

ADLER 75

AMERICA'S FIRST PLANETARIUM

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MEDIA ADVISORY

NASA'S ONLY LOST SPACECRAFT - FOUND AFTER 38 YEARS - ARRIVES AT THE ADLER 8 AM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12!

At 8 am on Monday, September 12, a national treasure arrives at the **Adler Planetarium**.

Liberty Bell 7, America's second manned space mission and, until 1999, NASA's only lost spacecraft, will arrive at the Adler aboard an artifact truck early Monday morning. The truck, which holds the recovered spacecraft and exhibit contents for **LOST SPACECRAFT**, a special exhibit on display at the Adler from October 2 through January 8, 2006, will **begin unloading at 8 a.m.**

LOST SPACECRAFT: In 1961, Liberty Bell Seven was America's second manned space flight. When it splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean, the hatch blew unexpectedly and Astronaut Gus Grissom narrowly escaped before the spacecraft sank to the ocean floor. For nearly four decades, it remained NASA's only lost spacecraft.

For the first time since it was built in 1930, the Adler Planetarium will remove its original Art Deco bronze doors and the beveled glass panels above the doors to allow the 4,000-pound spacecraft to enter the building. A 60-ton crane will lift the space capsule from the artifact truck and carry it - across an impressive Chicago skyline backdrop - to the entrance of the city's historic landmark building and "America's First Planetarium."

EVENT: Liberty Bell 7 space capsule and LOST SPACECRAFT exhibit artifacts arrive at the Adler

DATE: Monday, Sept. 12

TIME: 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. approximately*

8 a.m. - General exhibit artifact unloading begins

***PHOTO OP: Between 9 a.m - 10 a.m. (approximately) - Liberty Bell 7 will be unloaded from the artifact truck, unveiled and lifted by crane to the main Adler entrance. PLEASE NOTE:** Time on this may vary. We will do our best to give you a 15-minute window, but media not wishing to miss the photo op should plan to arrive promptly at 8 a.m. Please call PR contacts listed above for an updated schedule Monday morning at 7:30 a.m.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY: Members of the exhibit team and **Adler Planetarium President Paul H. Knappenberger, Jr.** will be on hand for interviews. Please call with all interview requests.

PLACE: Adler Planetarium - 1300 South Lake Shore Drive - Media check in at South Box Office

PARKING: Parking will only be available in the adjacent lot. Call to obtain a parking pass.

The Adler Planetarium is marking its 75th Anniversary by launching a year of celebration and a new vision for its future. A new mission will expand the museum's current focus on astronomy to celebrate human space exploration and America's space heroes. Through this new vision, the Adler will help inspire the next generation of explorers.

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