

**THE ADLER PLANETARIUM OFFERS UNPRECEDENTED LOOK AT THE HISTORY  
OF TELESCOPES IN *TELESCOPES: THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS***

*The Most Comprehensive Exhibition Of Its Kind*

Chicago, IL – In celebration of the International Year of Astronomy and the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Galileo's first observations using a telescope, the Adler Planetarium opened *Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass* on May 22, 2009. The world's most comprehensive exhibition of its kind, *Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass* illustrates how telescopes continue to change our concept of the Universe and of our place in it.

Using more than 100 historic objects – including some of the oldest telescopes in the world – and 7 one-of-a kind, hands-on interactives, *Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass* chronicles the advancements in telescope technology from Galileo's first observations in the 17th century to the leading-edge technology employed by the Hubble Space Telescope and to the adaptive optics used in the telescopes of today and tomorrow. *Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass* presents the technology used to gather information about the Universe.

Included in the exhibition are telescopes, scientific instruments, works on paper and rare books from 1400 through the present, many from the Adler's world-famous Mensing Collection. From one of the oldest surviving telescopes in the world to an ornate ivory telescope and a rare trumpet-shaped telescope, the instruments on display are some of the most important in the world. *Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass* uses these instruments, along with historic drawings of observations and models of the Universe, to show the progression of observing capabilities and how telescopes have influenced our knowledge of our Solar System, Galaxy and Universe.

Interactive elements throughout the exhibition will keep visitors actively engaged in exploring telescopes and the worlds they enable us to see. Visitors can peer through a 22-foot-long 17<sup>th</sup> century telescope, the only one in the world accessible to the public in this way. Other interactive opportunities include mixing and matching lenses to assemble a telescope, navigating through a 3-D model of the Milky Way Galaxy and walking through the Hubble Ultra Deep Field image to view galaxies 10 billion light years away from Earth.

**Sponsors:**

The following generous donors make *Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass* possible: NASA, the Pritzker Foundation and Roderick and Marjorie Webster.

**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.