

George Lucas drops museum plans for Chicago

After nearly two years of legal disputes, George Lucas has pulled the plug on plans for his Museum of Narrative Art in Chicago, with the director now thought to be eyeing San Francisco or Los Angeles for his legacy project.

Blaming delays over a lawsuit from a parks group opposed to development along the city's waterfront, Lucas said in a statement that he would be taking the museum to his home state of California, but did not specify a location.

Los Angeles or San Francisco are the favorites for the new site, with both expressing strong interest in hosting Lucas's project when it was first revealed in 2013.



Lucas will now seek out permanent museum locations in California

In his statement, Lucas directly blamed Chicago's Friends of the Parks for suing to stop construction on what is currently

a parking lot, saying that "no one benefits from continuing [Friends of the Parks'] seemingly unending litigation to protect a parking lot."

The disputed land would have hosted a 300,000sq ft (27,870sq m) museum, with 200,000sq ft (18,600sq m) of parkland improvements. MAD Architects designed the museum and Jeanne Gang designed the parkland, though it is not known if those plans can, or indeed will, be retained following a move.

Chicago's mayor Rahm Emanuel, who was a strong supporter of the plans, called the failure to secure the museum a "missed opportunity" that would cost the city millions of dollars in economic investment, as well as thousands of jobs and educational opportunities for the city's youth. *More: http://lei.sr?a=m9h9V_A*

Aquarium to build North America's first dolphin sanctuary

Baltimore's National Aquarium has unveiled a game-changing proposal for dolphin care, with plans for North America's first ever seaside sanctuary.

Aiming to transition its colony of dolphins into the new habitat by the end of 2020, the natural enclosure will be flexible to allow for different spatial configurations to keep the dolphins engaged and able to form social groupings that suit them. Additionally the setting will provide the dolphins with opportunities to express natural behaviors while exposing them to natural elements, such as fish and marine plants, with a full-time veterinarian and on-site clinical care facilities to tend to the captive cetaceans.

The aquarium has formed a team of experts including dolphin and whale biologists who will be tasked to find a site which ensures the health and welfare of the dolphins, following a criteria which includes an outdoor location with natural seawater and a tropical or sub-tropical climate.

"We now know more about dolphins and their care, and we believe that the National Aquarium is uniquely positioned to use that knowledge to implement positive change," said John Racanelli, chief executive officer of the National Aquarium. "This is the right time to move forward with the dolphin sanctuary."

Continued on back cover



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With the sea wall now removed, the museum now gives the illusion of floating on water

Abu Dhabi Louvre hits milestone

The under-development Louvre museum in Abu Dhabi took a major step forward this month when the temporary sea wall surrounding the structure came down, flooding the area around the building.

Contractor Arabtec Holdings has removed the 14m (46ft) temporary hydraulic cutoff walls used during the main construction phase, with the sea water

now enveloping the museum, giving it the appearance of floating on water.

Water is a key part of the Jean Nouvel-designed building, with a system based on ancient Arabic engineering being used to allow water to flow between the outer areas of the museum and to the galleries inside.

More: http://lei.sr?a=x3N7Q_A

Heritage protection a 'humanitarian imperative' says UNESCO director

UNESCO's director general, Irina Bokova, has said that safeguarding of heritage sites has become a "humanitarian imperative, and a security issue".

Speaking at The Hague, Bokova said that acts of deliberate destruction of heritage sites and "cultural cleansing", which have taken place mainly in the Middle East and Africa, should be considered war crimes, stressing the need to combine 'hard power' with legislative, educational and training measures to protect shared heritage from terrorism and looting.

"Our efforts are bearing fruit. 'Blood antiquities' have been seized all across the globe, smugglers have been arrested, statues have been returned to Iraq, Libya, Egypt and Syria," said the UNESCO director general.



Bokova says UNESCO's efforts are starting to bear fruits

"The destruction of heritage is inseparable from the persecution of people. This is why we consider the protection of cultural heritage today as far more than a cultural issue. This has become a humanitarian imperative, and a security issue."

More: http://lei.sr?a=W3r7u_A

11 injured as rollercoaster derails in Scotland

Nine children and two adults have been hospitalised after Scotland's only inverted rollercoaster derailed and crashed at the M&D's theme park in Motherwell.

Five carriages on the Pinfari-manufactured Tsunami rollercoaster came off their tracks, plunging roughly 20ft (6m) to the ground and hitting the top of a child's car ride, before coming to a rest upside down, leaving riders trapped.

According to reports, three of the children are in a serious condition, while one child has been released from hospital.

