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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Adler Planetarium's New Upgraded Doane Observatory Telescope Arrives Tomorrow

WHAT: The Adler Planetarium's *Doane Observatory* telescope is getting an upgrade! Tomorrow a giant crane will be installing our new, more powerful telescope. This is the first upgrade in 33 years!

WHEN: January 28, 2020- Crane installation of telescope begins approx. 9 am

WHY: The new 24- inch *Doane Observatory* telescope will collect 44% more light than our old 20-inch telescope, and will have better optics. The views will be better, and we will be able to see dimmer objects in our sky. The telescope will be great for both visual observing and for research using cameras and instruments. The Adler is creating a research program for high school and undergraduate students beginning mid-late 2020.

HISTORY: The *Doane Observatory* opened on August 4, 1977. The first telescope installed was a 16-inch reflector. In 1985 and 1986, thousands of people came to the Adler Planetarium to view Halley's Comet. So many people came, in fact, that the extra revenue generated was used to purchase and install a larger 20-inch DFM research-grade reflector telescope. The new 20-inch telescope was installed in March 1987. In 2013, regular daytime facilitation of the *Doane Observatory* was added to daily programs, including facilitation in the summer led by teen interns. In 2014, the *Doane Observatory* received a much-needed upgrade of the telescope control system, a new ingress/egress doorway to the telescope room was added, and the former mud-and-rock crawl space beneath the telescope room was built out and outfitted as the Petrovich Family Observing Gallery and Lab.

WHAT ELSE: Each month, weather permitting, the Adler hosts our popular *Doane at Dusk* viewing event. Guests enjoy nighttime telescope viewings and related discussions with Adler astronomers after museum hours. The event is free and open to the public. For the *Doane at Dusk* schedule, visit: <https://www.adlerplanetarium.org/doane-at-dusk/>

VIDEO FOOTAGE:

Adler Planetarium b-roll: <https://vimeo.com/386596352/8524bf2282>