

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for your continued support of our many efforts at America's first planetarium to invite others to #LookUp! and join us in exploring space.

At the Adler, we engage audiences inside our walls and across
Chicagoland in the creative process that is science.

We do this through the centuries-old artifacts in our collections, frontier technologies in citizen science, and everything in between. At the Adler, you are the explorer with an astrolabe, the observer at the eyepiece, and the planet hunter.

We proudly embrace #AstroEverywhere and #Science4Everyone in all that

we do, and in that spirit, it is our pleasure to share the Adler's 2014 Annual Report with you.

In these pages, you will find stories of citizen scientists in Chicago and beyond, roving bands of urban astronomers, and technological achievements that have allowed the Adler to tell great stories of science to new audiences and in new ways. Your support makes this all possible.

Thank you for helping us inspire the next generation of explorers—whoever and wherever they may be.

Sincerely,

Michelle B. Larson, PhD

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Vichelle

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Chairman, Board of Trustees

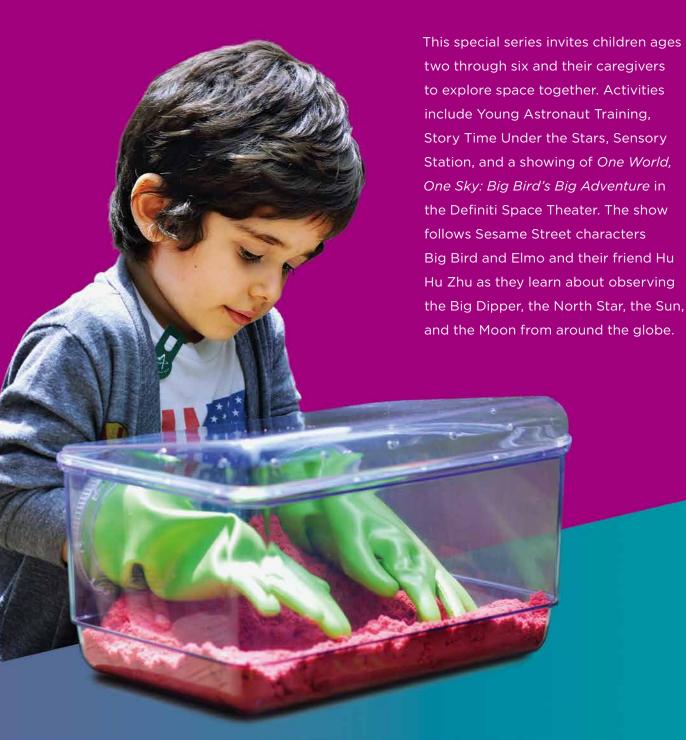






YOUNG EXPLORERS MONDAYS

Young Explorers Mondays debuted at the Adler in 2014, and was designed especially for the museum's youngest visitors.



TEENS DO SCIENCE

Museum scientists and educators challenge young people to think critically, solve problems creatively, communicate clearly, and work in teams.

Whether designing and testing an experiment, using technology to address a social problem, or observing the night sky, Adler teens don't just learn about science—they do science with Adler experts as their guides. Adler teen programs reached nearly 500 young people in 2014.







Leading a Maker Party station truly embodied the mission of the teen programs at the Adler. Children were able to see the impact that they could potentially have on society.

> - ERIC M., UIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2015







My experiences at the Adler have taught me that I don't have to be a man in a white lab coat to do science.

— TAYLOR R., LANE TECH COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2017







The most interesting thing I did at the Adler was work with Free Spirit Media at the Chicago Hive Buzz event. The program definitely kept me busy and it was something I was proud to tell my family about.

> - ALYSSA C., AIR FORCE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2017

ADLER HACKS

Hack Days encourage participants to "hack" their environment—to find new ways of using common technologies to solve real-world problems.

March 15-16 SCIENCE HACK DAY

Designers, developers, scientists, engineers, artists, and other interested adults came together for an intense period of collaboration. Small groups of participants worked on a wide variety of projects including creating an app for NASA's International Space Apps Challenge and designing a parasail wing for a potential mission to Mars.

