

It's a Gas! Opens in Henderson

New Exhibition Explores the Lighter & Brighter Side of Science

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Henderson, NV (DATE) – They are vital to our survival and make our world a little brighter -- visitors to the Henderson Space and Science Center's latest exhibition will explore the important role naturally-occurring gases play in our lives. *It's a Gas! The Brighter Side of Science* opens February 26 and will continue through May 15 at the Science Center's temporary exhibition space at the Galleria at Sunset, 1300 W. Sunset Road.

The exhibition explores the importance of eleven atmospheric gases from the periodic table. From the oxygen that we breathe, to the nitrogen that is a critical building block for all living things, to the neon that has helped make our community one of the top tourist destinations in the world, *It's a Gas!* provides visitors of all ages an opportunity to gain a better understanding of these important elements in a fun and highly interactive way.

"Most of us don't give any thought to what we breathe or how the delicate balance of gases in our atmosphere make life possible," said Raymond Shubinski, Project Manager of the Henderson Space and Science Center. "This engaging new science exhibit gives our visitors the opportunity to learn something new about some of the most important elements on Earth."

Visitors to *It's a Gas!* will learn why nearly 80 percent of what we breathe is actually nitrogen, not oxygen, and have the chance to feel the lifting power of a giant helium balloon. They will also see how elements like chlorine and fluorine help keep us healthy and why radioactive radon is readily found in our homes and yards, as well as how gases like neon make possible the beautiful and iconic signs that light up our valley.

The exhibition includes nearly 4,000 square feet of interactive activities, displays, live demonstrations and one-of-a-kind works of art and classic neon signs in a darkened gallery that literally glows from the considerable array of neon works.

"In keeping with the mission of the Henderson Space and Science Center to bring science to our community, *It's a Gas!* is a natural fit with our goals," said Shubinski. "Learning about matter and the elements is an important part of school curriculum for elementary through high school students. Exhibits like this make science concepts more interesting and relevant for both students and adults."

The timing of the city's presentation of *It's a Gas!* coincides with the 2011 International Year of Chemistry, which celebrates the achievements of chemistry and its contributions to the well-being of human kind

(<http://www.chemistry2011.org/>). The exhibit also serves as the featured program for the Henderson Space and Science Center's participation in the inaugural Las Vegas Science Festival taking place in early May (<http://lasvegassciencefestival.com/>).

It's a Gas! is produced by Las Vegas-based Exhibit IQ in partnership with the Henderson Space and Science Center and the Science Museum of Western Virginia.

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