Tour until June 2016.

More: http://lei.sr?a=h7h9k_A

Saban Brands' Power Rangers experience debuts in Dubai Mall

Millennium Entertainment International and Saban Brands have teamed up to bring a *Power Rangers* experience to The Dubai Mall.

Marking the brand's first presence in Dubai, the experience includes a *Power Rangers* Academy training session for children, an interactive live performance from the *Power Rangers* themselves and a *Power Rangers* memorabilia exhibition looking back at the history of the 22-year-old IP.

"Saban's *Power Rangers* is a global phenomenon with more than two decades of success and an enormous international fan base," said Gustavo Antonioni,



The Power Rangers first hit TV screens in 1993

managing director of consumer products,

"We are excited to bring an immersive, live experience to fans in new markets."

"MEI is thrilled to be working with Saban's

Power Rangers to bring this powerhouse brand to a wider audience across the Middle East and Europe," added Nick Larkin, chief dreamer at MEI.

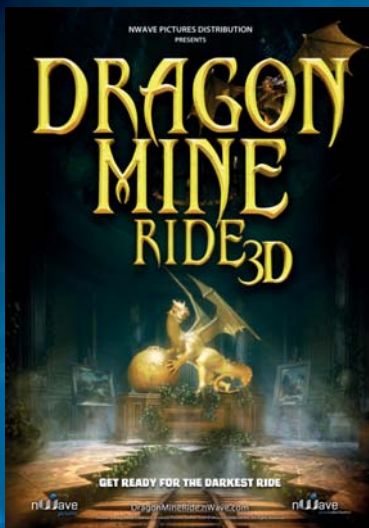
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Ibiza warehouse becomes contemporary gallery

A former salt depository has become one of Ibiza's most prominent art galleries after renowned New York-based collector Lio Malca converted the former warehouse into a contemporary arts venue.

Known as La Nave, the 8,000sq ft (743sq m) conversion on the south-east coast of Ibiza – founded by the Colombian-born Malca who also runs a modern and contemporary art gallery in New York – debuted with an exhibition profiling Brooklyn artist Kaws.

"Ibiza has been welcoming people from all over the world, including international art collectors," said Malca, who privately funded the renovation project and secured sponsorship from companies, including AirEuropa.

"I have been visiting Ibiza for 10 years and from day one wondered how I could give back to the island and La Nave is one of the answers – I felt it was the right time and space to make these pieces accessible to the public," he continued.

"My vision is to create an exhibition space that aims to not only be a celebration



The gallery debuted with an exhibition profiling Brooklyn artist Kaws

of the artwork it will showcase, but also to celebrate the island of Ibiza itself."

Aside from its vibrant clubbing scene, Ibiza is becoming somewhat of an arts

location, with Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberté notably running an exhibition venue on the island called Lune Rouge.

More: http://lei.sr?a=F4Y7F_A



Thomas is worth £1bn worldwide

World's largest Thomas Land comes to Edaville

Thomas the Tank Engine has steamed his way into Edaville with the largest Thomas Land attraction in the world.

Opened on 15 August and boasting 11 rides based on the popular children's IP, the HIT Entertainment-licensed Thomas Land near Boston, Massachusetts, covers 500,000sq ft (46,500sq m). It includes a 20-minute scenic train ride on a life-sized Thomas locomotive, as well as a Thomas rollercoaster, drop tower, ferris wheel and a soft-play area.

More: http://lei.sr?a=H8B4z_A

Nottingham chooses consortium to develop Sherwood Forest visitor centre

Continuum Leading Attractions is teaming up with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to build and operate a new visitor centre in the heart of Sherwood Forest Country Park, the home of the legendary Robin Hood.

The RSPB – one of the UK's leading nature conservation charities – and Continuum have been selected by Nottinghamshire County Council for the £5.3m (US\$8.3m, €7.4m) investment, which forms part of the Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve (NNR).

Realisation of the visitor centre is still a few years



Sherwood Forest is home to the legendary Robin Hood

away, with the new facility and visitor experience celebrating the woodland, wildlife and heritage of the site, notably the legend of Robin Hood. As part of the agreement with

the council, the management contract requires the preferred bidder to deliver on effective conservation of the country park within the wider NNR.

More: http://lei.sr?a=3d4Q6_A



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**AMC Metreon IMAX Theatre,
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The four-day event attracts hundreds of delegates for film screenings, professional development, technical sessions and a trade show. Between 9-11 September, attendees will view the latest new films, see what's in the production pipeline and gain insight from industry leaders. The trade show allows visitors to meet with distributors, manufacturers, and service providers. On 12 September, GSCA will host film screenings on the dome and sessions devoted to dome theaters at the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, California.

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26 SEPTEMBER 2015

MuseumNext Indianapolis Indianapolis Museum of Art, US

In September 2015, the incredibly popular MuseumNext conference will come to the US for the first time, bringing with it exploratory talks on engaging visitors with new technology and industry trends.