JUNIOR HACKS OF KINDNESS

Designed for middle-school students, this Hack Day introduced students to ways they can use basic technology tools to help charities address challenges of awareness and access to information. Participants learned about using social media to share important information and programmed simple games to help teens explore the health benefits of yoga.

Adler Hack Days are led by the museum's software developers and educators who created the Zooniverse citizen science platform. Participants learn technical skills such as coding and web development and, just as importantly, they learn to apply these skills in unexpected ways. Hack Days also challenge participants to work cooperatively in teams and communicate their ideas clearly to wider audiences. In 2014, the Adler hosted four Hack Days.

May 31-June 1 **CIVIC HACK DAY**

The Adler's Civic Hack Day was designed to coincide with the National Day of Civic Hacking, a nation-wide initiative that uses hacking to address social challenges. Participants developed websites and digital tools to share vital resources with homeless LGBT youth, connect nonprofits with prospective donors, help teens build healthy relationships, and improve conditions for young parolees.

November 15 GIRLS DO HACK

thinking, teamwork, and perseverance are essential to solving problems. Participants

CHICAGO WILDLIFE WATCH

At the Adler, "Let's do science" is more than a tagline. The museum invites people of all ages, interests, and abilities to participate in real research that advances the frontiers of human knowledge.

In 2007, the Adler and the University of Oxford, England created Zooniverse—the world's largest and most successful online portal for citizen science projects. Through zooniverse.org, a world-wide community of more than one million citizen scientists help researchers classify galaxies, find new planets, explore the surface of the Moon, and complete dozens of original projects in astronomy, biology, Earth science, and the humanities.

In 2014, the Adler's Zooniverse team joined forces with scientists at the Lincoln Park Zoo to conduct a thorough survey of Chicago's urban wildlife.

At chicagowildlifewatch.org, citizen scientists can identify images of animals snapped by hidden cameras around the city. As of spring 2015, 3,167 Chicagoarea citizen scientists had identified more than 883,820 wild critters from a collection of 669,963 Chicago Wildlife Watch images.





3,167 CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

883,820
WILD CRITTERS CLASSIFIED



669,963
WILDLIFE IMAGES

32% COMPLETED



ADLER AFTER DARK

Every third Thursday of the month, science enthusiasts gather at the Adler for a night of fun.

Named the Best After-Hours Event in a Museum by The Chicago Reader, Adler After Dark is a monthly celebration of science, space, music, art, and culture. In 2014, adults ages 21 and over explored the science of superheroes, observed sunspots through high-powered telescopes, marveled at the genius of David Bowie, and experienced other wonders of the Universe. Reinvent your Adler experience every month and take in the best views of Chicago's skyline at Adler After Dark.



MI GALAXIA ES SU GALAXIA

On March 8, 2014, the Adler partnered with local and international Latino organizations and welcomed Spanish-speaking families for a full day of astronomy shows, science activities, and live presentations by astronomers and scientists all in Spanish.

Mi Galaxia es su Galaxia was designed and led by Adler astronomers Dr. Jose Francisco Salgado, Dr. Laura Trouille, and Dr. Mark SubbaRao; visualization expert Julieta Aguilera; Adler staff; and community organizer Isabel Carrera Zamanillo.

In preparation for the event, all of the Adler's sky shows were translated into Spanish, and a host of other Spanishlanguage resources (including museum maps and guide books) are now available for guests.





'SCOPES IN THE CITY

Each year, half a million people visit the Adler to learn about the Universe. In 2014, the Adler piloted a new program to bring the museum—and the Universe—a little closer to Chicago residents.

In summer 2014, Adler educators and volunteers packed up their telescopes and brought them to public parks in Chicago neighborhoods where many residents face financial or practical obstacles to visiting Museum Campus. The pilot phase was a resounding success: a small Adler team reached 600 people at just six events.

