

For Immediate Release
April 1, 2006

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Magnitude X: Quake Science and Survival
April 1-31 at the Exploratorium

In the centennial month of San Francisco's legendary 1906 earthquake, the Exploratorium shakes up the Bay Area with an interactive, informative, sometimes sobering, and always engaging month-long



The Corner of 18th St. and Folsom after the Earthquake of 1906

Image Courtesy of the National Information Service for Earthquake Engineering, University of California, Berkeley

series of exhibits and programs: *Magnitude X: Quake Science and Survival*, from April 1-31. This not-to-be-missed series covers the science, structural engineering and human dimensions of earthquakes as only the Exploratorium might put them together. *Magnitude X* includes an offbeat, quivering, large-scale Jell-O model of San Francisco made in the primary-colored shimmering medium by artist Liz Hickok, on view for one day only on April 1 – as Jell-O doesn't last. See earthquakes pop up on an international map as they occur throughout the world. A sampling of a month-long collection of exhibits and demonstrations cover liquefaction -- the cause of major damage to homes built on sand and landfill -- the physics of waves, resonance, seismic action and the mathematics of sine waves. Meet geologists, first-responders, dog heroes, survival kit experts, and structural engineers. What do you want to know about your survival kit, your structure or your neighborhood, or how you can best be prepared? Every weekend, the Exploratorium provides a range of opportunities to pose all your pent-up personal questions to a series of experts. For the Exploratorium's new website dedicated to quake science and engineering, go to www.exploratorium.edu/faultline.

Exhibits and demonstrations are on view from April 1-31, and are free with admission to the Exploratorium. Weekend special events are as follows:

Saturday, April 1, 1pm

The 1906 Quake: Lessons Learned, Lessons Forgotten, and Future Directions

Meet with U.S. Geological Survey scientists to explore the 1906 magnitude-7.8 earthquake on the North San Andreas Fault, which marked the birth of modern earthquake science. Find out about lessons learned about earthquake activity as well as its implications for the future of the Bay Area.

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Saturday, April 1, 10am-5pm

***San Francisco in Jell-O* by Liz Hickok**

San Francisco in Jell-O. Imagine a scale model of the city rendered in the translucent primary colors of Jell-O. Liz Hickok's *San Francisco in Jell-O* is a shimmering, temporal crown jewel, complete with fog, that resonates – literally – even ominously. Earthquake meets April Fool's Day. But this is for real. As a medium, Jell-O is obviously underrated.

Saturday, April 8, Noon

Ask the Geologists!

Geologists Mel Zucker and Richard Lambert answer your burning questions about seismology, tsunamis, plate tectonics, and other earthquakes.

Saturday, April 8, 2006

Films: *A Trip Down Market Street 1905* and *Market Street After the Fire (1906)*

McBean Theater, 2pm

A Trip Down Market Street 1905 (1905, 9 min., 16mm film) and *Market Street After the Fire* (1906, 4 min. mini-dv), and other archival, post-1906 films, with new sound by artist Dave Cerf, document the destruction of the earthquake on the San Francisco landscape.

Saturday, April 15, Noon-4pm

It's Our Fault: Preparing for the Big One

Activities Accessible in English, Cantonese (2pm) and Spanish (noon).

Design your earthquake kit with Neighborhood Emergency Response Team members. Learn about NERT's training program, which has equipped 11,000 San Francisco residents to be self-sufficient in a major disaster. **Also find out what causes earthquakes** with Exploratorium physicist Paul Doherty. See earthquakes pop up on an international map as they occur throughout the world. Join us as we explore the science of tectonic plates using chocolate! See *A Trip Down Market Street 1905/1906*, pre and post destruction at 2pm. Don't miss 3D earthquake images from 1906 and 1989 with Robert Bloomberg at 1pm. Kids can explore the Physics of Toys: *Whole Lot of Shaking Going On* with rocks, dirt and earthquakes.

