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Fernbank Museum Unveils Exciting 2026 Lineup

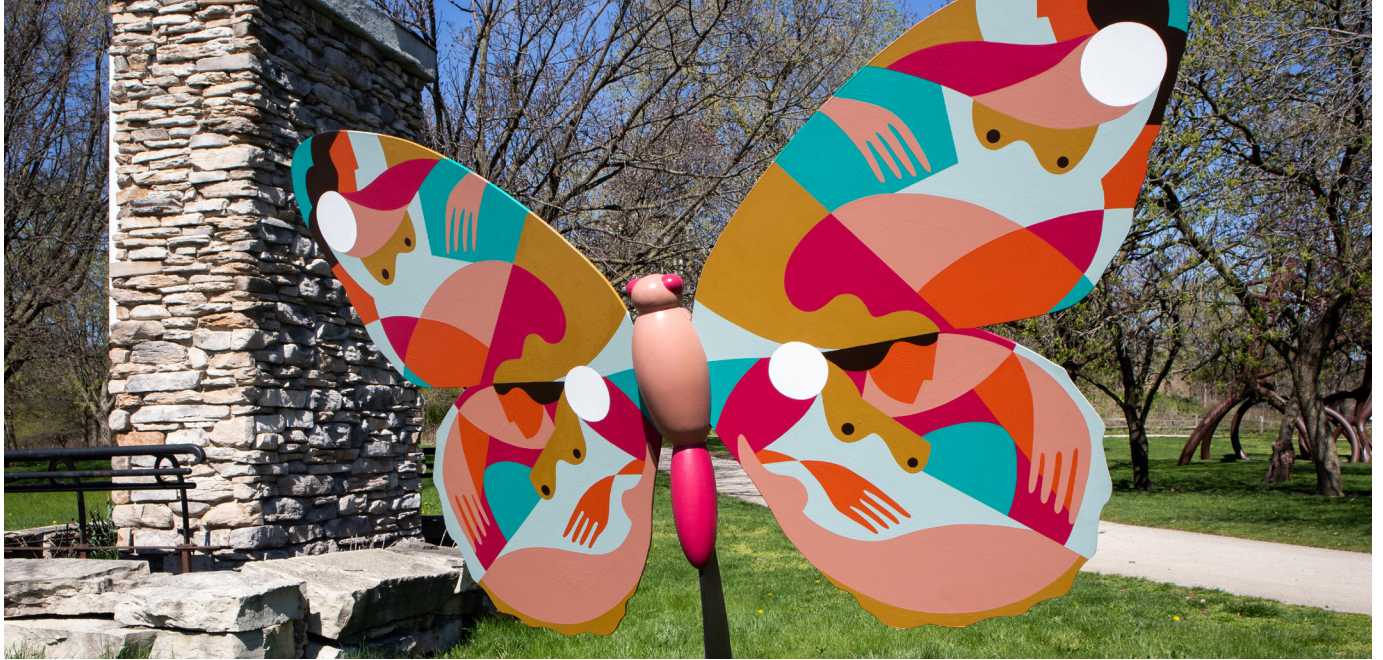
ATLANTA, GA—Fernbank Museum is heading into 2026 with an exciting lineup of special exhibits, giant screen films, after-hours events and more.

Upcoming Special Exhibits

“Planet Ice,” on view from Feb. 7-May 3, 2026, invites visitors to “chill-out with the coolest story on earth” in an immersive exhibition that uncovers the powerful role of ice in shaping our planet. This exhibit transports visitors to a time when massive glaciers dominated and ancient creatures thrived through immersive storytelling, interactive displays, and more than 100 remarkable specimens, including the mastodon, a saber-toothed cat, the woolly mammoth, cave bear, giant beaver and American lion. Life-like sculptures of a Neanderthal adult and child that showcase how Neanderthals were adapted to live in a cold environment will also be on display.

Fernbank will welcome the special exhibit, “T. rex: The Ultimate Predator” from June 13 – Sept. 7. This exhibit brings visitors face-to-jaws with the story of the famous *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Visitors will explore how a *T. rex* grows from a small fluffy, turkey-sized hatchling to become a towering, bone-crushing apex predator as an adult. The exhibition introduces the entire *Tyrannosaur* family tree and reveals the amazing story of the most iconic dinosaur in the world. Guests can explore impressive models, including a life-sized *T. rex* with patches of feathers, reconstructions of a juvenile *T. rex* and a number of fossil casts revealing how these animals lived and evolved. Interactives include the chance to experiment with a “roar mixer” to better understand what a *T. rex* may have sounded like, explore an immersive shadow theater where a full-scale skeleton springs to life, and view an interactive life-sized animation of *T. rex* that responds to visitors’ movements.