The museum plans to conduct at least 20 'Scopes in the City viewings in 2015. Program leaders are working with representatives of city parks, libraries, schools, churches, and other community locations to develop long-term partnerships and attract new audiences.



6 'SCOPES EVENTS 600 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE 20 LOCATIONS PLANNED IN 2015



WHEN ART MEETS SCIENCE

Art and science are often presented as opposing forces. But science is, at its core, a creative act—and like science, art can make people question everything they thought they knew.

In September 2014, an installation by the Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei, *Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads*, found a home in front of the museum thanks to a joint effort of the Chicago City Park District and the city's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. The piece will be on display until September 2015.

In November, the Adler opened its first-ever art exhibition: a collection

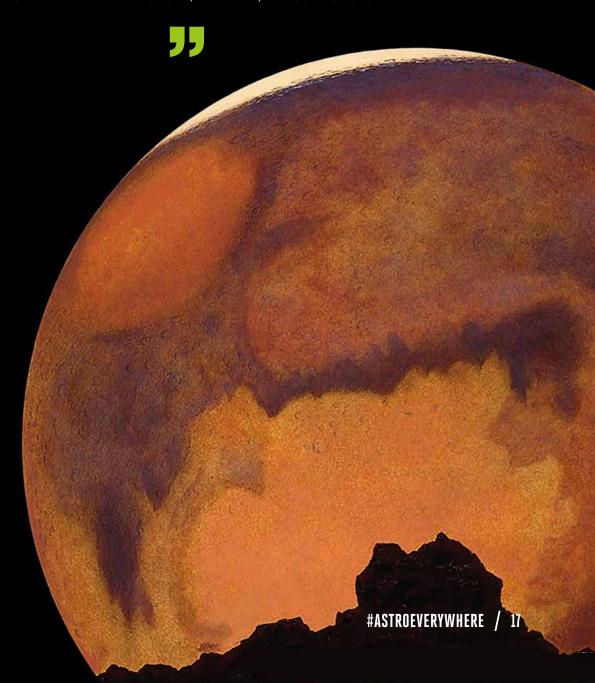
of original works by the science fiction artist Chesley Bonestell, who combined intimate scientific knowledge with artistic talent to present a breathtaking vision of the future at the dawn of the space age.

Worlds of Chesley Bonestell featured 22 paintings and numerous examples of the artist's work in popular culture, including film, magazines and books.



Astronomy, like art, is part of the global human experience. We are all under one sky. The Adler's mission, to inspire exploration of our Universe and to tell the human story of that exploration, is fundamentally aligned with the artistic goals of exploring the human condition.

— DR. GEZA GYUK
VICE PRESIDENT OF ASTRONOMY, RESEARCH, AND COLLECTIONS



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In 2014, the Adler announced plans to celebrate its 85th anniversary year with *Adler85*, a year-long initiative to extend its influence beyond the walls of the museum to local neighborhoods—with a special focus on historically underserved communities.

ADLER85

To deliver on this promise, the museum will continue to develop strong ties with educational and cultural institutions around the city, particularly those that serve Chicago youth.

12,853

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS Contributed in 2014 317

VOLUNTEERS In 2014 290

GENERAL ADMISSION PASSES
DONATED TO CHARITY

600

OFF-SITE OBSERVING EVENT ATTENDEES





In May 2014, the Adler received funding through Hive Chicago Learning Network for a year-long program featuring a partnership between After School Matters (ASM) and the museum.

Together with ASM, the Adler's Far Horizons staff launched the *Science Leadership Corps*, which combines the Adler's content expertise and ASM's network to reach a broader audience.

In summer 2014, 12 ASM apprentices—high-school students who have successfully participated in past ASM programs and serve as mentors to other students—learned about near-space exploration through

workshops held at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and the museum. They designed, built, launched, and retrieved their own near space science experiments, analyzed the data, and presented their results to peers. In the fall, the apprentices took what they learned over the summer and co-led the same program for other ASM student apprentices at their high schools.

