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Heat up the Early Days of Summer at the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum with SunFest and an Under One Sky Brazilian Weekend

As the days get longer and the nights shorter, the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum prepares for the longest day of the year, the Summer Solstice, with the annual family fun day, **SunFest**. The celebration this year is an Under One Sky cultural weekend highlighting the astronomy of Brazil on Friday June 21st and Saturday June 22nd 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Adler is home to a sculpture, America's Courtyard, which captures the change of the season, the spirit of ancient observatories, and the Adler's Under One Sky theme. Designed by Brazilian sculptors Denise Milan and Ary Perez and accurately oriented by Adler Astronomer Emerita, Phyllis Pitluga, the sculpture is configured to create four pathways from the center of the piece to the places on the horizon where the Sun reaches its northernmost and southernmost rising and setting points at the solstices.

"The tilt of the earth's rotational axis provides the Northern and Southern Hemispheres their seasons, thus the summer and winter solstices," said Pitluga. "Mankind, as seen in the study of many ancient civilizations, has always celebrated the occurrence of these solstices. Ancient civilizations throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas often used a fixed position on the horizon to mark the solstice; for example Stonehenge in England and the Egyptian Temple in Karnak incorporated this idea."

Under One Sky, the Adler's yearlong theme, celebrates the influence of Astronomy in cultures around the world over thousands of years. Family and educational programs, along with special activities for Adler visitors, explore diversity through the exploration of how past and current cultures have looked to the heavens for answers and guidance.

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The two days of SunFest and Brazilian activities include:

Friday June 21st, 2002:

- Hear the Brazilian rhythms of the Breno Sauer Trio at 1:00 p.m.
- Educational activities in the Milky Way Gallery between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- Safe sun viewing through telescopes on the Adler's South Terrace 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday June 22nd, 2002

- A conversation with the sculptors of America's Court Yard, Ary Perez and Denise Milan, at 1:00 p.m.
- See Chicago Samba heat up the first days of summer outside by America's Courtyard at 2:00 p.m.
- Educational activities in the Milky Way Gallery between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- Safe sun viewing through telescopes on the Adler's South Terrace 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Also on Friday June 21st and Saturday June 22nd, 2002, the Adler will participate in the Museum of Contemporary Art's Summer Solstice celebration with educational activities including handmade sundials and mosaic sun masks in the style of the Aztecs.

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum hours:

Sunday –Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

June 1st through September 2nd, 2002

Saturday – Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.

On the first Friday of each month the Adler offers special programs with extended hours from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Regular Admission:

Ultimate Universe Adventure is \$16.00 for adults, \$15.00 for seniors 65 and older and \$14.00 for children 4 – 17.

This package includes admission and the choice of two sky shows.

Galaxy Passport is \$13.00 for adults, \$12.00 for seniors 65 and older and \$11.00 for children 4 – 17. This package includes admission and choice of sky shows.

Add Two / Summer Sun and Brazil

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum is the first planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. Its astronomy programs have reached over 35 million people during the past 72 years. Nine state-of-the-art exhibition galleries located in the stunning new Sky Pavilion and the recently renovated landmark 1930s building present modern space exploration along with the history of astronomy. The world's first StarRider™ Theater, the most technologically advanced, audience-interactive planetarium, fuels the imagination of visitors during virtual flights through the cosmos. With a staff of over 200, the Adler pursues its mission to present the human quest to better understand the universe. Adler scientists and historians, who hold joint appointments at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, are working at the forefront of research in astronomy and its fascinating history. The Adler is leading the way into the new "Space Millennium."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (312) 922-STAR

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www.adlerplanetarium.org

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