

The Adler Planetarium's '*Scopes in the City*' Program Named Finalist for 16th Annual Chicago Innovation Awards

CHICAGO – September 22, 2017 –Selected from a pool of 530 nominees, the **Adler Planetarium's '*Scopes in the City*'** program has been chosen as one of the Top 100 Finalists for the 16th annual Chicago Innovation Awards. The awards celebrate the most innovative new products and services in the Chicago area across all organization sizes, sectors and industries. Approximately 1,500 business and civic leaders will come together to honor the winners when they are announced on Monday, October 30, at Chicago's Harris Theater.

['*Scopes in the City*](#) is the Adler's neighborhood telescope outreach program that brings the Adler—and the Universe—a little closer to Chicago communities. Adler astronomers and educators lead free telescope observing events in Chicago neighborhoods, many of which are under-resourced and underserved. Through '*Scopes in the City*', the Adler Planetarium has partnered with several branches of the Chicago Public Library to bring telescope observing to communities all across the city, including Archer Heights, Back of the Yards, Pullman, and Chinatown. In addition, Adler Planetarium's public observing efforts received a \$1 million gift from an anonymous donor to support and expand '*Scopes in the City*' and other observing programs over the next five years.

Depending on the dates, times and locations of the '*Scopes in the City*' events, attendees may be able to observe the Sun, Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, and more! Because all '*Scopes in the City*' events are weather permitting, the Adler utilizes Twitter @AdlerPlanet and #ScopesintheCity to provide updates on event details and what's observable on that particular day.

"This is such an honor for '*Scopes in the City*' and the Adler Planetarium to be nominated again this year," said Michelle Nichols, Director of Public Observing at the Adler Planetarium and creator of '*Scopes in the City*'. "This program makes space accessible. It allows people of all ages, who might not otherwise have the opportunity, to look through a telescope and see the rings of Saturn or craters on the Moon. These sights are some of the many things that make space freaking awesome."

"This year's nominees demonstrate the economic impact that innovation is having within organizations and on the Chicago region as a whole," said Tom Kuczumski, co-founder with Chicago journalist Dan Miller of the awards. "This year's nominees generated \$3.39 billion in new revenues through their new products and services alone, and created over 24,000 new jobs."

Each finalist is also in the running for the annual "People's Choice Award," selected by the community through online voting at <http://www.chicagoinnovationawards.com/2017-neighborhood-award-peoples-choice-voting/>. The Adler Planetarium is listed first on the ballot. Voting ends October 5.

About the Adler Planetarium

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 570,000 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.