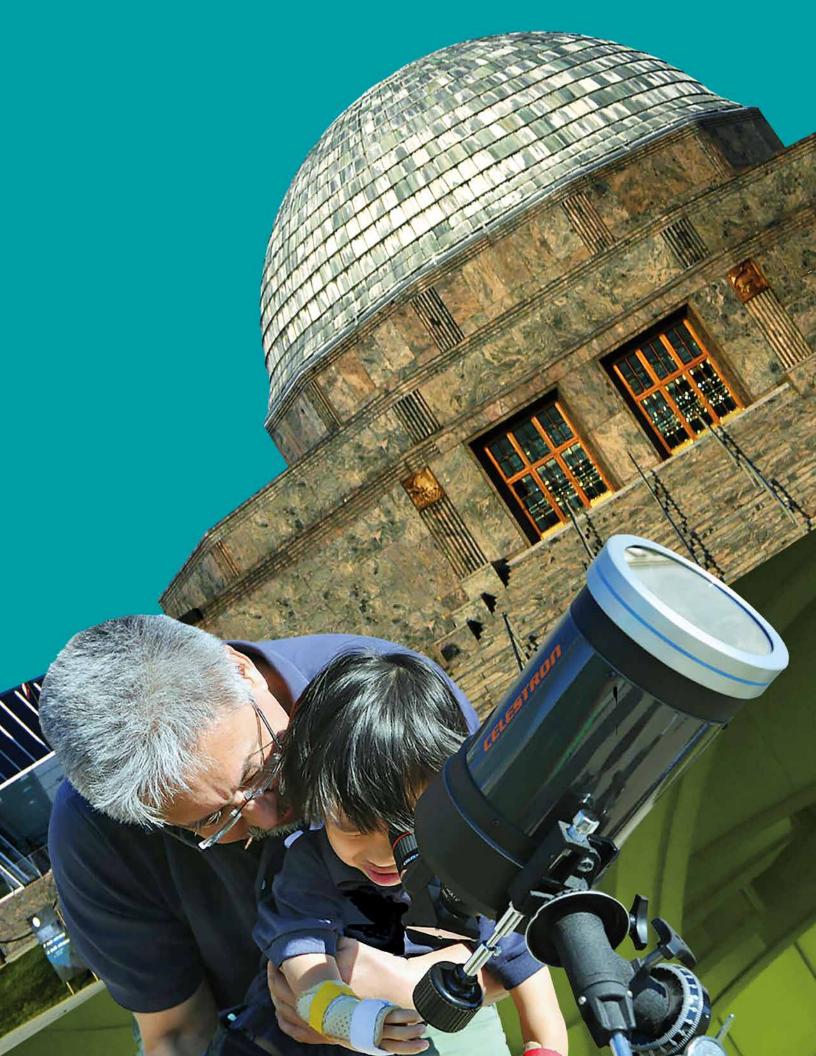
CHICAGO IDEAS WEEK

Chicago Ideas Week (CIW) is an annual gathering that invites participants to explore topics in science, the arts, technology, and the humanities.

On September 30, 2014 the Adler joined forces with CIW and sponsors Hive Chicago Learning Network and the Mozilla Foundation to host the 2014 CIW YOU(th) Kick-Off Event at the museum. This official start to the CIW youth track—which enables students from diverse, low-income communities to experience the best of the week's programs—brought 350 teens and 75 adult chaperones to the Adler.

During the three-hour event, youth participated in museum-led activities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); experienced a custom-made sky show; interacted with keynote speaker and *The Pursuit of Happyness* author Chris Gardner, and took advantage of peer networking opportunities.









DESTINATION SOLAR SYSTEM

The Adler's newest planetarium show combines real images of planets and other celestial objects with the latest in digital animation.

Earth's neighboring planets may seem far away; but on a cosmic scale, they're right in our back yard. On May 16, 2014 the Adler opened Destination Solar System in the Grainger Sky Theater and began offering visitors a chance to see the Solar System in a completely new way: from the inside of a spaceship.

