



Museum of Science Fiction
Washington, DC
USA: Earth: Sol: Milky Way

ESCAPE
VELOCITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cosmic Encounter Experience at Escape Velocity

Washington, DC (Mar. 5, 2018) – The Museum of Science Fiction is pleased to announce that Peter Olotka, one of the designers of the iconic board game *Cosmic Encounter*, will attend Escape Velocity for all three days (May 25-27, National Harbor, MD) and challenge fans to beat him at his own game. Olotka will present panels on game design and demonstrate his game.

“I am delighted to bring *Cosmic Encounter* and its 196 aliens to the Museum of Science Fiction’s Escape Velocity 2018,” stated Mr. Olotka. “Created in 1972 as the Universe Game, *Cosmic Encounter* rests on the broad shoulders of Asimov, Herbert, Bradley, Clark, Niven, and countless other writers who challenged us to ignore convention and trust our instincts to make a game that allowed players to break all the rules,” said Olotka.

Currently published by Fantasy Flight Games, *Cosmic Encounter* is a science fiction board game in which 3 to 8 players struggle to achieve cosmic supremacy by colonizing planets using unique alien special powers, negotiations, and fleets of ships. Since it was first published in 1977, it has won numerous game design awards and has 6 expansion sets which bring the total aliens in the game to 196.

“*Cosmic Encounter* is a defining, seminal part of board game history,” said Charles Hildebrandt, Production Counsel for the Museum of Science Fiction. “Nearly every modern game design can trace part of its roots back to the ‘every-player-has-a-special-power’ idea that first appeared in *Cosmic Encounter*,” he added.

The Cosmic Encounter Experience at Escape Velocity will offer event attendees and fans of the game a chance to join Peter at the game table. In addition to playing with attendees, Olotka will exhibit rare Cosmic artifacts and present panel discussions on the history of *Cosmic Encounter*.

Peter Olotka joins Escape Velocity as part of this year’s new Gaming & Simulation track, which will showcase video games, board games, and even offer a peek into the world of professional wargaming and simulation as practiced in the defense and intelligence community.

Escape Velocity 2018, now in its third year presented by the Museum of Science Fiction, a 501c(3) organization, has brought thousands of fans together to celebrate science fiction and everything that makes it so interesting as a literary genre, an entertainment and mass media phenomena, and a harbinger of things to come. For additional information about Escape

Velocity, including details for press registration, please visit: <https://escapevelocity.events/press-media/>

About the Museum of Science Fiction

The nonprofit Museum of Science Fiction will be the world's first comprehensive science fiction museum, covering the history of the genre across the arts and providing a narrative on its relationship to the real world. The Museum will show how science fiction continually inspires individuals, influences cultures, and impacts societies. Also serving as an educational catalyst to expand interest in the science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) areas, the Museum uses tools such as mobile applications and wifi-enabled display objects to engage and entertain. For a full press packet on the Museum of Science Fiction's vision and other information, please visit: www.museumofsciencefiction.org/presspacket

About Escape Velocity 2018

The Museum of Science Fiction and NASA are partnering to bring Escape Velocity 2018 to Washington, DC. The event is a futuristic world's fair to promote STEAM educational activities within the context of science fiction using the fun of comic cons and fascination of science and engineering festivals. Escape Velocity 2018 seeks to make a measurable positive impact to boost informal learning on the more conceptually challenging academic areas. Escape Velocity's mission is to re-invigorate the interest of our young people in science, technology, engineering, art, and math by producing and presenting the most compelling, exciting, educational, and entertaining science festival in the United States using science fiction as its primary engine. Escape Velocity will achieve orbit on May 25-27, 2018 at the Marriott Gaylord Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, just outside of Washington, DC. For a full press packet on Escape Velocity, please visit: [www.escapevelocity.events/press-media](https://escapevelocity.events/press-media)

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