

Adler
PLANETARIUM



2022: A LOOK BACK



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2022 has been a momentous year for the Adler Planetarium. With the support of our community, we have reopened stronger and more focused than ever before. In our commitment to making space for everyone, we've brought together a robust digital audience with our vibrant in-person guests who we missed so much over the last two years. In museum spaces like our *Community Design Labs* (CDLs), or online through programs like *Sky Observers Hangout*, we are giving eager explorers of all backgrounds a platform to connect and explore the sky together.

As we close out a historic year—one that saw our full physical reopening to the public—we are thrilled to share the following recap of this year's biggest highlights.

The cover image depicts the Cosmic Cliffs in NGC 3324 as captured by the JWST; image courtesy of NASA, ESA, SCA, and STScI.



BUILDING SPACE FOR EVERYONE

With our reopening in March 2022, Adler staff and leadership set out to advance a new model of museum engagement, one focused on creating spaces where people can bond over a shared wonder of our universe. This commitment to change stretches across our museum programming—it's even the basis of our new weekly schedule, which seeks to open up the Adler to more Chicagoans than ever before!

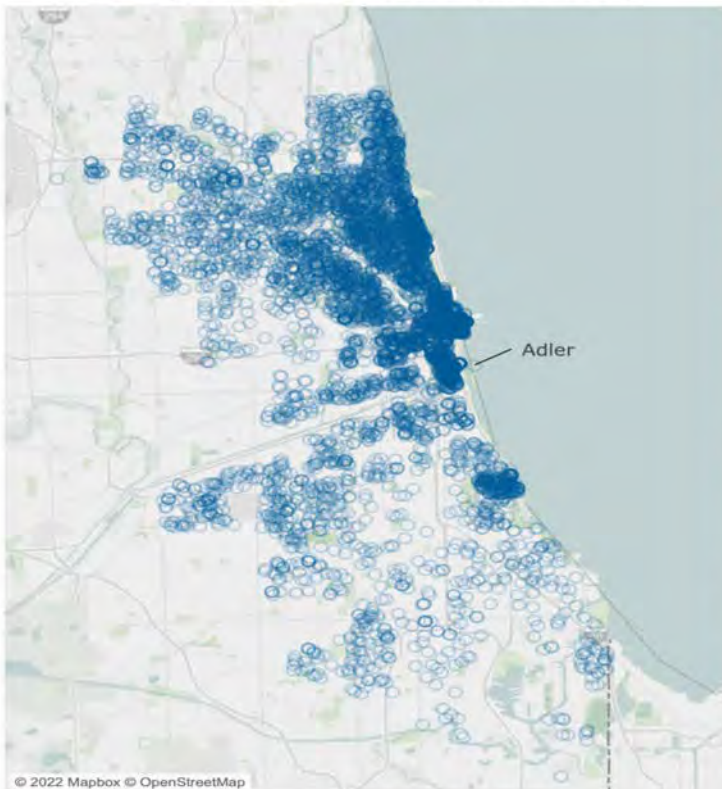
FREE WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Beginning in March, the Adler implemented a strategic plan for our Illinois Resident Discount Days (IRDD). Recognizing the needs of working people and students, the Adler's IRDD now coincides with a new Wednesday schedule: the museum is now open from 4pm to 10pm once each week, free of cost to Illinois residents.