The show was developed by Adler scientists and educators working with experts in market research, science writing, space visualization, animation, and children's entertainment.

The Adler Planetarium gratefully acknowledges The Grainger Foundation for its generous support for the creation of Destination Solar System. Destination Solar System is presented by BMO Harris Bank and ComEd.



For 40 years, BMO Harris has supported the Adler Planetarium in its work to engage the next generation of Chicago STEM leaders. We were pleased to partner with ComEd in this goal.

— MARK FURLONG, CEO, BMO HARRIS BANK



YOU'LL GO FAR WITH SPACE EXPRESS!

The year is 2096. Space tourism is thriving and "Space Express Tours" is the world's leading company in space. You've signed up for a quick trip around the Solar System.

Your guides are "Jesse," a lovable rookie tour guide who can't wait to show you the wonders of your celestial neighborhood, and "Max"—the highly knowledgeable, slightly grumpy shipboard computer.

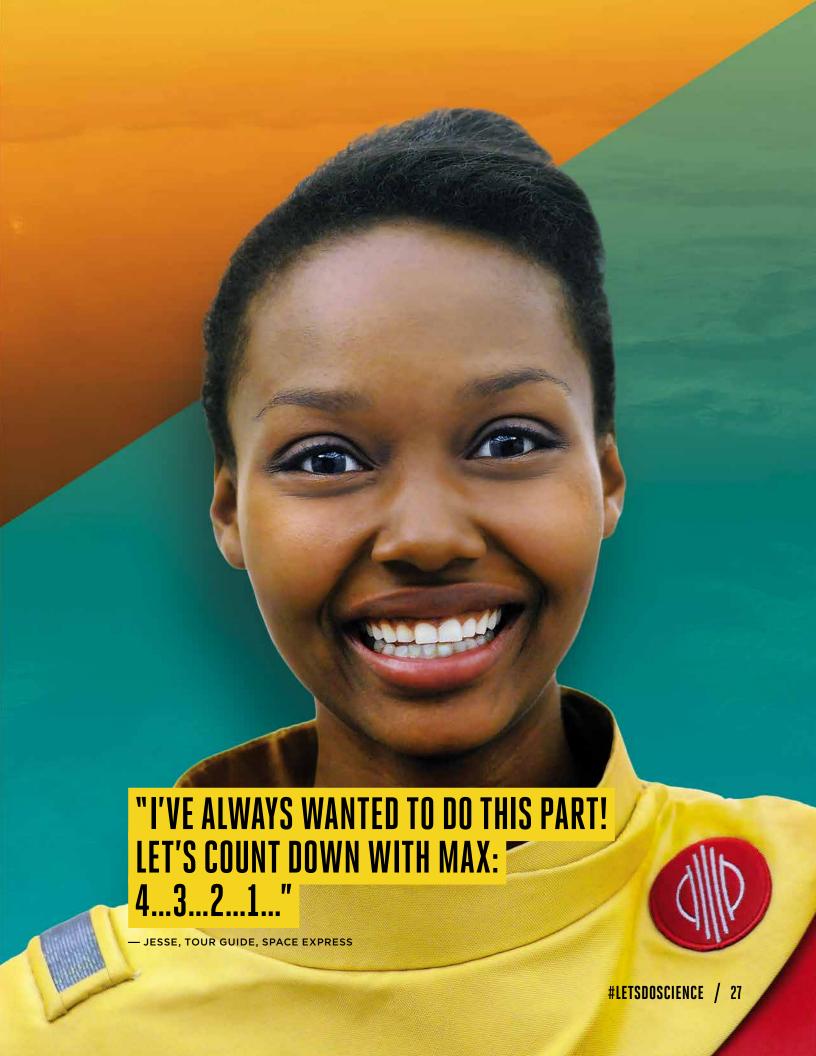
With Max steering the ship and Jesse chattering excitedly about each place you visit, you'll soar through the Asteroid Belt, explore the moons of Jupiter and Saturn, and hover over the roiling surface of the Sun.