Tsunami can reach speeds of up to 38mph (61kmph). The 1,148ft (350m) long and 65ft (20m) high coaster opened in 2004.

This is the second serious rollercoaster accident to happen in the UK in just over a year after the Smiler crashed at Alton Towers, injuring 16 people, four seriously.

"On arrival it became clear a series of five gondolas connected on a train on the Tsunami ride had detached from the rails, struck the superstructure and then struck the ground," said police chief inspector David



M&D's has said it is co-operating with a joint police and Health and Safety Executive investigation

Bruce, area commander for Cumbernauld. "They [the gondolas] fell less than 20 feet. It would appear that they had been coming round a bend and at that point it detached."

"As a family-run business, our thoughts are with those who have been injured and their

families. We wish everyone a full recovery," said an M&D's statement. "We are co-operating fully with Police Scotland and the Health and Safety Executive on their joint investigation to ascertain the cause of the accident."

More: http://lei.sr?a=p7M2e_A

Universal offers first look at Orlando's next generation Volcano Bay waterpark

Universal has offered a first-look at its "next-generation" Volcano Bay, promising to redefine the waterpark experience with everything from the queue line to the park's immersive theming.

Volcano Bay, which suffered a minor setback this month following a fire at the construction site, will open by 1 June 2017, according to officials.

Featuring 18 attractions across four themed areas, the 28-acre (113,000sq m) park will be anchored by a 200ft (61m) high volcano structure. Offering a fully-immersive experience, that park will feature a multi-directional wave pool, sand beaches, a lazy river travelling through the volcano's hidden caves, a family raft ride, slides coming from the top of the volcano and a brand new queuing experience



Volcano Bay has been created by Universal's in-house team

Universal says will put the focus "entirely on having fun and spending time together".

The operator has also promised "a state-of-the-art marquee attraction found only at Volcano Bay," though further details have not been revealed.

More: http://lei.sr?a=2J7w6_A



A private investor is behind the deal

MX\$250m plans approved for giant Mexico aquarium

Plans have been approved for a MX\$250m (US\$13.2m, €11.8m, £9.3m) aquarium development in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Developed by aquarium specialists Blau Life, who are also working on billionaire Carlos Slim's four-storey underground aquarium in Mexico City, the development will be one of the largest and most modern aquariums in Mexico, with more than 300 species to be exhibited.

An unnamed investor is behind the plans, who the Port Authority says specialises in such projects.

More: http://lei.sr?a=y8t2B_A

ALVA fears Brexit will create cultural funding gap

Bernard Donoghue, director of the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) has raised concerns that the UK's decision to leave the European Union (EU) could have a significant effect on funding for cultural organisations, while also painting an unwelcoming picture for inbound visitors.

Speaking to *AM2*, Donoghue addressed several issues raised as a result of the Brexit, including the fall in value of the pound and the attractiveness of Britain as a visitor destination to overseas tourists.

Addressing EU funding to the UK, Donoghue said there was potential concern for cultural organisations, urging the government to set up a plan to plug an open financial gap introduced as a result of the exit vote.

"Our arts and culture organisations in the UK are heavily dependent on EU funding for some of their capital projects and programmes," he said. "That money won't be necessarily replaced by the UK exchequer so the next couple of years are important in terms of planning to replace some of that really important income for some of our most important visitor attractions."



The UK will now miss out on culture funding from the EU, which many heavily rely upon

ALVA says it will now work with its members to ensure they know all the information that they require for future financial planning, with Donoghue also pledging to work hard with the Department

for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and VisitBritain to ensure that Britain continues to be perceived as a welcoming destination for both tourism and business.

More: http://lei.sr?a=t7N9s_A



The exhibition looks at political ads

Thinc creates politically-charged exhibition in Ohio

Thinc Design is to debut a new exhibit themed around political advertising ahead of the 2016 National Conventions for nominees to the US Presidency.

On display from 14 July through to election day on 8 November, *I Approve This Message: Decoding Political Ads* will come to the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio, focusing on how ads use imagery, music, sound effects, camerawork and words to persuade, stir emotions and capture votes, helping to sensitise visitors to the emotional impact of political ads.

More: http://lei.sr?a=C7V7N_A

Six Flags eyes further international expansion with Saudi Arabia plans

Six Flags continues to focus on its global expansion with plans to bring its theme park brand to Saudi Arabia.

Operating under a franchise model, Six Flags has seen its global footprint start to rapidly expand in 2016. The operator has already confirmed plans for Six Flags developments in Dubai, Vietnam and China, with park CEO John Duffey exclusively telling *AM2* earlier this month that those plans were the first step in building "multiple" Six Flags parks across the Middle East and Asia in the next decade.

