

THE ADLER PLANETARIUM ENCOURAGES HANDS-ON EXPLORATION WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE LONG-TERM EXHIBIT, *COMMUNITY DESIGN LAB*

CHICAGO – June 2, 2015 – In celebration of the Adler Planetarium's 85th anniversary and as inspiration for the next 85 years of science and curiosity, the museum will launch the *Community Design Lab* (CDL) this Sunday, June 7.

The *CDL* is a flexible, creative space that celebrates the Adler's history and invites the public to be part of our future. Hands-on, minds-on activities challenge our visitors to design a solution to a problem. The challenges will be specific to the Adler and feature reusable, endlessly configurable materials. In the *CDL*, visitors do more than learn about science—they become the principal investigators in their own scientific research.

Can a marshmallow survive in the vacuum of space? What does it take to transform a telescope into the ultimate zoom lens for a smartphone? How does one tell a great story about the Universe using real scientific data? As they search for answers, visitors can run experiments in a vacuum chamber, build a smartphone mount and test it on a telescope, and make their very own travel-adventure sky show using the same computer program Adler visualization experts used to create *Cosmic Wonder*.

"The *Community Design Lab* isn't just an exhibit to see how people do science, but is a place where you can be curious, test out new ideas, and think about science—and the Adler—in new ways," says Annie Vedder, the museum's Associate Director of Experience Development. "It is definitely a space where you can hang out with friends, get inspired by a community of visitors, and make an impact."



Visitors will be encouraged to share their creations and discoveries on social media, and the Adler will post the best images on the *Community Design Lab* homepage. Here are some ways to connect:

- You inspire us daily! Share your favorite memory or photo from the Adler @AdlerPlanet #AdlerMemories
- Create, collaborate, adapt and test your unique ideas in our Lab. Snap a pic of your creation and tag @AdlerPlanet #LetsDoScience
- Be part of our future! Tell us what you want to build, explore, make, or discover with us in the next 85 years @AdlerPlanet #AdlersNext85
- We want to see how you do science. Post a pic of your favorite experience at the Adler @AdlerPlanet #LetsDoScience

For additional information, please visit: <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/exhibits/community-design-lab>. This long-term exhibition will be open from 10am to 1 hour before closing.

About the Adler:

The Adler Planetarium—America's First Planetarium—is more than a museum; it is a laboratory, a classroom, and a community exploring the Universe together. Each year, nearly 500,000 visitors experience the museum's interactive exhibitions, live planetarium shows, hands-on, minds-on STEM education programs, and world-class collections. Founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler, the Adler Planetarium is a recognized leader in public engagement. The museum's scientists, historians, and educators inspire the next generation of explorers and invite you to explore space with us.