



SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM
of natural history

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Ross Johnston
Public Programs Manager
Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
ross@santacruzmuseum.org
831-420-6115, ext. 15

Peter Mu
Fair Coordinator
Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz
peter.mu@gmail.com

**ANNOUNCING THE SANTA CRUZ FUNGUS FAIR
CELEBRATING 51 YEARS**

*JANUARY 10-12, 2025
PRESENTED BY FUNGUS FEDERATION OF SANTA CRUZ
AND SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY*

SANTA CRUZ, CA — Oct 14, 2024. — The Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz and the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History announce another celebration of Santa Cruz Fungus Fair, January 10-12, 2025. This year's Fair will mark 51 years of mycological exploration since the inaugural event in 1974.

The 2025 Fair will be at the London Nelson Community Center and feature hundreds of fascinating species from the area, uniquely displayed in a re-created woodland habitat. This unique Santa Cruz tradition will offer three days of fun, demonstrations, informative speakers, shopping, and fungus-forward activities for the whole family.

"We're thrilled to be again in partnership with the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History for the 51st anniversary of the Fair. That's where it all began, and we can't think of a better way to celebrate this important year for the Fair," said Richard Rammer of the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz.

The Fair originated in 1974 at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, led by the efforts of David Aurora, who went on to write *All That the Rain Promises and More...* and *Mushrooms Demystified*, which is widely considered to be the best and most comprehensive mushroom guide that exists. As the Fair grew, it found new homes throughout the County, including Harvey West Park and London Nelson Community Center. During the pandemic years of 2021-2023,

the Fair took on new forms, utilizing virtual formats, small guided experiences, and the Mini Fungus Fair held at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History. In January of 2024 the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz partnered again with the Santa Cruz Natural History Museum to bring the Fair triumphantly back to the London Nelson Community Center, celebrating its 50th Anniversary with our largest event ever.

Come to Santa Cruz and explore the fascinating world of Fungi. Learn interesting and fun facts about the hundreds of beautiful and fascinating species of mushrooms found in the Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Area. Fungi will be beautifully displayed in a re-created woodland habitat. This unique Santa Cruz tradition features three days of fantastic fun, informative speakers and demonstrations, with fungal activities for the whole family.

Save the date and check ffsc.us and santacruzmuseum.org for more details and to buy tickets for the 2025 Santa Cruz Fungus Fair.

About The Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz

The purpose of the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is to expand the understanding and appreciation of mycology (study of mushrooms) and to assist the general public, related institutions, and societies to further this goal. The annual Fungus Fair is a major contributor to this important educational process and thousands benefit from this activity every January. Many continue the learning process throughout the year at monthly meetings and activities open to the public.

About The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's mission is *connecting people with nature and science to inspire stewardship of the natural world*. The Museum was first established with the personal collection of local naturalist and lighthouse keeper Laura Hecox. Founded in 1904, becoming an independent nonprofit in 2009, it has a proud history as the first public museum in Santa Cruz. The Museum is located in Tyrrell Park, bordered by its Garden Learning Center featuring native plants and grasses, and a life-size gray whale model greeting the public. The historical collection, public programs, and location make this institution a cherished landmark located across from the entrance to Seabright State Beach. Learn more about the Museum at santacruzmuseum.org.

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