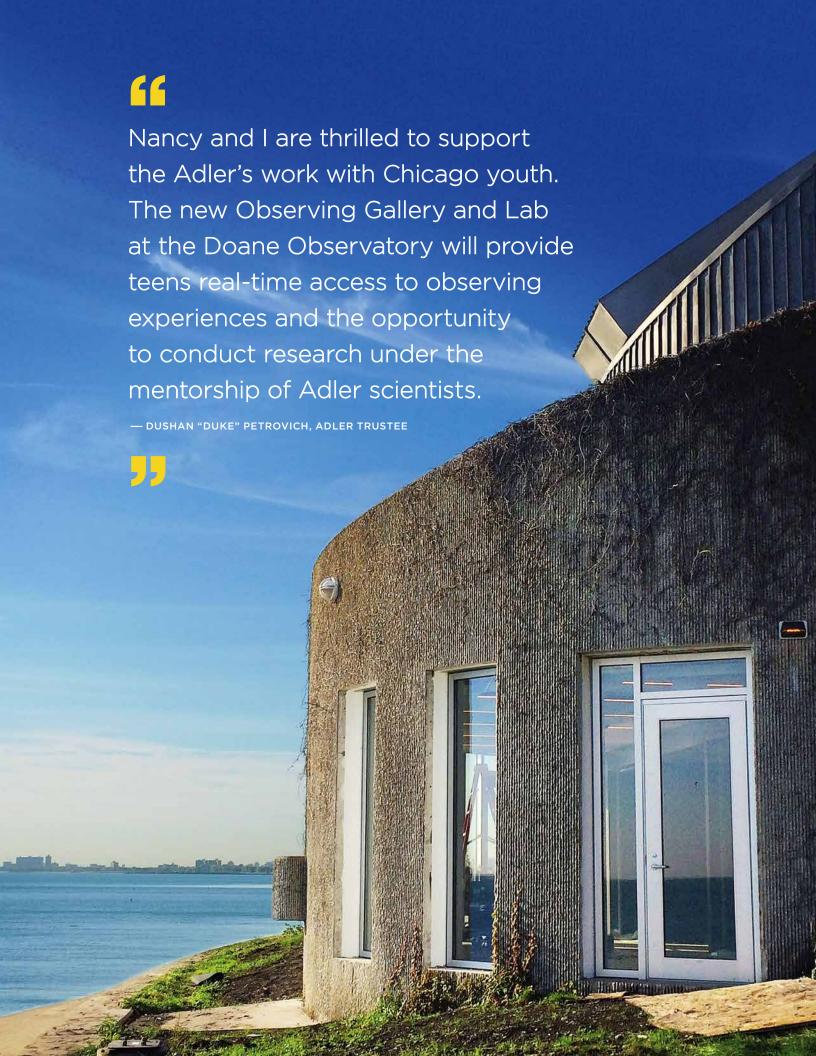


ACTORS HAVE Played Jesse 767
TRIPS AROUND SOLAR SYSTEM

88,600

PASSENGERS
SENT TO SPACE





#LOOKUP!

The sky is full of cosmic wonders, and the Adler's Doane Observatory is the best place in Chicago to see them.

The Doane's 20-inch mirrored telescope gathers up to 5,000 times more light than the unaided human eye. Adler astronomers use the telescope to conduct frontier research on asteroids and black holes; and through it. museum visitors get a closer look at the Universe.

In October 2014, the Adler completed phase one of a major renovation the first since the observatory opened in 1977. Facility upgrades now allow the Doane to run independently of the

museum, giving scientists and the public more time with its powerful telescope. The Adler's STEM youth education programs have a new home base in the Petrovich Family Visitor Gallery and Lab.

Fundraising for the second phase of the renovation — which will transform the Doane into a stunning lakefront star park, ideal for special events is underway and will continue through 2016.

