

Stars Aligned



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Adler Planetarium Announces Opening of Stars Aligned: Tracing the History of Astronomy and Astrology

-Discover How These Two Disciplines Were Once Intertwined-

On Friday, October 31, join the Adler Planetarium for the opening of its newest temporary exhibition: **Stars Aligned: Tracing the History of Astronomy and Astrology**. This exhibit, which explores the connected histories of astronomy and astrology in the early modern period (c.1500-1800), helps us understand how people of the past made sense of the world around them. Once, these two disciplines, which we now consider separate, were the same practice. Over time, astronomy and astrology took different paths, but both share a common origin: a longing to understand our place in the universe.

In Stars Aligned, guests will get a deeper glimpse into the popularity of astrology at the time through the instruments and books of the period, and learn how these two disciplines, once intertwined, began to shift. Astronomy, as the mathematical study and charting of celestial bodies, laid the groundwork for scientific discovery. Astrology interpreted those same movements as signs, shaping how people thought about time and fate, and how they used the stars to navigate daily life.

"One of the core missions of the Adler has always been to tell the history of astronomy, to help us understand how where we came from impacts how we study the stars today. Astrology is a crucial part of that history, and it's so exciting to be able to unpack that story with some of our most unusual and special artifacts," says Dr. Katie Boyce-Jacino, curator and director of collections at the Adler. "Approaching the history of astronomy from this angle gives us access to stories and lived experiences that we might not otherwise see. It's a very human story, of people trying to make sense of the world around them, just like we do today!"

The exhibit will evoke the feeling of an astrologer's home or place of practice, featuring both rarely seen collection pieces and new acquisitions that help tell the history of astrology. Some featured items include a medical astrology book from the 1600s, a northern Indian scroll from 1769 that is an astrological calendar for that year, a book of zodiac illustrations that dates back all the way to 1494, and the Banneker Almanac from African-American naturalist Benjamin Banneker that offers guidance on topics like planting, astrology, and civic engagement for the year 1795.

Stars Aligned: Tracing the History of Astronomy and Astrology is open during all public hours, and is included with all [Adler admission](#) packages. All tickets must be purchased online, in advance. For more information about the exhibition, visit: <https://www.adlerplanetarium.org/explore/exhibits/stars-aligned/>



About the Adler Planetarium

The Adler Planetarium connects people to the universe and each other. Whether it is introducing a guest to the Ring Nebula, a neighborhood school to a community partner, a research team to a network of citizen scientists, or one staff member to another, the Adler's focus on meaningful connections dates back nearly a century. The museum typically hosts more than half a million visitors each year and reaches millions more through youth STEAM programs, neighborhood skywatching events, people-powered research, and other outreach efforts. Today, the Adler is bringing our unique approach—scientific exploration rooted in community and connection—to guests from around the world who can enjoy the digital Adler from their own homes, libraries, schools or offices. With the Adler's support, people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities gain the confidence to explore their universe together and return to their communities ready to think critically and creatively about any challenge that comes their way.



Hindu Almanac, or Panchānga
This Northern Indian scroll from 1769 is an astrological calendar for the year.