Speaking on Arabiya TV on 20 June, Duffey confirmed plans for the company's first Saudi theme park, stating that Six Flags' parks could "provide the entertainment to which Saudis aspire."



Six Flags has shown good growth post-recession

Six Flags CEO James-Reid Anderson had previously met with prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is seeking alternative revenues for the Saudi kingdom as most of the Middle East turns its eye to tourism before its oil supplies run dry.

More: http://lei.sr?a=C4y9Y_A

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Science centres must work for social inclusion

One of Africa's leading scientists has called for science centres across the world to address a "Eurocentric model" that she says excludes many young black people from pursuing interest and potential careers in STEM subjects.

Delivering the keynote address at the Ecsite conference in Graz, Austria, Dr Elizabeth Rasekoala, president of the Pan-African Network for the Popularisation of Science and Technology (Gong) shared global science centre and science museum visitor statistics. Rasekoala said one in every 1,900 people in Africa visiting such an institution, compared to the UK, where the figure was significantly lower at one in four. According to Rasekoala, the European education system tells a similar story.

"We see European STEM education welcoming graduates from developing countries, yet they cannot deliver the same progression for local students from those same backgrounds," she said. "I found myself as a postgraduate African student dealing with a perverse dichotomy of a university department that supported me and my aspirations, and yet at a children's primary



Rasekoala addressed 1,000 Ecsite members at the annual conference taking place in Graz

school, they are deemed to be underachieving black youths who can only excel in sports and music. You are living with this sort of schizophrenia in society. How do we explain that?"

"We must adopt a transformational and dynamic, diversity, equity and

inclusion framework to be endorsed by all science centres and museums as a good practice template for their operations and to be utilised as a practical toolkit for achieving social inclusion."

More: http://lei.sr?a=s9U2q_A



Local and exotic animals will be included

Pakistan tables plan for RS4.3bn safari park

Pakistan's Punjab Wildlife and Parks Department has completed a feasibility study for the RS4.3bn (US\$41.1m, €36.4m, £28m) establishment of a National Safari Park at Salt Range Kallar Kahar in Lahore.

A project of the Pakistani government led by Punjab Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries secretary Jehanzeb Khan, the safari park will be established over 1.5sq m (4sq km), with the main objective to promote eco-tourism in the country.

More: http://lei.sr?a=b2x5B_A

Body recovered in search for missing two-year-old boy at Disney resort

Police have recovered a body in the search for a missing two-year-old who was snatched by an alligator from a Disney-owned resort.

According to Orange County police, divers found a body, who was dragged into the water on 14 June on the shoreline of the Seven Seas Lagoon at the Disney Grand Floridian Resort and Spa near Magic Kingdom.

Sheriff Jerry Demings identified the missing boy as Lane Graves from Nebraska. Following the attack, six alligators were captured and killed in the hunt for the child. The body, which was found intact, about six feet below the murky waters and only 15



A team of 50 police and wildlife experts searched for the boy

feet from where he was last seen. The man-made lagoon did feature a "no-swimming" sign but did not carry any warning of alligator attacks. Disney has since installed signs

warning visitors about alligators to promote safety.

The boy's father also sustained minor injuries, with lacerations to his arm as he attempted to save the child.

More: http://lei.sr?a=S2W4a_A

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AR company Magic Leap partners with Lucasfilm

Augmented reality (AR) startup Magic Leap has announced a strategic relationship with Lucasfilm, promising to deliver a “legacy of exploration and leadership” on the new platform for experiential storytelling.

Differing from market competitors in AR, such as Microsoft’s HoloLens, which uses a stereoscopic technique to create the illusion of a three-dimensional image, Magic Leap’s device uses its alternate mixed-reality lightfield to create a world where digital and physical seamlessly blend together.

The two companies released a proof-of-concept video, demonstrating Magic Leap’s technology using a Lucasfilm-produced *Star Wars* scene, using the AR technology to bring C3PO and R2D2 into a real-world environment.

The two companies announced they will open a joint research lab this month at the Lucasfilm San Francisco campus, combining their talents to create never-before-seen pioneering storytelling experiences in a mixed reality world.

“Magic Leap is creating a whole new medium: mixed-reality lightfields,



Shot directly through Magic Leap technology. No special effects or compositing were used in the creation of this video.

Magic Leap demonstrated its technology using a scene from *Star Wars*

designed to harness the power of your imagination and take you to places you never thought possible. Collaboration between our two companies is a perfect

fit, and I can’t wait to share the results with the world,” said Magic Leap founder, president and CEO Rony Abovitz.

