*For Immediate Release*

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***‘All Aboard!’* as Upcountry History Museum Welcomes Thomas & Friends**

 **Greenville, S.C. –** It’s full steam ahead when “*Thomas & Friends: Explore the Rails,”* opens at the Upcountry History Museum-Furman University, a Smithsonian Affiliate, on Saturday, May 25, 2019, giving visitors a whistle-stop of exploration, excitement and imagination through September 8, 2019.

 Transporting young adventurers to the Island of Sodor, this interactive, bilingual exhibition is designed to surround them with iconic places and faces they will recognize from the long-running book series and one of the most successful children’s television programs of all time. The exhibition features the favorite engines, major characters and destinations, including Knapford Station and the Sodor Steamworks, and creates extraordinary hands-on learning opportunities that engage children of all ages in a variety of activities, experiences and fun.

Bolstered by the enduring popularity and multi-generational appeal of this beloved children’s classic, *“Thomas & Friends”* creates science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) learning. In addition, these STEAM-based concepts are woven throughout the exhibit, creating an experience that speaks to a range of interests, age groups and learning styles that support adult-child engagement and helps lay a foundation for success in school, work and life.

 Utilizing a mix of three-dimensional and two-dimensional techniques, as well as audio, to create an immersive, multi-sensory experience, *“Thomas & Friends”* emphasizes the development of 21st century skills through interactives that help children identify problems, ask questions, seek answers, and explore tools and materials that spark that learning through play.

The Upcountry History Museum is located at 540 Buncombe St., in Greenville, S.C. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. For more information, call 864-467-3100 or visit [www.upcountryhistory.org](http://www.upcountryhistoyr.org).

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