



## MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact:**

Josie Patterson  
(617) 253-4422  
[josiep@mit.edu](mailto:josiep@mit.edu)

### **Mark Epstein (Class of 1963) Innovation Gallery at the MIT Museum Opening September 29, 2007**

CAMBRIDGE, MA—In late September, the MIT Museum will open a major expansion and gallery addition at 265 Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square, Cambridge, MA. Formerly housing a number of offices, over 5,000 square feet is being converted to provide a new store and street level entryway to the Museum, a gallery featuring current science and technology research at MIT, and *MIT 360*, a media-rich program and activity area.

MIT Museum Director, Professor John Durant is excited about the new developments. "With this major expansion, the Museum will establish a bold public presence on lower Mass. Ave. For the first time, we'll have enough space to feature highlights of some of the most exciting, current research and innovation here at MIT."

The first exhibitions for the new ground floor gallery will feature some first-time exhibitions. The MIT Media Laboratory's Smart Cities, City Car will be displayed, as will be remotely operated vehicles used in underwater exploration, as well as a tank filled with zebrafish, representing some of the latest cancer research in MIT's life sciences and technology laboratories. Unique displays representing emerging technologies and a new sculpture by Arthur Ganson will round out the new gallery offerings.

"We're very grateful to the MIT alumni and Museum board members who jump-started this hugely important project," says Mary Leen, MIT Museum Associate Director: "It took the Museum just a little over a year to envision the new exhibition area and to raise the money. When the Mark Epstein Innovation Gallery opens the Museum's capacity for

event rental will increase as well, and we're looking forward to hosting many MIT and local corporate and community events" adds Leen. "The Museum is also now open 7 days per week from 10-5 p.m. and free this summer to visitors presenting a Cambridge Public Library card."

The City of Cambridge is finishing renovations to lower Massachusetts Avenue. Sidewalks, landscaping and roadway improvements surrounding the MIT Museum will anchor the lower end of Central Square with a major cultural attraction. "From this summer on," adds Durant, "people from out of town will be able to find the Museum much more easily. For the first time, our visitors will be able to enter the Museum at street level; and when they get inside, they'll encounter vivid examples of the ways in which MIT researchers are continuing to invent the future."

To celebrate the opening of the new Mark Epstein Innovation Gallery, admission will be free on Saturday and Sunday, September 29 and 30. On Saturday a ribbon cutting celebration will take place, and MIT Museum curators will be on hand to answer questions from the public. On Sunday, jugglers and a juggling workshop will complement the display of the newest acquisition, ingenious machines created by Claude Shannon, the late MIT professor best known as the father of digital communications and information theory.