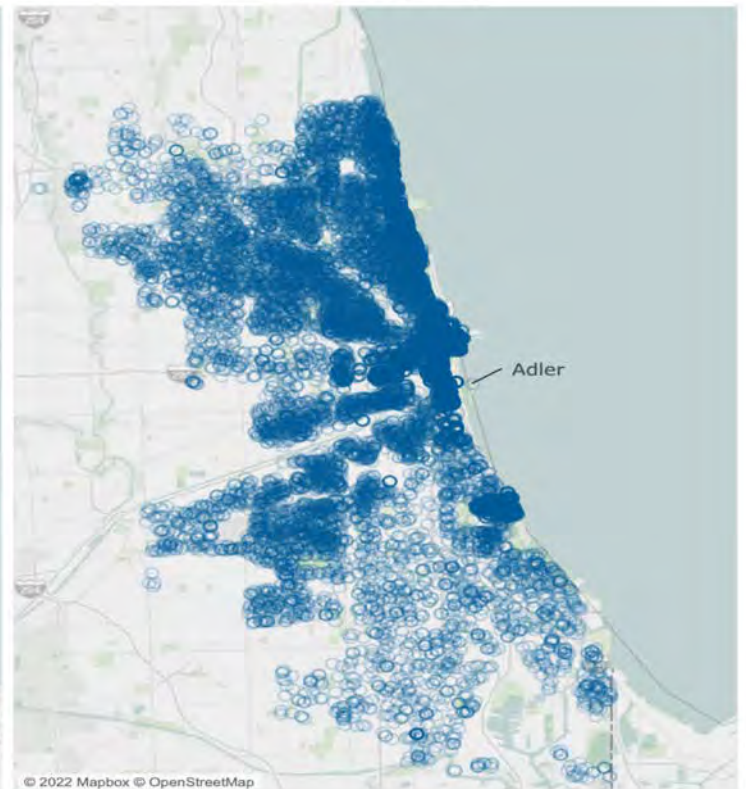
In the months since, the Adler has been excited to find a significant demographic shift in our Wednesday audiences toward better representation of our city's diverse communities, especially from Chicago's south and west sides. The map below shows where the density of Chicago visitor's locations differed comparing Wednesdays to other days' attendance.

Adler Planetarium Public Hours Guests from Chicago
(3/4/22-9/30/22)

All Days of the Week Excluding Wednesday



Wednesday Only





LOOKING UP WITH THE ADLER

Over the past year, the Adler's Public Observing team has invited people from across Chicagoland and the globe to explore our universe from our Doane Observatory, city parks, libraries, and online. With the Adler's new Wednesday evening schedule, the Doane Observatory—featuring Chicago's largest publicly-available telescope—has become a hub of dark-sky observing for all Chicagoans.

In September, in partnership with libraries and parks across the city, the Adler resumed *'Scopes in the City*, a free observing event that connects our Observing Educators with Chicagoans in their own neighborhoods. We also continued to broadcast *Sky Observers Hangout*, a free YouTube series hosted by Director of Public Observing Michelle Nichols, which covers astronomical happenings from eclipses to planetary conjunctions.

MARS!

On the museum floor, the Adler is setting our sights toward our planetary neighbor: Mars. With two new exhibits in the *Our Solar System* gallery, we are creating an interactive space where guests ask and explore their own questions about the red planet. The first includes life-size models of Perseverance and Ingenuity, NASA's newest rover and its accompanying helicopter, launched in 2020 to explore the surface of Mars for signs of ancient life. Designed by NASA's own Jet Propulsion Laboratory—the same team behind the original rovers—these replicas make an engrossing counterpart to the second exhibition addition, *Red Rover*.

Red Rover is a mobile activity space that invites guests to design and test their own Ingenuity-like spacecraft and identify geographic features on the Martian surface through interactive activities. Like all of our CDLs, *Red Rover* works to inspire curiosity and promote an inclusive understanding of astronomy, one where science belongs to everyone.





STUDENTS AND SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

While the Adler has been busy creating a new kind of museum experience for guests of all ages, we are also pioneering new methods of connecting with students and schools, creating educational experiences that are memorable, rich in content, and inclusive to all backgrounds. This includes new field-trip only days for school groups, in addition to time-honored initiatives like Far Horizons, where teens take the lead in addressing real-world environmental problems.

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES—A NEW VISION

In 2022, the Adler realized a bold vision: a new museum schedule that reserves two days of each week exclusively for school groups. This gives field trips to the Adler unhindered access to our museum floor, sky shows, CDLs, and more!

