

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
PLANETARIUM AUTHORITY**

September 26, 2023
Zoom Conference Call
1:40 p.m.

Directors Present: Planetarium Authority Chairman Katheryn Patterson; Alfred C. Cerullo, III; and Ross Sandler

Directors Absent: None

AMNH Staff Present: Dan Slippen, Executive Director for the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority ("Planetarium Authority"); Jackie Powers, Pro Bono Counsel for the Planetarium Authority; Richard Madonna, AMNH Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and Clarissa Dondero, AMNH Associate Controller

Call to Order

Planetarium Authority Chairman Katheryn Patterson called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Directors in attendance unanimously approved the minutes of the September 28, 2022 meeting of the Directors of the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority in the form included as part of the September 26, 2023 Board book, which was previously distributed to the Board.

Approval of the FY23 Audited Financials

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Directors in attendance unanimously approved the FY23 Audited Financial Statements for the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority in the form included as part of the September 26, 2023 Board book, which was previously distributed to the Board.

Report of the Executive Director

Visitor Attendance

Dan Slippen, Executive Director of the Planetarium Authority, reported on visitorship, programming and improvements to the Planetarium over the last year. He reported that Museum-wide ticketed attendance in FY23 was 3.77 million visitors. This is up from 2.2 million ticketed attendance in FY22. Ticketed attendance to Worlds Beyond Earth in FY23 was 897,000 visitors. This is up significantly from FY22 which saw 547,000 visitors.

Planetarium Capital and Content Improvements

Regarding the Planetarium's capital and content improvements, Mr. Slippen began by reporting that the Museum upgraded the Hayden Planetarium LED light system. The Planetarium also provided the Museum's Global Business Development department with cinema-format versions of *Passport to the Universe* and *Worlds Beyond Earth* space shows for distribution via a partnership with D3D at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The Museum also received a NASA earmark of \$1.5 million for the next Space Show which is set for 2025.

Big Bang Presentation Upgrades

The Museum also upgraded the *Big Bang* theater which is the exhibition space in the lower half of the Rose Center dome. Captioning and assisted listening devices were added, as well as a Closed Captioning Glasses system. A countdown clock was added to improve visitor experience by providing clear, real-time information on the show start times which has improved attendance in the *Big Bang*.

Frontiers Lectures and Astronomy Live and Online Programming:

In FY23, the Planetarium returned fully to onsite programming. It hosted 12 onsite Hayden programs attended by over 4,500 people. Every Hayden Planetarium program in FY23 sold out to capacity. Here is a list of the programs held in FY23:

- September 27, 2022- Astronomy Live: Insights from the James Webb Space Telescope presented by Jackie Faherty and Carter Emmart and hosted by Neil deGrasse Tyson
- October 22, 2022- Astronomy Live: Deep Space Meditation presented with the Big Quiet, Jackie Faherty and Carter Emmart
- October 31, 2022 - Spooky Space with Jackie Faherty and Deion Desir
- November 22, 2023 - Frontiers Lecture: Venus & Why We're Going Back presented by Martha Gilmore hosted by Neil deGrasse Tyson
- December 20, 2023 - Astronomy Live: Updates from the James Webb Space Telescope with Carter Emmart and Jackie Faherty
- January 17, 2023 - Frontiers Lecture: Sampling an Asteroid presented by Denton Ebel, Carter Emmart, and Harold Connolly
- February 28, 2023 - Astronomy Live: Grand Tour of the Universe presented by Brian Abbott and Mark Popinchalk
- March 14, 2023 - Frontiers Lecture: Galactic Archaeology presented by Keith Hawkins
- April 25, 2023 - Astronomy Live: Our Dynamic Solar Neighborhood presented by Jackie Faherty

- May 30, 2023 - Frontiers Lecture: Supermassive Black Holes presented by Saavik Ford and Barry McKernan
- June 13, 2023 - Frontiers Lecture: Supernova presented by Or Graur

Asimov Memorial Debate

On May 21, 2023, the Planetarium held the Annual Isaac Asimov Memorial Debate: The Future of Energy hosted by Neil deGrasse Tyson and featuring Peter Keleman, Olivia Lazard, Tammy Ma, Anna Shpitsberg, and David Wallace-Wells.

Open Space Program

We are beginning the last quarter of our seventh year of NASA OpenSpace funding, with two more years to go. OpenSpace continues to fuel our monthly Hayden programming as well as some middle and high-school education camps and classes.

Upcoming Events:

On October 10, 2023, the Planetarium will host a Frontiers Lecture entitled A Trip to Jupiter, with Emma Bunce, Director of the Institute for Space at the University of Leicester and co-investigator on the JUICE mission. In April 2023, the European Space Agency's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) launched. JUICE will explore three of the planet's moons, Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa.

On October 31, 2023, the Planetarium will host Spooky Space presented by Jackie Faherty.

On December 12, 2023, the Planetarium will host Astronomy Live: Mapping the Milky Way in 3D presented by Catherine Zucker, Alyssa Goodman, Jackie Faherty, and Carter Emmart. In this program, leading researchers give a tour of our local solar neighborhood. They will look at the history and future of star formation.

On December 18, 2023, the Planetarium will host Microcosms Showcase presented by Ruth Angus. This is the culmination of a 12 months of partnership between astrophysicists and artists who have been collaborating. More details to be announced.

On January 23, 2024, the Planetarium will host Frontiers Lecture: Parker Solar Probe presented by Nour Raouafi. Nour Raouafi, Project Scientist on the Parker Solar Probe, will talk about the history of the mission and its challenges.

On February 13, 2024, the Planetarium will host Romance Under the Stars presented by Jackie Faherty. A cheeky look at the most romantic phenomena in the universe.

On February 20, 2024, the Planetarium will host Indigenous Sky Watching with Samantha Doxtator, Haudenosaunee, Oneida (Wolf Clan) who will share Haudenosaunee perspectives on astronomical connections to creation stories, innovation, perseverance, and life cycles on Earth.

On March 5, 2024, the Planetarium will host Frontiers Lecture: Extra-Solar Planetary Evolution presented by Diana Powell. Diana studies the nature of extrasolar planets, how they form, and how they evolve. Her work spans a variety of topics, including protoplanetary disks, planet formation, and planetary atmospheres.

On April 9, 2024, the Planetarium will host Astronomy Live: The Search for Life in the Universe presented by Jackie Faherty. Jackie Faherty talks about the work with SETI and the search for life in the universe.

On May 21, 2024, the Planetarium will host Frontiers Lecture: Robotic Exploration of Mars presented by Joel Hurowitz. Joel Hurowitz played a pivotal role in the robotic exploration of Mars as a prominent scientist and researcher. His expertise primarily focused on the development and implementation of advanced instruments for analyzing Martian soil and rocks.

On June 25, 2024: the Planetarium will host Astronomy Live: The Performance of the James Webb Space Telescope presented by Knicole Colon. Two years after the initial launch, we will take a look at Phase 1 of the JWST mission and look ahead to Phase two.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Directors in attendance unanimously approved a motion, duly made and seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.