Adler
PLANETARIUM

2024
A LOOK BACK

2024: A LOOK BACK

As we reflect on our favorite space memories of 2024, we invite you to do the same. Did you witness the total solar eclipse? Take pictures of the aurora borealis? Simply marvel at the full moon or find constellations in our night sky? Do you remember where you were, who you were with, and how you felt?

Looking up fills us with an overwhelming sense of awe, wonder, and connection. That's why we've spent 2024 connecting people with the universe and each other through new exhibits and experiences, our growing youth programs, cutting-edge research, and special events. Here are some highlights.

OUR MAGNIFICENT SKY

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

On April 8th, 2024, the Moon moved between Earth and the Sun, giving parts of the country a view of a total solar eclipse. To celebrate, the Adler hosted a free outdoor viewing event. Thousands of people joined us for eclipse-themed activities, a chance to pick up their own solar viewing lenses, and—of course—to watch the eclipse with friends, family, and Adler staff.

COMET C/2023 A3

October had many great celestial events, including a long-period comet! Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS or also known as Comet C/2023 A3, visited our orbit and may never return. We shared our excitement with everyone through *Sky Observer's Hangout*, the Adler's YouTube live series where we observe things in the sky and show viewers how to do it themselves. Not only did our Public Observing team spot and stream views of the comet, they gave instructions to countless folks at home so they could see the comet for themselves!

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Every year, we set out to inspire the next generation of scientists and creative thinkers Through our programs, young people across Chicagoland create their own experiments, become leaders in their communities, and develop professional skills that will help them succeed in any field they choose.

SCHOOL AND FAMILY EXPERIENCES

When school is in session, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Adler are open solely to school field trips. Students of all ages have the full attention of our staff and full access to our exhibits, sky shows, and *Community Design Labs*. These labs provide hands-on and minds-on activities such as building rockets, drawing solar eclipses, and coming up with creative solutions to staff-designed challenges. During 2024, more than 24,000 students and 5,000 teachers and chaperones were able to look up and explore the universe with us.

TEEN PROGRAMS

More than 700 local young people joined us for programs, events, and outreach efforts in 2024. The Adler's Youth Leadership Council created sustainable goals to broaden their outreach, collaborating with other teen programs and councils at Shedd Aquarium and the Art Institute of Chicago. Youth Organization for Lights Out (YOLO) took inventory of the outdoor light fixtures of the Little Village High School campus and created recommendations to mitigate light pollution's effects there.

Over the course of six weeks in the summer, our interns worked on different department projects such as collaborating with our Operations team on the Adler's sustainability plan and working with the Exhibits team on building and maintenance projects.

Adler teen programs have received federal recognition and funding from major institutions such as NASA, the National Science Foundation, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

FAR HORIZONS

Far Horizons staff, volunteers, and teens conducted two different light-pollution projects this year. Light pollution doesn't only obstruct our view of the stars—it can also harm human circadian rhythms, animal migratory patterns, and local plant health.

To find out how Chicago's streetlight retrofit initiative has affected light pollution in the Indiana Dunes, *Far Horizons* collaborated with the National Parks Service to pull data and compare it to data collected in 2017. Their second project involved placing GONet cameras in different locations around Chicago to collect data on light pollution. This data will be compared to sky illumination models from satellite data to see the effects of light pollution.

In order to do all these experiments, we first need to understand how our instruments work. Our GONet all-sky cameras are used in most of our experiments - they give us a wide aerial view of the ground below. To ensure these cameras perform at their best, we needed a calibration protocol. Our *Far Horizons* Teens created one, teaching us how these cameras respond to light, color, and brightness. With it, our cameras can give us an idea of how much light energy is coming from cities like Chicago or Orland Park.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

NIYAH AND THE MULTIVERSE

Our latest Sky Show, *Niyah and the Multiverse*, introduces Niyah; a Chicago pre-teen who has plenty of questions about space, time, and our universe. Viewers follow Niyah as she learns about the multiverse from her grown-up self (an astrophysicist!) and makes connections between science and the cultures of her ancestors. Audiences leave inspired to explore multiverse theories on their own. *Niyah and the Multiverse* is a capstone of a years-long collaboration between the Adler and experts in Afrofuturism and African cultures and winner of the Fulldome Best Long Form Film award at the Macon Film Festival!