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The event will take place inside the expanded Al Ain Zoo

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WAZA Annual Conference Sheikh Zayed Desert Learning Centre, Al Ain, UAE

The 70th annual World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) conference follows the theme of

"Zoos and Aquariums making a difference in Conservation and Animal welfare". More than 300 WAZA representatives are expected to attend.

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There will be more than 90 stands bringing the latest practice, technology and hardware from suppliers and consultants.

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Rides can also be retrofitted with the new technology

Huss Park tests VR for enhanced ride experiences

German amusement ride manufacturer Huss Park Attractions GmbH has developed a high performance virtual reality (VR) system to add new optional ride experiences to its attractions.

Created for use on non-coaster attractions, the first tests of the system took place recently during an event with special guests at Djurs

Sommerland on the park's HUSS Viking Ship attraction.

During the event, riders wore specially designed VR headsets and were immersed into a completely different virtual environment.

With VR technology, all the motions of the ride are translated into the virtual world in real time to provide passengers with an exciting experience.



WhiteWater West has created triple Fusion Waterslide

WhiteWater introduces the first triple Fusion slide

Hasunuma Water Garden in Japan will be home to the very first triple Fusion Waterslide by WhiteWater West.

The combination of the Constrictor + Rattler + Boomerango will send guests into high-banking turns, crazy oscillations and gravity-defying wall climbs in one ride.

Not only is this waterslide the first combination of its

kind in the world, it's the first to introduce AquaLucent rings into a flume of this size. The 84' flume will be filled with dancing colours as the sun pours through the colourful rings creating a mesmerising effect that will dazzle riders.

The new waterslide at Hasunuma is being introduced to celebrate the waterpark's 40th anniversary.



Skiplax manages outlets across the UK

Skiplax plans expansion across Greater London

Skiplax is looking for five new indoor ski sites in London.

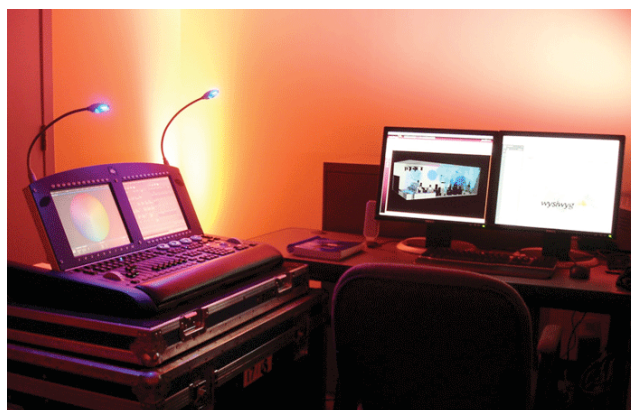
The operator, which already manages outlets in Reading, Basingstoke and Chiswick, is looking for disused office, industrial and sporting sites in North and South London.

Skiplax centres provide interactive, conveyor-belt slopes that adjust to different heights to provide intensive, instructor-led

classes for individuals and groups that are open throughout all seasons of the year.

It is seeking space between 3,000sq ft and 5,000sq ft with a minimum ceiling height of six metres (c20ft), which lends itself to change of use to D2 leisure.

The search is on for new sites and so far old tennis courts and disused sporting grounds have been identified.



The new technology creates end-to-end design

CAST offers lighting designers wysiwyg technology

Canadian-based software and hardware developer, Cast Software has developed an end-to-end design and perform tool called wysiwyg.

Wysiwyg Design Suite has been created specifically for production professionals wanting to use an all-inclusive production design tool. It offers a customised 3D CAD application

with complete equipment libraries, realtime lighting design simulation, rendering engines and an integrated paperwork database.

Wysiwyg Design allows users of the new technology to explore their designs in a virtual environment and use the available tools to create lighting concepts and proposals.

Christchurch Gallery to reopen in December

A gallery closed since the 2011 Christchurch earthquake will reopen to the public on 19 December after a NZ\$56.7m (US\$37.1m, €34.1m, £24m) repair project is completed.

With work scheduled to finish on 11 December, art will start to be installed in the gallery this month, once a climate control system has been running for 10 days. While the main gallery will be business as usual come December, the facility's underground car park will still be closed, as will the gallery shop and café, all of which were heavily damaged in the 6.3 magnitude quake.

Some confusion surrounding the opening date has arisen recently after Christchurch City Council said the earthquake-damaged gallery would not be reopened until the first quarter of 2016. This was however an error, according to the gallery's director, Jenny Harper, who said her team was "working round the clock" to make the December target a reality. The upgrades, budgeted by the council, include



The repairs include repair work and strengthening of the Buchan Group-designed art gallery

repair work and strengthening of the Buchan Group-designed art gallery, which has been re-levelled and retrofitted with base isolation. It's been an ongoing

task for contractors as more earthquake damage is discovered, putting pressure on finances and the project's completion date.

More: http://lei.sr?a=2A8E3_A



The government is backing the plans

Vietnam breaks ground on new science complex

Ground has been broken on the first science complex in Vietnam's Binh Dinh province, with the VND171bn (US\$7.8m, €7.1m, £5.1m) state-funded project to be open by 2017.