Set to open this fall is “The Secret World of Elephants,” on view from Oct. 10, 2026 – Jan. 3, 2027. This exhibition explores modern elephants and their ancient relatives, highlighting elephants’ extraordinary minds and senses, why they’re essential to the health of their ecosystems, and efforts to overcome threats to their survival. Interactive and visual elements include a full-scale model of a woolly mammoth, touchable teeth casts, a sound station where visitors can experience low-frequency sound waves like an elephant, an exploration of elephant poop and more.



Sculpture by Liz Flores

Outdoor Traveling Exhibit

This spring, Fernbank welcomes the outdoor exhibit, “Flight of Butterflies,” on view March 14 – June 7, 2026. On view along the nature trails in WildWoods, this exhibit showcases a rainbow of 25 massive butterfly sculptures up to 7 feet tall, created by diverse artists to highlight the connection between humans and nature. Each artwork embodies themes of metamorphosis and evolution, created with the hope of inspiring others to champion nature’s perseverance.

Giant Screen Films

Giant screen film, “Titans of the Ice Age” opens February 7, 2026. This film opens alongside the special exhibit, “Planet Ice” to further explore our prehistoric planet. “Titans of the Ice Age” transports viewers to the beautiful and otherworldly frozen landscapes of North America, Europe and Asia ten thousand years before modern civilization. Dazzling imagery brings this mysterious era to life—from saber-toothed cats and giant sloths to the iconic mammoths.

Additional films will include Horse Power, T. Rex, Dolphins, and Guardians of the Wild. More details will be released throughout the year and titles are subject to change.

Museum Nights

Fernbank will host various nighttime events in 2026 as part of its Museum Nights series, which includes programming for all ages in an after-hours setting. The illuminating outdoor experience, WildWoods: AGLOW, continues on select nights through Feb. 28; Fernbank After Dark, an ages-21-and-up nighttime experience on the second Friday of every month, featuring live music, adult beverages, science stations and more; and LATER, an all-ages nighttime experience, will offer nighttime hours one Friday each month from June-August in a casual museum environment. Other events include Teen Takeovers, the first of which is on Jan. 16, with experiences curated exclusively for teenagers that include activity stations, museum explorations and social connections. For adults, Fernbank will continue to offer theme nights, including 70s Night on Jan. 23, Adult Prom on April 17 and Fright Night on Oct. 30.

All information for Fernbank exhibits, giant screen films, Museum Nights, and other events can be found at FernbankMuseum.org

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Planet Ice: Mysteries of the Ice Ages is created by the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada and is made possible thanks to the support of Tour Partner Polar Knowledge Canada. *Planet Ice* is sponsored locally by Isdell Family Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation.

T. rex: The Ultimate Predator is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (amnh.org). *T. rex: The Ultimate Predator* is sponsored locally by the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation.

The Secret World of Elephants is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (amnh.org). *The Secret World of Elephants* is sponsored locally by Isdell Family Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation.

Flight of Butterflies is organized by The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum of the Chicago Academy of Sciences'. *Flight of Butterflies* exhibit was originally made possible by support from the Tullman Family Office. Made possible locally by the generous support of Orkin and The Gary W. Rollins Foundation.

Titans of the Ice Age is a production of Giant Screen Films and D3D Cinema, in association with The Field Museum, Chicago.

TICKETS

General admission tickets include three floors of exhibits in the natural history museum, choice of one giant screen film, and 75 acres of nature explorations in Fernbank Forest and WildWoods. Fernbank After Dark, WildWoods: AGLOW and other Museum Nights events are available at a separate ticket price. Fernbank is located at 767 Clifton Road NE in Atlanta, minutes from midtown Atlanta and downtown Decatur.

General admission tickets are \$25.95 for adults, \$24.95 for seniors, \$23.95 for children ages 3-12, free for children ages 2 and younger, and free for Fernbank Members. These prices are for tickets purchased online at [FernbankMuseum.org](https://www.FernbankMuseum.org). Museum Nights tickets vary by event. Tickets not purchased in advance are offered onsite, if available, at a higher price.

More information is available at [FernbankMuseum.org](https://www.FernbankMuseum.org).

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ABOUT FERNBANK

Fernbank is one of the most popular and iconic cultural destinations in Atlanta. Known as Atlanta's Science and Nature Experience, Fernbank invites guests to discover a World of Wow through an expansive natural history museum, 4-story giant screen theater, and 75-acres of nature adventures in WildWoods and Fernbank Forest. One of the oldest not-for-profit conservation organizations in the country, Fernbank was founded in 1939 to preserve Fernbank Forest, the largest urban, old growth, Piedmont forest in the United States. The museum and giant screen theater opened as "a school in the woods for nature studies" on Oct. 5, 1992, and is today known for its giant dinosaurs, hands-on STEAM* programming, immersive experiences, and year-round nature exploration. Visit [FernbankMuseum.org](https://www.FernbankMuseum.org) and follow @fernbankmuseum on Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube and TikTok for more information.

*Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.