

COMMUNITY DESIGN LAB

The Community Design Lab is a flexible, creative space that celebrates the Adler's 85-year history and invites the public to be part of our future. When Max Adler founded the museum, he hoped to create a facility for the "citizens of today to live a life richer and more full of meaning than was available to the citizens of yesterday." Today, the Adler continues to build from this legacy as a place to explore, discover, and do science.



The Adler begins plans to build a public optical shop for people who like to make telescopes featuring modern lens grinding and metal cutting equipment.

1960



The Adler tapes its first planetarium show, *Comet Tales*.

1974



Visitors gather on the Adler's front lawn to witness a 1981 lunar eclipse—just one of the many star parties hosted at the Adler over the past 85 years.

1981



The Adler's Space Visualization Laboratory opens, bringing state-of-the-art images of space science to the public.

2007

The Grainger Sky Theater opens to the public as the most technologically sophisticated theater in the world.

2011



1930
The Adler Planetarium—the first planetarium in the Western Hemisphere—opens to the public as a gift from civic leader Max Adler.

1937
Maude Bennot becomes director of the Adler and the first woman to lead a major science museum.

1957
The museum organizes the Chicago Junior Astronomical Society to track artificial satellites—the museum's original citizen scientists.

1962
The Astro-Science Workshop is created to provide Chicago-area high school students the unique opportunity to informally work with astronomers and scientists.



1977
The Doane Observatory opens as the first high-powered public telescope in Chicago.



1999
The Adler unveils the Sky Pavilion—a 60,000 square foot addition—which includes the first completely digital, interactive planetarium theater in the world.

2010
Citizen Science and the Zooniverse come to the Adler bringing opportunities to millions to analyze data and do science.

2015
The Adler celebrates 85 years of doing science with many events, including the opening of the Community Design Lab.