The 38,000sq m (409,000sq ft) development will include a planetarium, science museum and a space observatory complete with a café, library and souvenir shop.

The complex will act as a hub for scientific tourism development and "promote creativeness and passion".

More: http://lei.sr?a=M6S2h_A

Corpus Christi waterpark delay could cost property developer US\$110m

A waterpark development in Corpus Christi, Texas, is in danger of losing US\$110m (€99.2m, £70.5m) of tax-funded incentives if a decorative tower at the Schlitterbahn park isn't completed this month.

The US\$41m (€37m, £26.3m) development will feature a Bavarian-style turret at the waterpark resort's main entrance. Currently a combination of pipes, planks and metal girders, the City of Corpus Christi has told North Padre Waterpark Holding – the finance group behind the development – that the plans are close to not fulfilling



Schlitterbahn's Master Blaster will be part of the development

the terms of a set-out incentive agreement.

The City Council approved the incentive agreement for the resort in May 2012, with the first phase of the park supposed

to be complete by 24 February this year. Part of the agreement stated the the exterior must "present the appearance that the entire building is complete."

More: http://lei.sr?a=S4b2g_A

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Location: New York, United States

■ Model Designer- MMM Studios

Company: LEGOLAND Florida
Location: Florida-Winter Haven, United States

■ Operations Compliance Manager

Company: LEGOLAND California
Location: California-Carlsbad, United States

■ Director of Guest Services

Company: Paignton Zoo
Location: Paignton, United Kingdom

■ Visitor Services Team Leader

Company: The Hepworth Wakefield
Location: Wakefield

■ Retail Manager

Company: West Midland Safari & Leisure Park
Location: Worcestershire, United Kingdom

■ Visitor and Commercial Operations Manager

Company: National Trust
Location: Standen House & Garden, near East Grinstead, West Sussex, United Kingdom

■ Attractions Safety Auditor

Company: LEGOLAND Florida
Location: Florida-Winter Haven, United States

■ Front Office Manager - LEGOLAND Hotel

Company: LEGOLAND California
Location: California-Carlsbad, United States

■ Resort Marketing Manager

Company: LEGOLAND California
Location: California, United States

■ Water Park Manager

LEGOLAND Florida
Location: Florida-Winter Haven, United States

■ Duty Manager

Legoland Discovery Center Atlanta
Location: Georgia-Atlanta, United States

■ Events Lead

LEGOLAND California
Location: California-Carlsbad, United States

■ Technical Supervisor

Legoland Discovery Chicago
Location: Illinois-Schaumburg, United States

■ Marketing Associate

LEGOLAND California
Location: California-Carlsbad, United States

■ Commercial Supervisor

LEGOLAND Kansas
Location: Missouri-Kansas City, United States

■ Entertainment/Events Team Leader

Legoland Discovery Chicago
Location: Illinois-Schaumburg, United States

■ Hotel Front Office Manager

LEGOLAND Florida
Location: Florida-Winter Haven, United States

■ Customer Experience Advisors

Merlin Entertainments Group Ltd
Location: Chessington, Surrey, United Kingdom

Disney confirms Toy Story Land plans on heels of *Star Wars* announcement

Continued from front cover

In addition to unleashing the force with *Star Wars* Land on Disney's theme parks, plans have also been announced for a 44,515sq m (479,160sq ft) expansion of Hollywood Studios and the debut of Toy Story Land.

The new addition will 'shrink' visitors "to the sizes of Woody and Buzz and the other toys in Andy's collection as you explore Andy's backyard," according to Disney Imagineering's Kathy Mangum. The expansion will feature two new larger-than-life attractions, including a spinner ride themed to resemble the alien's flying saucers with



A new version of Toy Story Land is coming to California

'The Claw' hanging above, and a family rollercoaster linked to Slinky. Toy Story Land will also feature an expanded version of the Midway Mania 4D shoot 'em-up ride, already existing at Hollywood Studios.

Disney also revealed preview footage from the Iron Man ride – the first Marvel attraction to appear at a Disney park – coming to its Hong Kong theme park in Q3 2016.

More: http://lei.sr?a=C4j5Y_A

Singapore's S\$532m National Gallery sets November 2015 opening date

Singapore's National Gallery will open to the public at the end of this year with a new S\$532m (US\$379.6m, €344m, £243.7m) development housing the world's largest public collection of Singaporean and Southeast Asian art inside two of the country's most historical buildings.

Designed by Studio Milou Singapore, in partnership with CPG Consultants, National Gallery Singapore is housed within two heritage buildings in the city's Civic District. Taking up the former City Hall and Supreme Court, the 64,000sq m (689,000sq ft) development is the largest individual arts institution



15,000 golden aluminum panels connects the two buildings

in Singapore. Studio Milou's design maintains the original architecture of the heritage buildings, built in the 1950s and 1930s respectively. The practice's design integrates the two interior

areas with a reimagination of the entire space.

The gallery will be home to Singapore's national collection, which comprises more than 8,000 works.

More: <http://????????>

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