



## **Museum of Vancouver Invites Urbanites to Reflect on the Environment with – *Wild Things: The Power of Nature in Our Lives* –**

***Co-produced with Nature Vancouver in celebration of its centenary, New Exhibition  
Challenges Visitors to Explore and Engage with the Natural World***

**VANCOUVER, BC** – The **Museum of Vancouver (MOV)** and **Nature Vancouver** proudly present the illuminating exhibition, ***Wild Things: The Power of Nature in Our Lives***, on display from **June 28, 2018 to September 2019**. This exhibition delves into the life stories of local animals and plants—how they relate to each other and how they connect people to nature in the city. Scenic design, videos, taxidermy, crowd-sourcing technologies, and the display of natural specimens breathe life into these tales of co-habitation. The immersive nature of the exhibition, including hands-on activities, encourages visitors to examine their relationship with nature, think about momentarily disconnecting from their devices, and find equilibrium with the natural world around them.

“Something magical happens when we pause in the city long enough to appreciate the birds and the rain,” says *Wild Things* co-curator Lee Beavington. “This exhibition attunes your senses to the everyday wonders that surround us. We are hoping through *Wild Things* to share how a deeper engagement and kinder, more caring relationship with nature will cultivate happier and healthier people, cities, and natural environments.”

Viviane Gosselin, *Wild Things* Co-Curator and Director of Collections & Exhibitions at MOV continues, “*Wild Things* asks questions and creates opportunities to reflect on our personal relationships with nature in the city and beyond. We believe this approach will generate conversation about our own capacity to affect positive environmental change.”

The exhibition, designed by architects Daniel Irvine and Chad Manley, features two main experiences: The **Encounter Room** and the **Engagement Room**.

The **Encounter Room** features stories by local nature lovers, designers, and Indigenous knowledge holders that are surprising, unsettling, and strangely beautiful. As the pattern of rain echoes around them, visitors huddle under a tarp and listen to stories about this vital natural element; They eavesdrop on a hunting story, while sitting at a table across from a Roosevelt elk; and they traverse a wildlife corridor of large mammals—some, like the coyote, co-habiting with us today; others, like the wolf, regionally extinct. The Encounter Room also challenges visitors to discover themselves as physical creatures through crawling spaces, a climbing wall, and hidden animals that can only be discovered through peepholes.

The **Engagement Room** offers a counterpoint where visitors can study and share cultural knowledge about nature. Large interactive learning pods will present natural history specimens (flora and fauna), soundscapes, and short films; the themes shared in the pods were identified by an advisory group of environmental educators, Indigenous cultural workers, public health and forestry researchers, and architects. A crowd-sourced map showing “nature hotspots” in the city and a shadow puppet theatre will ask visitors of all ages to think about their own encounters with nature, while sound stations and matching games will test their knowledge of birds, plants, and animals. Displays point to the loss of local biodiversity associated with urbanization and a call for action to mitigate environmental degradation.

