



**2021: A LOOK BACK**







## 2021: A LOOK BACK

---

To say that 2021 has been a moment of change for the Adler Planetarium would be a drastic understatement. With your support, we became a fully-fledged virtual museum, with programs reaching stargazers across the world while staying firmly rooted here in Chicago. As our brilliant new copper roof begins to emerge, a symbol of togetherness under the sky we all share, we are thrilled to take steps toward a full reopening in March 2022.

As we wrap up one momentous year and look forward to the next, we're excited to share with you the following recap of a year unlike any other.







## PUBLIC OBSERVING

With new online tools and an unwavering sense of optimism, the Adler's Public Observing team made crucial strides bringing our mission across the globe. With shows like *Sky Observers Hangout* and *Skywatch Wednesday*, stargazers from Avondale to Adelaide connected with Adler experts for this year's biggest celestial events. And with reopening in progress, we're happy to welcome back in-person observing with our small group events.

### SKY OBSERVERS HANGOUT

One of the flagships of our virtual programming, *Sky Observers Hangout* brings together explorers from across the world with Adler Public Observing experts Michelle Nichols and Adriana Guzman Diaz. This year, stargazers gathered to celebrate the landing of the Perseverance rover on Mars in a special "Mars-di-Gras" event. Other episodes have centered on how to spot constellations, meteor showers, and other phenomena from our own parks and backyards.

### DOANE OBSERVATION PARK & 'SCOPES AT THE ADLER

As the Adler began the process of reopening earlier this summer, the Public Observing team was thrilled to welcome small groups back to our *Doane Observatory*, in compliance with public health guidelines. *'Scopes at the Adler* invites people from across Chicago to gather and explore our sky together.

### SKYWATCH WEDNESDAY

Every two weeks, explorers can learn more about our night sky with *Skywatch Wednesday*, a more short-form program that focuses on a single constellation, planet, or other celestial feature. Premiering on YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and other platforms, this show helps stargazers near and far look up and see our universe for themselves.





## Science, Faith, and the Heavens: Astronomy in the Islamic World

More than 1200 years ago, astronomy gained a prominent place in the Islamic world, which stretched from the Iberian Peninsula to the Indian subcontinent. In this exhibit we highlight important contributions of astronomers and instrument makers from the Islamic world, while also highlighting current scholars and educators who study, cultivate, and share this important legacy.



## ONLINE EXHIBITIONS & EXPERIENCES

While the Adler is committed to providing high quality STEAM education as well as free Public Observing programs for the greater public, our activities as a repository of knowledge, a center of active research, and a forum for conversation are crucial to fulfilling our mission. Programs like *Adler Zooniverse*, the world's largest citizen science platform, in addition to our world-famous collections, help the Adler share our passion for exploration with people everywhere.



### ADLER ZOONIVERSE

*Adler Zooniverse*, the world's largest platform of its kind, is the Adler's online center for engaging the public in rigorous scientific research. *Zooniverse* has seen explosive growth during the last year, launching 62 new research projects, from identifying distant galaxies to measuring endangered frog populations in New South Wales. In 2021 alone, participants contributed over 80 million classifications, leading directly to 28 peer-reviewed publications and discoveries across the disciplines, from exoplanets detected around distant stars to identifying a new class of exotic low-mass star to Crowd AI techniques transforming the landscape of ecological monitoring.

### HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

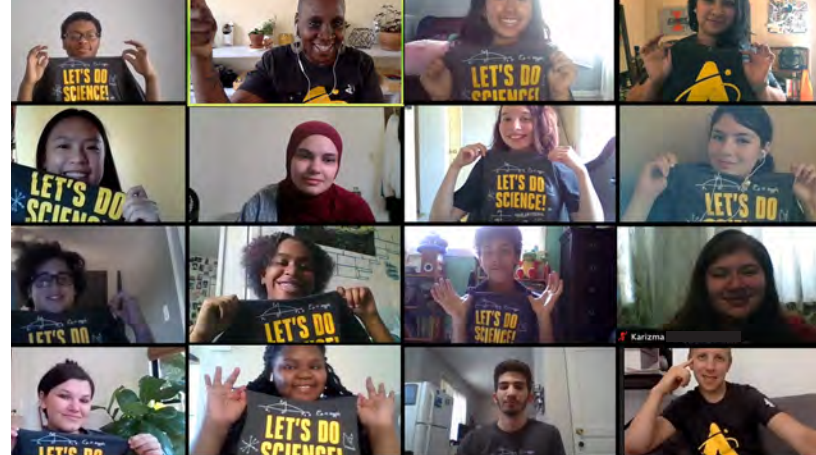
With collections ranging from the Islamic Golden Age to the Renaissance to the Apollo missions, the Adler's world-renowned collections span centuries and cultures. With an eye toward accessibility and the inclusion of new narratives, the Adler's *Google Arts & Culture* exhibits allow us to display these precious objects with high quality images and professional curation, in a series of rotating exhibits. This year's exhibits included the astronomy of the Islamic Golden Age and Johannes Kepler's mysterious *Tabulae Rudolphinae*, with significant renovations planned for our physical exhibitions.

