



MFF Educational Foundation hosts thousands of Children in New Orleans, Santa Ana (CA) and St. Louis at *Hurricane on the Bayou*

Fall, 2007

Pilot Program in New Orleans: Audubon Nature Institute (ANI) and its Entergy IMAX Theater in New Orleans were chosen by the MacGillivray Freeman Films Educational Foundation to serve as a site for a pilot program for reaching disadvantaged youth with giant screen films. Beginning in January 2007, ANI invited classrooms from Title I schools in the Greater New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas to see *Hurricane on the Bayou*. Foundation support paid for tickets to see the film, a bus transportation allowance and a "Save the Wetlands" bookmark for each child attending. Through June 30, 25 schools in 14 parishes have participated, serving more than 2000 students.

Site 2: Santa Ana, California. During a six-week run of *Hurricane on the Bayou* at the Edwards Spectrum IMAX Theatre in February/March 2007, the Foundation spearheaded a program with Orange County Title I grade schools. Approximately 3500 students and chaperones were hosted by the Foundation, with payments being provided for tickets and bus transportation. One Santa Ana teacher told us that several of her students had never even been to a theatre before.

Site 3: St. Louis, Missouri. This summer the Foundation worked with St. Louis Science Center to bring *Hurricane on the Bayou* to students from community groups who attended Summer Science workshops at the museum's community resource center. From June to August children attended a two-hour workshop learning about ecosystems. When the Foundation approached St. Louis about our program, they added wetlands activities and discussion of the effects of Hurricane Katrina to their workshop. The students were also treated to the giant screen film, an experience they would not have had without the Foundation support. Co-facilitators of the workshops were teen staffers who are part of a growing program at St. Louis Science Center that engages 150 youth volunteers to help build interest in science programs among peers.

Coming Soon: We're raising funds now to implement a similar program in theatres when *Grand Canyon Adventure* is released beginning March 2008.