The Adler is grateful to the following generous "Doane-ors" who have supported the renovation effort to date:

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ADLER COLLECTION **GOES DIGITAL**

In October 2014, the Adler unveiled a new online catalog that makes the museum's collection available to anyone with internet access, anywhere in the world.

On a visit to the Adler, you may have admired the craftsmanship of a 17th-century sundial or smiled at the hand-drawn cartoons in an astronaut's small spiral notebook and learned the story of how its missing cover saved the lives of the Apollo 13's flight crew.

The museum's collection of historic scientific instruments, rare books. celestial maps, and other artifacts gives visitors a tangible connection to space science. On any given day, the items on display are only a small fraction of the

full collection, which includes more than 2,500 artifacts and works on paper, 9,700 rare and modern books, and the museum's archives.

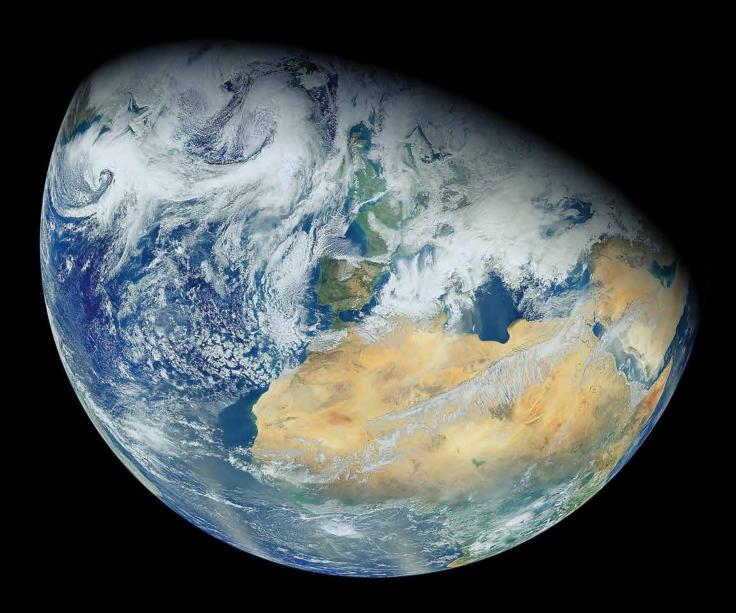
The new, fully searchable online database will be a useful tool for Adler staff, students, scientists, historians, and astronomy enthusiasts. The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Michael W. Louis Charitable Trust have both generously supported projects for future expansion of the new digital resources.

Our family was delighted to support the Adler Planetarium's Collections Access Initiative, and enable museum staff to digitize and make publicly available 35,000 historic photographs. ""

- DR. STEVEN S. LOUIS, ADLER TRUSTEE

NASA SUPPORTS ADLER RESEARCH

Could an asteroid like the one that probably killed the dinosaurs strike Earth again? Not on our watch!





NASA has successfully catalogued nearly all the asteroids that pose the greatest threat to the human race asteroids larger than one kilometer across—yet millions of smaller but still dangerous objects are whizzing around the Solar System undetected, and some of them pass uncomfortably close to the Earth.

In April 2014, Adler astronomers Mark Hammergren and Geza Gyuk received a \$1.3 million grant from NASA to study these Near-Earth Objects (NEOs). Joined by postdoctoral research fellow Melissa

Brucker and observer Kristie Nault, they use the Astrophysical Research Consortium 3.5 meter telescope at the Apache Point Observatory in Sunspot, New Mexico to map the trajectories of NEOs and determine the objects' compositions and rotation rates.

In addition to potentially providing warning of meteor strikes like the one that caught the world by surprise in Chelyabinsk, Russia in 2013, the NEO survey will contribute important scientific insights about the formation of the Solar System and help identify good targets for future asteroid mining.

ADLER ASTRONOMERS RECEIVED \$1.3 MILLION FROM NASA TO STUDY NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS



In December 2014, the Adler hosted dotAstronomy Six, an unconventional conference for astronomy researchers, developers, educators, and

Approximately 60 attendees from all over the world gathered at the museum to talk about the latest developments in astronomy and technology. The conference encourages attendees to think creatively about these subjects and to use insights from other disciplines in their own work.

communicators.