Students get the VIP experience—exploring and building connections without the logistical hurdles normally associated with a museum visit alongside the public. In 2022, we welcomed more than 8,000 students (the majority from Chicago Public Schools), leveraging the entirety of our exhibits, planetarium show experiences, and Educators to optimize their onsite experience. This exclusive experience allows school groups the greatest possible level of freedom, flexibility, and staff attention.

In addition to our onsite field trips, the Adler is also proud to continue offering *Virtual Field Trips*, an educational experience where students and educators meet, explore, and connect in a digital creation of our solar system. This year, over 700 students from both Chicago and beyond joined our virtual programming. In addition to this, *Virtual Field Trips* have also reached beyond schools to provide experiences for a variety of audiences, including partnerships with summer camps and children's hospitals.





TEEN PROGRAMS

Elsewhere in the Adler's constellation of educational programming, teens are exploring the big questions about our world and universe and gaining the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics) and professional skills needed to become the innovators of tomorrow.

Far Horizons—the Adler's teen-led space exploration program—has continued to exceed expectations throughout the past year. This collection of STEAM-based initiatives invites Chicago teens to confront real-world problems with real-world solutions, building crucial skills in science and engineering along the way.

This year, the teens of *Far Horizons* were thrilled to resume their signature high-altitude balloon launches, sending weather balloons into the stratosphere to research the extent and impact of urban light pollution. Teens also collaborated with staff at the Palos Preserves for academic research—just last year, *Far Horizons* helped to establish Palos Preserves as the world's largest Urban Night Sky Place. These activities all supported the Adler's Mission NITelite: an initiative focused on using innovation and technology to better understand the impact of artificial light pollution.

Back in Little Village, participants in Youth Organization for Lights Out (YOLO), an advocacy-focused group of Adler teens, used photography to document and communicate issues of concern about light pollution in their communities.

Adler's Youth Leadership Council continued to be a home for teens interested in centering youth voices within museum spaces. In the past year, participants developed advocacy and leadership skills through production of their showcase project, "BLACK HOLE: Teen Voices at the Adler." The teens incorporated creative expression, critical thinking, and radical imagination to explore topics that are most relevant to them and their peers.

The 2022 Summer Teen Interns, composed of Chicagoland students who worked alongside staff in departments across our museum, were busy during their terms at the Adler. These paid internships place teens in exciting work environments, ranging from supporting Zooniverse, our online citizen-science initiative, to creating stunning space visualizations with OpenSpace, an open-source software from NASA.

At the end of the summer, interns then presented their work to an audience of staff and parents at our Teen Intern Showcase, the culmination not only of the projects they had been working on, but also of the essential skills they had cultivated.



FY21 FINANCIALS

(JULY 1, 2020–JUNE 30, 2021)

REVENUE & SUPPORT		EXPENSES	
Contributions, Memberships & Fundraising Events	\$4,761,089	Education & Professional Programs	\$8,559,397
Admissions	\$4,441	Collections Care & Stewardship	\$546,457
Chicago Park District	\$1,757,932	Development & Membership	\$1,298,611
Other Government Grants	\$3,048,773	Administration	\$2,744,475
Other Earned Revenue	\$1,388,374	TOTAL	\$13,148,940
TOTAL	\$10,960,609		



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JWST-captured image of the Phantom Galaxy, M74. Image credit: ESA/Webb, NASA & CSA, J. Lee and the PHANGS-JWST Team; ESA/Hubble & NASA, R. Chandar; Acknowledgement: J. Schmidt





We are grateful for the generosity of our community as we look back on our latest trip around the Sun. With your support, the Adler has helped millions of people explore the universe, both here in Chicago and around the world. Whether we are exploring the Martian surface with *Red Rover*, or marveling at a planetary conjunction with Adler educators through *Sky Observers Hangout*, the Adler is offering more spaces than ever to discover together. All of this is made possible by the support of our global Adler community.

THANK YOU!