### IMAGINARIUM

A collection of new initiatives centered around accessible, fun, and social experiences at the intersection of space science, art, and theater, Imaginarium brings people together to imagine (and reimagine) their relationship with our cosmos. At its core are curiosity, creativity, and imagination—gateways into the possibilities of space science. YouTube programs like *Wow! Signal* encourage adult audiences to playfully explore the awe-inspiring and sometimes daunting questions of our universe, while our Imagine Space content allows our social media audiences to think outside the box about our universe through creative space-based activities, "oops-education" short skits, and more.







# STEAM EDUCATION

The Adler is more committed than ever to empowering the next generation of leaders and STEAM professionals to solve the world's most pressing problems. Whether they're launching satellites into orbit with Team Stratonauts or exploring a virtual environment on one of our *Virtual Field Trips*, Adler kids and teens take their different backgrounds, interests, and skills, and learn how to be creative, empathetic, and team-oriented colleagues and leaders.



## FAR HORIZONS

*Far Horizons* brings together students, volunteers, and active researchers from across Chicago and around the world to explore our universe from the shores of Lake Michigan. As the Adler's premier space program by and for teens, its accomplishments this year have been stratospheric. In July of 2021, *Far Horizons* secured an Urban Night Sky Place designation for Palos Preserves, twenty miles outside of Chicago. Accomplished in partnership with Forest Preserve staff, this designation is the world's largest, as recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association.

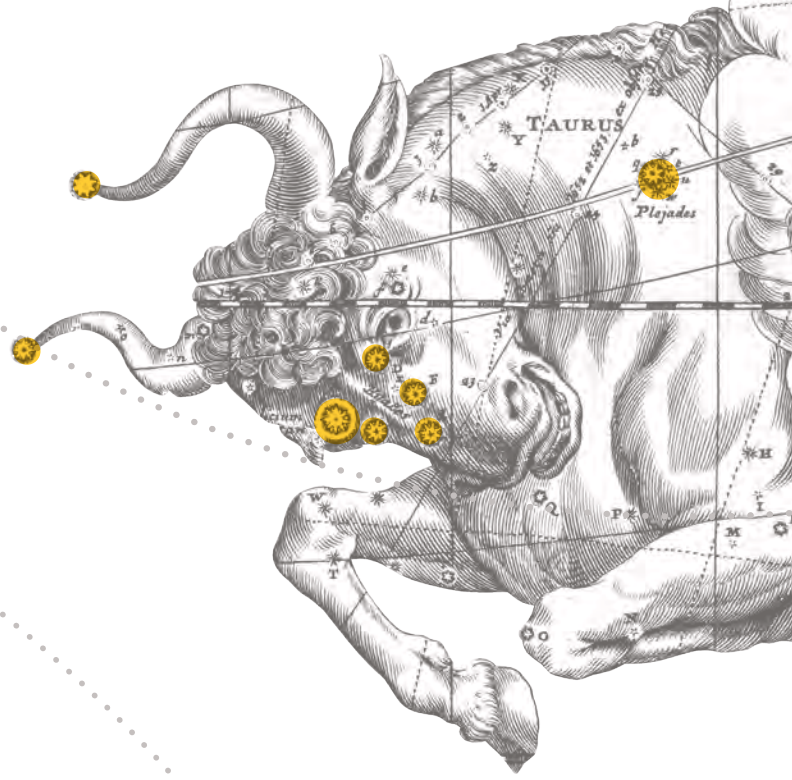
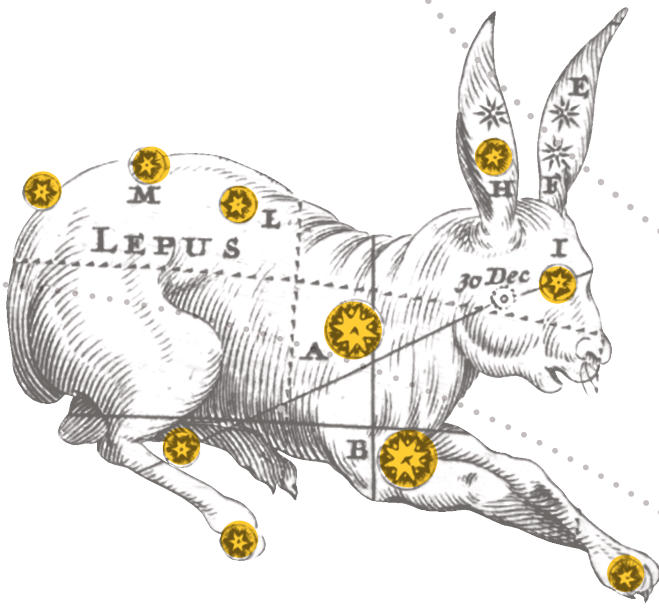
## TEEN INTERNS