The unique, supportive environment of the conference produced many

interesting ideas and interdisciplinary projects. One attendee heard the music in a distant star: Adler Zooniverse developer Sascha Ishikawa turned the data from a set of Kepler Light Curves (which measure changes in the intensity of starlight that reaches Earth and can be evidence of orbiting planets) into sound waves and then into melodies.

A STELLAR YEAR FOR ADLER WOMEN'S BOARD

On September 13, 2014 the Women's Board hosted *Celestial Ball: Starry Night* which grossed a recordbreaking \$1.7 million to support the Adler's STEM outreach initiatives for Chicago's at-risk youth.

Enthusiastic Adler teens delighted guests as the evening's "Science Sommeliers," bringing a selection of fine science experiences to each table. Guests could choose to learn how lenses make telescopes work, complete a simple circuit, or hold a piece of a meteorite under the guidance of teens.

Adler Trustees and Women's Board members presented the Corporate

Partner Award to PNC Bank—
represented by the bank's Illinois
president and Adler Board Chair
Scott C. Swanson. PNC has given
more than \$1 million to Adler's
involvement in PNC's Grow Up
Great, a \$350 million national
early childhood education program.
The Adler is deeply grateful to Scott
and PNC Bank for their investment
in Chicago's youngest explorers.

Women in Space Science Award

On May 14, 2014 the Adler Women's Board recognized SpaceX President and COO Gwynne Shotwell with the 2014 Women in Space Science Award. The event included a keynote luncheon with the honoree and an afternoon program at the museum for 250 teen girls from Chicago schools. Event chair Laura J. Myntti, with co-chairs Tanya R. Silvio and Linda I. Celesia, raised a record \$168,000 to support the Adler's youth STEM education programming.



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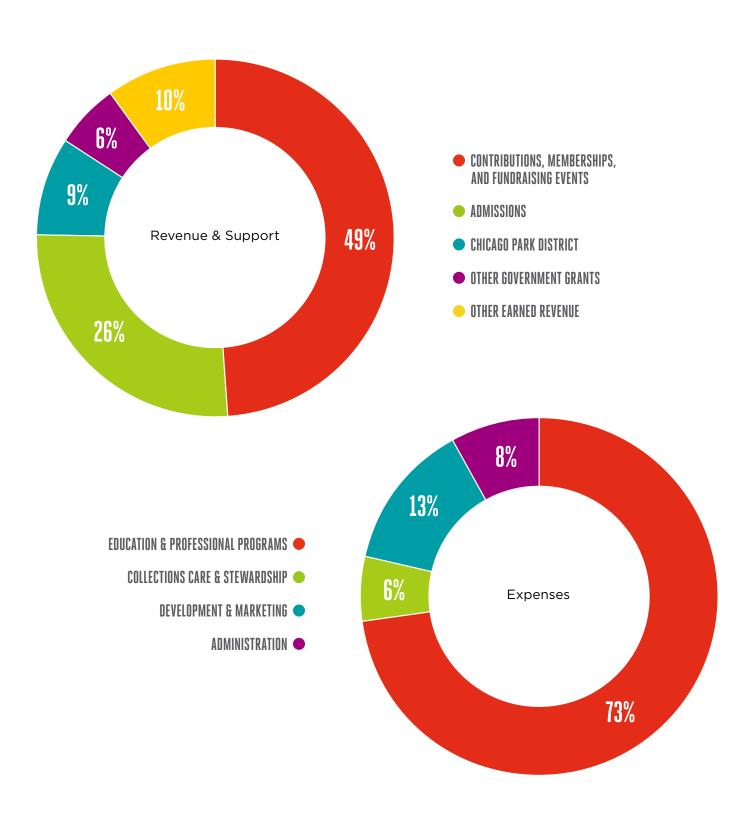
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