

## **The Adler Planetarium Takes a Journey to the Red Planet with Second Annual Mars-Di Gras Celebration Sat., Feb. 25 and Sun., Feb. 26**

February 7, 2017-- While the commonly-known Earthly festivities of Mardi Gras bring street festivals, masquerades, merriment, and lots of colorful beads to cities around the world, the Adler Planetarium is taking the festivities one giant step forward—TO SPACE! On Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, February 26, we're saying goodbye to Earth and heading to Mars for an out-of-this-world event. You'll be transported to the Red Planet, masquerade as the first Martians and experience first-hand what it would be like to live, work, and play on Mars for our second annual *Mars-Di Gras* celebration. Let the good times rove, and bring the whole family to discover why Mars is freaking awesome!

*Mars-di Gras* is free with museum admission and will be held during regular museum hours. Schedules/map will be provided to guests each day of the event detailing activities, locations and times.

### **Planned Martian Festivities:**

#### ***Mars-Di Gras* Parade with Jazz Band**

The band will be playing and parading around the museum each day at 12 and 2 pm.

#### **Martian Masquerade**

Design and decorate your very own Martian/alien masks to masquerade in the parade.

#### **See It to Believe It**

Grab some 3D glasses to view a huge landscape of Mars, plus drop by our *Space Visualization Lab* to see other Mars imaging.

#### **Red Planet Race**

"Suit up" and race through a Martian obstacle course.

#### **Dare to Compare Bean Bag Toss**

Like corn hole, but with bean bags weighted to compare gravity on Earth and Mars.

#### **The Great Crater Drop Challenge**



How wide/deep/impactful of a crater can you create? Test your crater dropping skills in our Martian dirt.

### **The Magnificent Mars Glider Mission**

Engineer and test your own Mars glider. Can you land it on the surface of Mars? Explore the work of *Far Horizons* and the science experiments we send to the edge of space in high-altitude balloons.

### **Rover Robotics**

Program your Rover to move around Mars.

### ***Mars-Di Gras* Selfie Spot**

Capture your *Mars-di Gras* fun! Snap, tag #AdlerMarsDiGras, and share.

### **Mars Encounter in the *Community Design Lab***

Do hands-on science all weekend! Join Lyle Tavernier, Educational Technology Specialist from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, for 15-minute Mars talks, an up-close look at Mars stuff, and the chance to tackle a real-world space engineering challenge.

### **Mars Pop-up Labels Scavenger Hunt**

A 10 clue scavenger hunt will lead guests on an adventure to solve a variety of Mars-themed riddles placed throughout the museum that highlight Mars connections to objects already in our collection.

For more information, visit <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/events/mars-di-gras-02-25-17-02-26-17-2017-02-25/>

### **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, nearly 570,000 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.