

## ENVIRONMENT | GULF IN DEPTH EXHIBIT

**Artist Boat, Moody Gardens exhibit sheds light on gulf's depths**

Environmental nonprofit Artist Boat and Moody Gardens on Thursday celebrated the new Gulf in Depth exhibit with a ribbon cutting at the Moody Gardens Visitors Center.

The exhibit, featuring three hands-on stations created by Artist Boat, highlights the ecosystems that exist from the surface of the Gulf to thousands of feet below, including rarely-seen areas inaccessible by scuba divers. Interactive elements help visitors understand the vast impacts the Deepwater Horizon oil spill had on fish, crustaceans, and deep-sea corals and how experts are restoring important seafloor habitats through the Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities projects.

Mesophotic and deep benthic habitats are areas of the seafloor that see little to no sunlight and are home to a complex community of fish, corals, and other invertebrates.

The exhibit was designed in collaboration with restoration experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Moody Gardens Aquarium Pyramid conservation staff, interpretive program experts at Artist Boat, MuseWorks Exhibits, and Taylor Studios.

The Gulf in Depth exhibit will be housed in the Moody Gardens Aquarium Pyramid and is free with admission to the aquarium pyramid.

— From Staff Reports



**JENNIFER REYNOLDS**/The Daily News  
Sasha Francis, left, the gulf restoration education & outreach manager for the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, has Elijah Irby find deep-sea creatures on a poster Thursday during the ribbon cutting for the Artist Boat and Moody Garden's new Gulf in Depth exhibit.



**JENNIFER REYNOLDS**/The Daily News  
Lauren Hedge and her daughter, Alexis, learn about