

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
PLANETARIUM AUTHORITY**

September 28, 2022
Zoom Conference Call
3:40 p.m.

Directors Present: Planetarium Authority Chairman Katheryn Patterson; Alfred C. Cerullo, III; Ross Sandler

Directors Absent: None

AMNH Staff Present: Dan Slippen, Executive Director for the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority ("Planetarium Authority"); Jackie Powers, Pro Bono Counsel; Richard Madonna, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Milton Yuen, Controller of AMNH; Robert Hurley, Associate Controller of AMNH; Carter Emmart, Director of Astrovisualization at AMNH; Benjamin Bernhardt, Senior Director of Rose Center Engineering at AMNH

Call to Order

Planetarium Authority Chairman Katheryn Patterson called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Directors in attendance unanimously approved the minutes of the September 28, 2021 meeting of the Directors of the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority in the form included as part of the September 28, 2022 Board book, which was previously distributed to the Board.

Approval of the FY22 Audited Financials

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Directors in attendance unanimously approved the FY22 Audited Financial Statements for the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority in the form included as part of the September 28, 2022 Board book, which was previously distributed to the Board.

Report of the Executive Director

Dan Slippen, Executive Director of the Planetarium Authority, reported on visitorship, programming and improvements to the Planetarium over the last year, which was still being affected by Covid-19. In FY22, Museum-wide attendance was approximately 2.2 million. Museum ticketed attendance was 744,000. Ticketed attendance to the Museum's Space Show, "Worlds Beyond Earth" in FY22 was approximately 547,000. This is up from 37,600 in FY21.

Mr. Slippen also reported that in FY22, the Planetarium hosted nine Astronomy programs attended by roughly 3,000 people. Virtual programs included: “Tracking Wildfires from Space,” presented by Jackie Faherty and Natasha Stavros on September 24; and “Reason for the Seasons,” presented by Jackie Faherty, Daniella Bardalez Gagliuffi, and Deion Desir on October 8. On October, 12, Neil deGrasse Tyson hosted “A Brief Welcome to the Universe” book discussion which was also presented by Richard Gott & Michael Strauss. The Frontiers Lecture series included “Earth: The Transiting Exoplanet,” presented by Jackie Faherty, and “Imaging Exoplanets,” hosted by Rebecca Oppenheimer and presented by Sasha Hinkel. On December 16, the Planetarium offered an Astronomy Online course entitled “The James Webb Space Telescope” presented by Carter Emmart and Jackie Faherty. On January 26, 2023, Dr. Tyson presented “The Year in Review”. On April 27, Dr. Tyson hosted “Astronomy Live: Our Dynamic Universe” and it was presented by Jackie Faherty.

The Big Bang theatre underwent a full upgrade of the entire projection, playback sound and control systems and the show has been translated into 6 languages.

On May 25, 2022, the Isaac Asimov Memorial Debate entitled “Space Pollution” was hosted by Dr. Tyson and featured Col. Scott Brodeur, Moriba Jah, Therese Jones, Meredith Rawls, Aparna Venkatesan, and Connie Walker.

Key upcoming events include: “Meditate in Outer Space” presented in partnership with the Big Quiet on October 22; “Frontiers Lecture: Venus and Why We’re Going Back” presented by Martha Gilmore and Denton Ebel on November 22; and “Astronomy Live: Updates from the JWST” presented by Carter Emmart and Jackie Faherty on December 20.

Next, Carter Emmart, the Museum’s Director of Astrovisualization, gave a presentation on recent observations from NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope. In addition, Benjamin Bernhardt, the Museum’s Senior Director of Rose Center Engineering, then described recent upgrades made to the Big Bang theater including new projection and captioning systems.

Mr. Slippen reported that in 2019 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) awarded the Museum an additional five years of support for OpenSpace, ensuring funding for the project through 2025. OpenSpace is an open-source interactive data visualization software program designed to visualize the entire known universe and portray ongoing efforts to investigate the cosmos.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Directors in attendance unanimously approved a motion, duly made and seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.