

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) to Host Tech Competition Weekend All-Nighter for Second Annual *Expressions: The MoMath Hackathon* Software developers face off to create new technology-driven experiences for MoMath visitors

## Saturday, July 14, 10 a.m. – Sunday, July 15, 5 p.m. at MoMath

**New York, NY (July 13, 2018),** The <u>National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath)</u>, with the support of Two Sigma, will present the second annual <u>Expressions: The MoMath Hackathon</u> tech competition weekend all-nighter at the Museum, Saturday, July 14 – Sunday, July 15.

At this unique and engaging overnight event, the MoMath technology team will host software developers and designers as they break off into teams and compete to create new technology-driven experiences for MoMath visitors. Participants will be able to explore the possibilities of using augmented reality to enhance the exploratory and explanatory aspects of the exhibits; create new software programs for two of MoMath's most popular public exhibits, *Dynamic Wall* and *Math Square*; or imagine new exhibit-like experiences for MoMath. Participants are invited to bring their sleeping bags and stay overnight in the 19,000 square-foot Museum. Last year's event drew more than 100 guests.

"While pop culture often portrays a 'hack' as a security breach, a 'hackathon' is an event for those interested in software creation where participants can gather for intense collaboration for new software and programs," said Cindy Lawrence, Executive Director, MoMath. "MoMath has long had the idea that our interactive, state-of-the-art exhibits are canvases that are defined by the software that runs them, and the *Hackathon* will allow the public to be a part of the design process."

*Dynamic Wall* is a monumental kinetic sculpture consisting of a gigantic array of 128 articulating metal slats that greets visitors as the enter MoMath. On the lower level of the Museum, *Math Square* is a massive, dance-floor-like touchscreen that features puzzles, Voronoi diagrams, and more.

The winning teams in the *Hackathon* competition will be awarded one-of-a-kind prizes from MoMath's collection. Last year's *Hackathon* winners have their programs currently running as part of *Dynamic Wall* and *Math Square* exhibits.

## About the National Museum of Mathematics

The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) strives to enhance public understanding and perception of mathematics in daily life. Currently celebrating its fifth anniversary, MoMath has reached more than 1.5 million New Yorkers and visitors from around the world.

The only math museum in North America, MoMath fills a critical demand around the country and worldwide for hands-on math programming, offering a space where the math-challenged, as well as math enthusiasts of all backgrounds and levels of understanding can enjoy the infinite and beautiful world of mathematics through more than 37 unique, state-of-the-art, interactive exhibits.

In addition to MoMath's home in New York City, Museum exhibitions and content are currently featured in Singapore, Brazil, Germany, Russia, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

MoMath received the 2016 Communications Award for Public Outreach from the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics. The Museum was awarded the bronze 2013 MUSE Award for Education and Outreach by the American Alliance of Museums. MoMath has been recognized as the Most Fascinating Museum in New York State by the TripAdvisor vacation site, and hailed as "Best Museum for Kids" by *New York Magazine*.

MoMath, located at 11 East 26<sup>th</sup> Street on the north side of popular Madison Square Park in Manhattan, is open seven days a week, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. For more information, visit <u>momath.org.</u>

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