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July 25, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to offer a reference on behalf of Steve Karpik. In my roles as Science Project Manager, and Associate Director, Development and Design (A), I have had the opportunity to work closely with Steve for over ten years, so I feel that as his Manager I can offer a fair assessment of his many talents and exemplary work as a Senior Scientist and head of the Computer Science Lab.

At the Ontario Science Centre, we strive to create exhibit experiences that awaken curiosity and stir the imagination, while developing a better understanding of the impact of science and technology on our daily lives. Steve's role is integral to this process - it partly involves interpreting complicated scientific and computer science principles in an exciting, imaginative and above all, sensitive manner. It also requires a highly developed sense and expert knowledge of human interface design, hardware selection and systems software architecture. As a key member of our team, Steve has taken a lead role in pushing exhibit interface boundaries and collaborating with other experts to explore new science content ideas. He has worked tirelessly on a number of successful and cost-effective local, national, and international projects to produce creative and innovative visitor experiences.

I also believe that excellent communication skills and a willingness to work collaboratively are pre-requisites for a top-notch museum professional like Steve. His ability to liaise with internal and external stakeholders impacted greatly on the quality of the final product for numerous projects within tight deadlines and budgets. His interest in evolving digitally-driven experiences has led to the explorations of new emerging trends like gestural and multi-touch based interfaces. It should be noted that this work involved collaborating with electronic media, industrial and graphic designers, and other scientists to develop messaging protocols between devices, and to research and communicate science and technology content.

One area in particular that Steve stands out is his commitment to push himself to learn new skills and processes. For example, Steve expressed an interest in working earlier and more closely with designers and other exhibit developers and in doing so embraced more

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responsibility for driving the process to create novel digitally-driven experiences. This meant coordinating the activities of a wide variety of skilled staff, evaluating their progress and trouble-shooting where necessary. This type of initiative greatly benefited our organization during a time of significant change.

Steve has strong leadership skills and has been relied upon to supervise a team of technical and creative staff with key assignments related to the Corporate and Project web-sites, computer infrastructure, and exhibition development. One of Steve's strengths is that he is a generous and effective mentor for both new and established staff. This willingness to share his expertise and extensive experience can also be seen in the active role he has played on numerous project teams, and department and Branch activities.

Thank you for your consideration of this reference on behalf of Steve Karpik.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rieira".

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