Adler teen interns took on a variety of roles across the museum this year, filling roles in public programming, astronomy, and our *Zooniverse* citizen science platform, among others. These paid internships let teens work alongside museum staff, becoming proficient in STEAM subjects while preparing for colleges and careers.

## VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

In April 2021, the Adler took an exciting new step in digital engagement: *Virtual Field Trips* (VFTs). Hosted through Mozilla Hubs, VFTs invite school groups from across Chicago and the globe to learn and explore our solar system together in a virtual setting. At a fraction of the cost of a traditional field trip, VFTs help schools overcome both public health and economic obstacles. By the end of summer 2021, over 2,300 students from over 52 schools across the world had experienced VFTs. With a new school year underway, and a new VFT experience in development, we're thrilled at the opportunities that await.





## FY21 FINANCIALS

(JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021)

### REVENUE & SUPPORT

Contributions, Memberships & Fundraising Events	\$4,761,089
Admissions	\$4,441
Chicago Park District	\$1,757,932
Other Government Grants	\$3,048,773
Other Earned Revenue	\$1,388,374
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,960,609</b>

### EXPENSES

Education & Professional Programs	\$8,559,397
Collections Care & Stewardship	\$546,457
Development & Membership	\$1,298,611
Administration	\$2,744,475
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$13,148,940</b>





# ADLER PLANETARIUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## OFFICERS

Linda P. Jojo

**CHAIR**

Kecia Steelman

**VICE CHAIR**

Daniel T. Mueller

**SECRETARY**

Jonathan H. Herbst

**TREASURER**

Michelle B. Larson, PhD

**PRESIDENT & CEO**

## TRUSTEES

Cynthia L. Ballew

Russell F. Bartmes

Raj Bhatia

Neil Book

Carolyn Doane Bowman

Liam Caffrey

John E. Carlstrom, PhD

Linda I. Celesia

Donald C. Clark, Jr.

Frank M. Clark

Earle M. Combs III

Bryan C. Cressey

David A. Crown, PhD

Joseph Dominguez

J. Douglas Donenfeld

Daniel R. Eder

John W. Estey

Lilly Farahnakian

Michel J. Feldman

Tacy Flint

David W. Fox, Sr.

Wendy L. Freedman, PhD

Nancy Emrich Freeman

Ryan Garino

Nancy S. Gerrie

Muhammad Gigani

Howard S. Goss

William J. Gruber

Raj P. Gupta, PE

Carol Hibbard

Amelia Huntington

Seth E. Jacobson

Clyde Kofman

Peter J. Langas

Lisa H. Lewis

Steven S. Louis, MD

Captain James A. Lovell, Jr.

Elizabeth Whipple McKenna

Michael J. McMurray

Maryann N. McNally

David Mintzer, PhD

James C. Murray

Ashley Hemphill Netzky

James J. O'Connor, Sr.

James J. O'Connor, Jr.

Pradip K. Patiath

Ian C. Radomski

Sean B. Reynolds

Aaron C. Rudberg

Brad Serlin

Brooke Graydon Slade

Harold Byron Smith

Paul D. Steinberg

Scott C. Swanson

Kevin Thompson

Tina M. Tromiczak

Edward J. Williams







Image Credit: @erikmarthaler



## THANK YOU

At the Adler, we're all about connection. Whether it's coming together with people from across the world to advance crucial scientific research with *Zooniverse*, or looking up with our neighbors and wondering at the stars with *'Scopes in the City*, the Adler's mission to connect people to one another, and to the sky we all share, is more alive than ever.

As we look forward to 2022, equipped with the lessons and memories of an unforgettable year, we hope that you'll join us in exploring, learning, and asking big questions about our universe. Partners like you have made the accomplishments of this past year possible; your support directly enables us to bring people together to explore the stars.

**THANK YOU!**