Saturday, April 15, Noon (Spanish/English) and 2pm (Cantonese/English)

Explore Earthquakes with Physicist Paul Doherty

What is the Ring of Fire? What causes earthquakes? Explore these and other questions of your own with lively hands-on demonstrations. See earthquakes pop up on an international map as they occur throughout the world.

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Saturday, April 15, 2006

Film: 1906 & 1989 Earthquake Images in 3-D with Artist Robert Bloomberg in Person

McBean Theater, 1pm

The City Quakes: The San Francisco Earthquakes of 1906 & 1989 (30 min.)

The great earthquake and fire of 1906 was the first natural disaster of its kind to be covered as a major media event. Photographers from around the world converged on the devastated city, including several stereo photographers. This show features much of their work as well as never before seen 3-D images of both the 1906 and 1989 Loma Prieta quake. (Original score by Robert Bloomberg.)

Saturday, April 22, 2006, Noon-4pm

First at the Front: Emergency Responders

Task Force 4 of Alameda County's Urban Search and Rescue Squad, active on the collapsed Cypress Structure in 1989, will share first-hand accounts of Loma Prieta, as well as their rescue tools and techniques. Check out Task Force 4's "dog technology" in a live, interactive demonstration of rescue dogs. Firefighters who battled the Marina Fire will talk about their innovative firefighting methods and rescue missions. The Red Cross will be on hand with a mobile unit to talk about their role in getting earthquake victims back on their feet. Meet Andy Swartzell of the Bay Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) and learn their role in emergencies.

Saturday, April 22, 2006, 2pm

Dog Heroes

Meet Jaeger, a real-life FEMA dog, and Shirley Hammond, a certified rescue dog trainer, and find out about the life of a working rescue dog. Hammond, author of the recently published *Training the Disaster Dog*, has been training rescue dogs for 29 years. She served in Loma Prieta rescue missions on the Oakland Cypress Structure, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco's Marina District.

Sunday, April 23, 1-2pm

Be A Ham Radio Operator!

What is a ham radio? How were they used during 9/11 and the Loma Prieta Earthquakes? How are they different from an AM/FM radio? Find out about this unique and crucial radio with members of the Auxiliary Communications Service. They will share the history of this communication system. You'll have a chance to see and explore an actual ham radio. The Auxiliary Communications Service is a part of the Office of Emergency Services and is staffed by dedicated and skilled volunteers.

Saturday, April 29, 2006, 1pm

Built to Last: Structural Engineering Revealed

You may not ever think about structural engineering, but it's a critical part of urban planning. Asraf Habibullah, founder and president of Computers and Structures, Inc. in Berkeley, will show us how computer modeling programs help engineers design buildings and bridges that will withstand major temblors. He'll talk about why structural engineering matters to all of us, everyday.

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***Turing Tables*, by German Artist Franz John**

This art installation transforms real-time data on the several million earthquakes that happen each year into image and sound. In collaboration with sound artist Ed Osborn and the Goethe Institute.

New Website on Faultlines

Can we predict earthquakes? Why don't skyscrapers topple from a temblor? And how does your driving register on the Richter scale? Get answers to all of these questions on the Exploratorium's new Faultline Website. Commemorate the centennial of the Great Quake of 1906 with the latest in earthquake science, live data about recent quakes around the world, and a special section of downloadable graphics, music, activities, and more. Visit the website at www.exploratorium.edu/faultline.

Also, for more information about other earthquake-related events and activities this month, visit the website of the 1906 Earthquake Centennial Alliance at <http://1906centennial.org>

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The Exploratorium is located inside the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco's Marina District. Museum admission is as follows: Members FREE; Adults (18-64) \$13.00; University Students (with ID) \$10.00; Senior Citizens (65+) \$10.00; People with disabilities \$10.00; Youth (13-17) \$10.00; Children (4-12) \$8.00; Children Under 4 FREE. First Wednesdays of the month FREE. Exploratorium hours are TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY 10am–5pm, CLOSED MONDAYS, except for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day. The Exploratorium is wheelchair accessible. For information, call (415) EXP-LORE.