

Adler Planetarium Hosts Sell Out Crowd, Raises Over \$2 Million at 2018 Celestial Ball Honoring American Hero Captain James A. Lovell, Jr. and Longtime Partner Magellan Corporation

CHICAGO – Sept. 10, 2018– On Saturday, September 8, 2018, the Adler Planetarium Women’s Board hosted the Adler’s biggest fundraising event of the year: the 2018 *Celestial Ball*. This one-of-a-kind fundraiser raised over \$2 million, to support the mission of the Adler—it helps our neighbors see Saturn through a telescope for the first time, our teens find a home in the scientific community, and our guests explore the farthest reaches of our Universe.

Event Co-Chairs of the 2018 *Celestial Ball*, Lisa H. Bertagna and Mihra Seta, along with Dinner Chairs Pradip K. Patiath and James J. O’Connor Jr., welcomed a sell out crowd of more than 700 guests including business, civic and philanthropic leaders in the Chicago community. A highlight of the fall gala season, guests at the *Celestial Ball* enjoyed an elegant cocktail reception and a seated dinner, followed by dancing, all set under the Adler’s stars.

During the gala, the Adler Planetarium presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Captain James A. Lovell, Jr. to commemorate the 50th anniversary of NASA’s Apollo 8 mission, to celebrate his legacy, and to express our deep appreciation for his friendship. In dedicating his life to space exploration, Captain Lovell has inspired generations to dream bigger and rise to every challenge they encounter.



That inspiration was evident when the Adler launched our *Letters to Lovell* campaign earlier this year asking the community to share how Captain Lovell has inspired them. Eight-year-old Hudson, who claims to be Captain Lovell's biggest fan, was among the hundreds of people from across the globe who wrote letters. On Saturday evening, Hudson had the opportunity to shake hands with his hero as he joined the Adler's President and CEO, Michelle Larson, PhD, along with other key Adler leadership on stage to help present Captain Lovell with his Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Adler was also pleased to recognize Magellan Corporation as our 2018 Corporate Partner Award honoree. Led by President Bob Arthur, Magellan Corporation is committed to supporting local organizations who engage young students and explorers of all ages in new and unique ways. As the first sponsor of *'Scopes in the City*, the Adler's urban telescope outreach program, and the sole sponsor of *Planets on the Path* (a scale model of our Solar System that spanned Chicago's entire lakefront in 2015), Magellan continues to help the Adler inspire our neighbors to explore the community and the Universe with us.

Additional 2018 Celestial Ball photos:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Aey_2SrZxb18vHdso5-vE23olyIqzXuX

About the Adler Planetarium Women's Board:

Since 2002, the Women's Board has been the Adler's lead partner in supporting science education programs, research, and community outreach. The Board is vital to the museum's efforts to reach underserved youth—with a special focus on young women—in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). For more information on the Women's Board of the Adler Planetarium, please visit:

<http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/join-give/affiliates/womens-board/>

About the Adler Planetarium:

The Adler Planetarium—America's First Planetarium—is more than a museum; it is a laboratory, a classroom, and a community exploring the Universe together. Each year, almost 600,000 visitors experience the museum's interactive exhibitions, live planetarium shows, hands-on, minds-on STEM education programs, and world-class collections. Founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler, the Adler Planetarium is a recognized leader in public engagement. The museum's scientists, historians, and educators inspire the next generation of explorers and invite you to explore space with us.