

## **Museum of Science and Industry to get pixelated for Manchester Science Festival's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday.**

Local mathematician, Dr Katie Steckles, has won the 2016 Josh Award and plans to turn MSI into a giant hand-made, crowd-sourced image during this year's Manchester Science Festival. Steckles winning application suggested festival visitors help colour thousands of individual 'pixels' that will make up a picture in one of the museum's windows representing how digital devices such as computers, tablets, and phones display images.

The project will also look at the mathematics behind how devices store images as a series of numbers that create the different colours on screen. There'll be a close-up look at the pixels in your own phone's screen and a photo booth that transforms you into an Excel spreadsheet of colour values.

The Josh Award is the UK's national award in science communication, established to recognise and support up-and-coming talent in science communication. The award provides the opportunity to become the science communicator in residence at the Manchester Science Festival 2016, in partnership with the University of Salford, Manchester developing and delivering a new project or event while showcasing best practice in the field of science communication. The winner receives support to nurture their development in the field and their involvement in the Manchester Science Festival from both the Festival team, the University of Salford's Science Communication cluster, and the BIG STEM Communicators Network.

Katie said of winning the award, 'I'm delighted to have received this award, and I'm very much looking forward to the project in October. I've worked on events with Manchester Science Festival many times in the past, and am extremely proud to be Science Communicator in Residence with such a great organisation.'

Antonio Benitez, director of Manchester Science Festival, said, 'We are delighted that Katie will be the science communicator in residence at the Manchester Science Festival 2016. Katie is a very inspiring science communicator and a great ambassador for Manchester Science Festival. The Festival team is looking forward working with Katie to develop and deliver this exciting new project showcasing best practise in the field of science communication for this year's festival'

Big STEM Communicators Network said of Katie's winning application, 'This year saw some very strong entries and choosing a winner was not easy. The award panel were impressed with Katie's plan for an event at the Manchester science festival and with her commitment to bringing mathematics to the fore in everyday life.'

Editors Notes:

### **About Manchester Science Festival**

Manchester Science Festival is a celebration of science. People are invited to play, create and experiment with science through beautiful installations, immersive science experiences, intriguing evening events, inspiring talks and debates, hands-on workshops and more. Manchester Science Festival is proudly produced by the Museum of Science and Industry.

### **About the Museum of Science & Industry**

The Museum of Science and Industry tells the story of where science met industry and the modern world began. Its mission is to inspire all its visitors, including future scientists and inventors, with the story of how ideas can change the world, from the industrial revolution to today and beyond.

The Museum of Science and Industry is part of the Science Museum Group, a family of museums which also includes the Science Museum in London; the National Railway Museum in York and Shildon; and the National Media Museum in Bradford. The Science Museum Group is devoted to the history and contemporary practice of science, medicine, technology, industry and media. With five million visitors each year and an unrivalled collection, it is the most significant group of museums of science and innovation worldwide.

### **About BIG**

BIG is the skills sharing network for individuals involved in the communication of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects.

BIG runs regular events and training courses on issues relevant to science communication and informal science and maths education. Our annual conference - The BIG Event - is regarded as one of the best science communication conferences in the UK as a source of best practice skills-sharing and networking.

Members of the BIG community get access to news, discussion forums, training and events offering networking and sharing of information and views, as well as many other benefits such as free entry to UK science centres and museums.

### **About Katie Steckles**

Katie completed her PhD in Pure Mathematics in 2011. She currently works for Think Maths and travels around the UK and abroad delivering maths enrichment sessions in schools. She is also a Mathematics Masterclass speaker for the Royal Institution. She has previously worked with Manchester Science Festival on the international MegaMenger project in 2014. Katie also runs Manchester Girl Geeks, which organises talks and workshops on STEM related topics.