OTHER WORLDS

In July of 2024, the Adler was proud to debut our newest exhibit, *Other Worlds*. Guests are invited to climb over a gas giant ringed exoplanet, contribute to exoplanet discovery research with *Zooniverse*, touch the second-largest fragment of the Canyon Diablo meteorite, be fully immersed in worlds outside our solar system with the help of AI, and so much more. Here, we teach visitors about planets we've actually discovered beyond our own solar system, and what those worlds can teach us about our own.

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

ZOONIVERSE

At the Adler, you can participate in scientific research whether or not you have a background in science. With *Adler Zooniverse*, the world's largest and most popular people-powered research platform, you can join the ever-growing roster of more than 2.7 million volunteers from around the world who are helping researchers learn more about our planet and our universe. Classify clouds on Mars, label trees to help restore forests, chart the historical nesting patterns of Eastern Bluebirds, and so much more at *zooniverse.org*.

Because of the Adler's impact on open science and driving innovation, *Zooniverse* was honored with the 2024 White House Office of Science and Technology Policy award.

ASTRONOMY CONVERSATIONS

Do you have any burning questions you'd love to ask an astronomer? Now's your chance! Earlier this year, we relaunched one of our most popular programs in our *Space Visualization Lab - Astronomy Conversations*. Here, museum guests meet guest astronomers, ask questions, and learn about their current research. These conversations give guests of all ages a friendly space to interact with astronomers informally and find out what it takes to discover new things about our universe. Since its relaunch earlier this year, the Adler has hosted more than 44 *Astronomy Conversations* that have reached 10,000 museum guests.

FY23 FINANCIALS
(JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023)

REVENUE & SUPPORT	
Contributions, Memberships & Fundraising Events	$6,760,042
Admissions	$5,944,504
Chicago Park District	$2,146,167
Other Government Grants	$1,093,495
Other Earned Revenue	$3,120,854
TOTAL	**$19,065,062**

EXPENSES	
Education & Professional Programs	$11,200,214
Collections Care & Stewardship	$439,484
Development & Membership	$1,321,152
Administration	$3,231,760
TOTAL:	**$16,192,610**

ADLER PLANETARIUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

Kecia Steelman
CHAIR

Nancy S. Gerrie
VICE CHAIR

Aaron C. Rudberg
VICE CHAIR

Daniel T. Mueller
SECRETARY

Jonathan H. Herbst
TREASURER

Michelle B. Larson, PhD
PRESIDENT & CEO

ELECTED TRUSTREES

Cynthia L. Ballew
Russell F. Bartmes
Raj Bhatia
Neil Book
Liam Caffrey
David A. Crown, PHD
Daniel R. Eder
John W. Estey
Lilly Farahnakian
Tacy Flint
Ryan Garino
Muhammad Gigani
William J. Gruber
Amelia A. Huntington
Seth E. Jacobson
Linda P. Jojo
Catherine Kenworthy
Peter J. Langas
Lisa H. Lewis
Steven S. Louis, MD
Elizabeth Whipple McKenna
Michael J. McMurray
Maryann N. McNally
James C. Murray
Randy Nornes
James J. O'Connor, Jr.
Jackson Pallas
Ian C. Radomski
Chris Rauch
Brad Serlin
Brooke Graydon Slade
Scott C. Swanson

EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES

John E. Carlstrom, PhD
Rosa Escareño
Wendy L. Freedman, PhD
Sean B. Reynolds

LIFE TRUSTEES

Linda I. Celesia
Donald C. Clark, Jr.
Frank M. Clark
Bryan C. Cressey
J. Douglas Donenfeld
Michel J. Feldman
David W. Fox, Sr.
Nancy Emrich Freeman
Howard S. Goss
Raj P. Gupta, PE
Captain James A. Lovell, Jr.
David Mintzer, PhD
Edward J. Williams

Your support has helped millions of people all over the world experience the wonder of space science with us in 2024. Every program and experience we created, each time a member of our staff helped a guest understand a little corner of the sky, and every time someone in our community told us how much their Adler experience meant to them was a reminder that the universe brings people together. None of this would be possible without your generosity and friendship. Looking ahead, we're excited to introduce more innovative experiences in 2025. We hope you'll join us.

THANK YOU!