More: http://lei.sr?a=m6d2N_A



Jones is the incoming board chair

Douglas S. Jones heads up AAM as new chair

The American Alliance of Museums has appointed Douglas S. Jones, director of the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, as the incoming board chair for 2016-2018.

Additionally, Chevy Humphrey, president and CEO of the Arizona Science Center, Phoenix; James Pepper Henry, executive director of the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Kelly McKinley, director, OMCA Lab, Oakland Museum of California, have been elected to the board to serve three-year terms.

More: http://lei.sr?a=d2B3R_A

Danish firm Dorte Mandrup selected for Arctic Greenland Icefjord Centre

Danish architectural firm Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter have unveiled designs for a visitor attraction designed to draw visitors to Greenland.

The proposed Icefjord Centre in Ilulissat – a town in the Qaasuitsup municipality in western Greenland – will help develop Greenland’s tourism and will demonstrate the history and culture of the ice fjord, as well as highlighting the dramatic melting of the UNESCO-protected Greenland ice sheet.

Scheduled to open in Q3 2020, the development is designed to have a minimal impact on the surrounding landscape and is a collaboration between



The site will offer views of the ice fjord and its surroundings

the Greenland Government, Qaasuitsup Municipality and philanthropic organisation Realdania.

Dorte Mandrup’s winning design stretches across the landscape, resembling

“the flight of a snowy owl”, according to the architect. Part of the existing hiking trail, the building will offer views of the ice fjord and surrounding landscape.

More: http://lei.sr?a=g2K4s_A



Uniview 3.0 is built to make live presentations easier

Sciss reveals Uniview 3.0 software for live presentations

Sciss has announced its planetarium presentation software, Uniview 3.0.

Having delivered astronomy tools and systems to planetariums, science centres, museums and educational institutions worldwide for a decade, Sciss' latest software release promises improved live presentations.

The intelligent planetarium visualisation software boasts a

new interface look along with other improvements.

Sciss says that Uniview 3.0 is built to make live-presentations easier, smoother and to decrease complexity around all other tasks that are incorporated into running a planetarium.

The Uniview Store is a new online platform where users can find content, presentations and films, on a single platform.



The first award winner will be recognised on 10 September

AIMS International launches industry safety award

AIMS International has announced an award to celebrate contributions to improving safety in the attractions industry.

AIMS – an organisation that trains and certifies ride, operations, aquatics and maintenance personnel – is calling for nominations for its inaugural winner, who will be recognised at the Golden Ticket Awards in Ohio, on 10 September 2016.

A statement from AIMS said: "With safety as the number one concern for amusement industry guests and employees worldwide, efforts in improving safety are shown in many forms: the design and implementation of new products and technology, the development of safety education programmes and training, and by exemplary leadership in influencing others."



Robe's Blade and Pointe lights were specified for the upgrade

Robe lights for Boston's TD Garden installation

Robe's moving lights were chosen as part of a lighting installation at Boston's TD Garden Arena in the US.

Home to the Boston Bruins and the Boston Celtics, the lighting upgrade was carried out by New Hampshire-based Port Lighting Systems.

The TD Garden also hosts concerts and live events and has a capacity of 19,600.

The new lighting scheme replaced the previous one installed in 2009 and is primarily used to light the pre and in-match entertainment slots and for working the crowds.

Robe's BMFL Blade was chosen as the brightest fixture currently available, supported by the extremely powerful Robe Pointe.



Little Sun co-founder Olafur Eliasson

Olafur Eliasson designs new lamps for Tivoli Gardens

Tivoli Gardens is collaborating with artist Olafur Eliasson and his Little Sun project.

In 2017, a new signature lamp, designed by Eliasson and powered by sustainable energy, will shine at Tivoli Gardens and a special Tivoli Little Sun lamp will be available in the shop for visitors to take home.

Olafur Eliasson is known for his diverse artworks and large-

scale installations, which often employ light, fog, and other ephemeral materials.

"Olafur Eliasson is an artist whose designs connect people and create a sense of wonder," said Tivoli Gardens' CEO Lars Liebst. "I am convinced that by joining forces Tivoli and Eliasson will reach new standards for amusement park design as well as sustainability at Tivoli."

