



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nature Museum Elects Stephen Ferrara as New Board of Trustees Chairman

CHICAGO (July 1, 2009) – The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum’s Board of Trustees elected Stephen R. Ferrara as its new Chairman. Steve has been on the Nature Museum Board for five years, where he most recently served as Secretary. He succeeds Charles Douglas, Chairman of the Management Committee at Sidley Austin, who served in that position since 2005.

“I am honored to have been elected to this role,” Ferrara said. “I look forward to building on the work of my esteemed predecessors and leading the Board during this exciting time of growth at the Nature Museum.”

Mr. Ferrara is the Assurance Services Regional Business Line Leader for BDO Seidman, LLP in Chicago. BDO Seidman, LLP has long supported the Nature Museum through the Butterfly Ball. Steve’s wife, Diana, has also generously given her time and resources to the Nature Museum by serving on the Butterfly Ball Committee in 2009.

Steve brings to the Board more than 25 years of diversified business experience working in both public accounting and the industry. He is an active member of several business organizations including the Illinois CPA Society, Economic Club and the Young Presidents Organization. He also serves on the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee for the Chicago Business Forum. He has previously served on the boards of other organizations in the Chicagoland area.

The Board of Trustees is the governing organization of the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. The 45-member Board supports the Museum’s mission of nature and science education in Chicago.

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About the Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

The Chicago Academy of Sciences and its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum inspire people to learn about and care for nature and the environment. The Academy, founded in 1857, improves the quality of life in Chicago and the region by delivering superior environmental and science education programs to students and teachers, by offering Museum exhibitions and conducting public programs, that foster green living, and by restoring local ecosystems and advancing scientific knowledge through collections and research.

During the past 10 years, the Chicago Academy of Sciences has welcomed more than 1.8 million visitors to its Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. The Museum provides hands-on exhibitions and programs to 70,000 students annually and trains and provides resources for more than 1,700 Chicago teachers in over 430 schools. The Museum engages visitors, especially urban dwellers, in new ways to connect with and preserve the natural world through a unique indoor/outdoor experience. It is one of the city's best examples of eco-friendly building technology with lush outdoor nature trails and habitat, green roof, rain barrels and solar panels.