



**For immediate release  
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### **YouZeum Holds Ribbon Cutting to Kick Off Community Campaign**

(COLUMBIA) – The YouZeum, formerly called the Health Adventure Center, held a ribbon cutting ceremony today at the historic Federal Building in downtown Columbia, 608 Cherry Street, to mark the beginning of its community campaign.

Columbia Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors assisted YouZeum board members in kicking off the community campaign. The YouZeum Board has achieved 75 percent of its fundraising goal with more than \$5 million raised, but needs to raise another \$1.2 million by June 30, 2005 in order to receive a \$500,000 challenge grant from the Tulsa, Oklahoma-based Mabee Foundation.

“The YouZeum has received tremendous support from businesses and individuals within Columbia,” said YouZeum Board President Jim Ritter, former superintendent of Columbia Public Schools. “However, we need the community’s support in order to reach our fundraising goal by the end of June and receive the \$500,000 Mabee Foundation grant.”

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**YOUZEUM, P.O. BOX 309, COLUMBIA, MO 65205 • 573-445-2275**

The community campaign theme is “Get Ready, Get Fit, Go!” It is intended to encourage individuals in the community to join the race to the finish line. The Board has made great strides in getting ready to launch the YouZeum, including acquiring the Federal Building as the museum’s location and partnering with the City of Columbia to secure parking for YouZeum visitors in the adjacent parking garage.

“We are now in the Get Fit stage of our campaign - getting financially fit, getting the building fit for opening and getting the interactive exhibits fit for display,” added Ritter.

In addition to the ribbon cutting ceremony, a sign was installed on the Federal Building bearing the YouZeum’s new name, which was unveiled at a press conference on Saturday, May 21, 2005.

The YouZeum, where it’s all about YOU, will be an interactive science museum focused on health, wellness and physical activity. The museum is expected to open in 2006.

To find out how YOU can become involved in the YouZeum’s community campaign, go online at [www.youzeum.org](http://www.youzeum.org), call 573-886-2006 or send pledge or donation to YouZeum, P.O. Box 309, Columbia, MO 65205.

For questions or additional information about the YouZeum or the community campaign, please contact Wendy Knorr at 573-445-2275 or 573-489-8783.

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