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■ **General Manager**

Continuum Attractions
Salary: Competitive salary and benefits
Job location: York, United Kingdom

■ **Operations Manager**

Deen City Farm
Salary: Up to £35k pa depending on experience
Job location: London Borough of Merton, United Kingdom

■ **Facilities Team Leader**

Madame Tussauds
Salary: Competitive
Job location: New York NY, United States

■ **Human Resources Director**

Legoland
Salary: Competitive
Job location: California, United States

■ **Head of RHS Garden Rosemoor**

Royal Horticultural Society
Salary: circa £60,000pa
Job location: Torrington, United Kingdom

■ **Head of Marketing**

The Eye Brand
Salary: Competitive
Job location: Orlando, Florida, United States

■ **Visitor Services - Commercial Operations Manager**

Zoological Society of London
Salary: £33,744 pa (Inclusive London Weighting)
Job location: London - NW1, United Kingdom

■ **Studio Artist**

Madame Tussauds
Salary: Competitive
Job location: Washington, DC, United States

■ **Marketing Manager**

Legoland Discovery Centre
Salary: Competitive
Job location: Westchester NY, United States

■ **Trade Sales Coordinator**

Legoland Discovery Centre
Salary: Competitive
Job location: New York NY, United States

■ **Area Commercial Manager**

Continuum Attractions
Salary: Competitive
Job location: Field Based - North, United Kingdom

■ **Studio Artist**

Madame Tussauds
Salary: Competitive
Job location: New York, United States

■ **Studio Artist**

Madame Tussauds
Salary: Competitive
Job location: Las Vegas, United States

■ **Interim Executive Manager - Visitor Attraction**

Borde Hill Garden
Salary: £30,000 FTE
Job location: Haywards Heath

■ **Social Media Manager**

Legoland
Salary: Competitive
Job location: Florida, United States

■ **Head of Events (Maternity Cover)**

Marwell Wildlife
Salary: Competitive
Job location: Winchester, United Kingdom

■ **Commercial Manager (Community Facilities)**

Oxford City Council
Salary: £46,852 pay progression to £49,536 pa
Job location: Oxford, United Kingdom

■ **Chief Operating Officer**

Lakeland Arts Trust
Salary: £45,000 - £50,000 + benefits
Job location: Kendal and Bowness, Cumbria, United Kingdom

■ **Hylands House Manager**

Chelmsford City Council
Salary: £40,899 pa rising to £45,072
Job location: Chelmsford, United Kingdom

■ **Customer Champion Outbound**

The Rank Group.
Salary: Competitive
Job location: Sheffield, United Kingdom, United Kingdom

■ **Guest and Membership Services Area Lead**

Legoland
Salary: Competitive
Job location: California, United States

For more details on the above jobs visit www.am2.jobs

Orca sanctuaries would be unsafe for animals, says SeaWorld CEO Manby

Continued from front cover

SeaWorld CEO Joel Manby has addressed the possibility of seaside sanctuaries for its whales, stating that the “experiment” by Baltimore’s National Aquarium could cause health problems.

Speaking during a shareholder meeting, Manby said that SeaWorld had the “utmost respect” for the National Aquarium, adding that they would be providing the highest level of care for the cetaceans when they move.

“We certainly know they’re going to take into account what we think are some health challenges of taking dolphins born and raised in an aquarium and placing



Sea pens are an alternate solution for keeping captive orcas

them in an unfamiliar ocean environment,” said Manby. “We know they intend to pursue this experiment in a very mindful way and to monitor the health of their dolphins as they move them.

“Could it be done to move whales to sea cages? Yeah, it technically could be done but is it the safest thing for our animals? We do not believe it is.”

More: http://lei.sr?a=x8C4d_A

Grey skies fail to deter visitors from grand opening of Disneyland Shanghai

Despite a rain-dampened day, visitors turned up in their droves for the fairytale opening of Disney’s Shanghai resort, which CEO Bob Iger hailed as an “incredible opportunity” for the company.

The resort is a joint venture between Disney and the state-owned Shendi Group, which owns a 57 per cent stake in the attraction, meaning Disney will earn a 43 per cent share of park revenue.

“This is one of the proudest and most exciting moments in the history of the Walt Disney Company,” said Iger, speaking at the official ribbon cutting ceremony. “It’s an incredible opportunity.”

The park represents Disney’s first venture into mainland China, which



Grey skies complicated proceedings on the park’s opening day

Chinese president Xi Jinping heralded as a sign of China’s “commitment to cross-cultural cooperation.”

The US\$5.5bn (€5bn, £3.8bn) theme park and resort features Disney’s

biggest castle, two hotels and six themed lands: Adventure Isle, Gardens of Imagination, Mickey Avenue, Tomorrowland, Treasure Cove and Fantasyland.

More: http://lei.sr?a=E3g3b_A

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