

UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium

College of Letters & Science

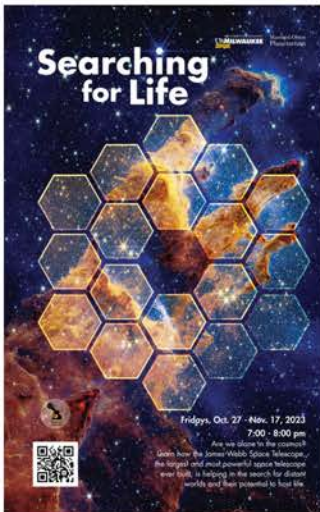
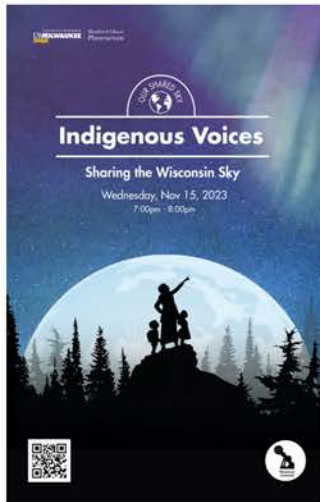


Manfred Olson
Planetarium

ANNUAL REPORT



UWM.EDU/PLANETARIUM



Since 1966, the Manfred Olson Planetarium has been sharing the wonders of the cosmos with the community. From public shows to private groups, such as scout and school groups, hundreds of thousands of people have discovered how fascinating space can be.

WORDS FROM OUR VISITORS

"My 5th and 6th grade students loved our trip to the UWM Planetarium. Dr. Jean structures the presentation in a way that ensures every student is an active participant. She values their input and questions and they all left feeling heard as well as far more curious about space! Dr. Jean makes the planetarium accessible and science learning comes alive."

"Our presenter was great and he did a great job of keeping the kids interested and engaged. Jack was a fantastic presenter! He was great with the age group of kids (4-5) and kept them interested in the show, and they learned a lot. The show was also very engaging for adults. Several parents commented that they enjoyed the show just as much as the kids."

OVER THE LAST 17 YEARS...

209,564
total attendees



5,264
total shows

64
collaborations with
university departments &
organizations

78,635
K-12 students in
attendance

120
staff members from
33 different majors

2023



14,528
total
attendees

61
free shows

336
total shows

4,636
K-12 student
attendees



Impacting others through

INVOLVEMENT



"Organizing the Senegal program for Under African Skies provided a unique opportunity to deepen my engagement in Senegalese culture and to collaborate with Ndongo "Lucky" Diop, a Senegalese musician. With the audience fully participating in our celebration of Sirius, we were transported from the Olson Planetarium to Ziguinchor where we danced and drummed in tribute to the brightest star in the night sky. Under African Skies is a superb example of the planetarium's imaginative programing that brings together the UWM community and the general public in an enriching educational environment"

Ermitte Saint Jacques, Assistant Professor, Department of African and African Diaspora Studies

"The UWM Planetarium provides a really valuable connection between the university and the community. It was a pleasure to work with their expert staff to create a show about some of the exciting astrophysics research being done by myself and my collaborators, many of whom are UWM faculty, scientists, or students. The UWM Planetarium gave me the opportunity to share my work with a broader audience that I otherwise wouldn't have been able to reach, and it was wonderful to see how excited they were to learn more about the research being done at UWM."

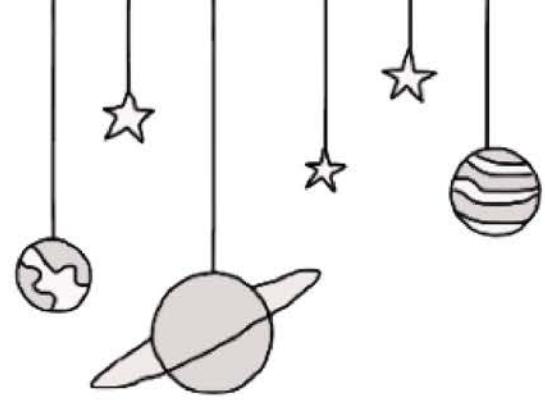
Sarah Vigeland, Associate Professor, Department of Physics



Sociocultural Programming is delighted to collaborate with the UWM Planetarium for our annual cultural programs. The richness of programming diversity introduced through this partnership provides students with a unique perspective on various cultures. The experience of stargazing and delving into the historical connections between celestial bodies and diverse cultures is truly exhilarating.

John Contreras, UWM Sociocultural Programming Manager

SHARING THE COSMOS WITH THE COMMUNITY



DR. MAE JEMISON

We were blown away by Dr. Mae Jemison at the Distinguished Lecture Series in October 2023. This former NASA astronaut and the first woman of color to venture into space talked about humanitarian needs and how our exploration of space can help with the problems we face on Earth.



SOLAR ECLIPSE

Wisconsin weather does not stop us at the Planetarium. Even though it was a cloudy day, people watched the solar eclipse live from NASA in one of the lecture halls on October 14, 2023.



CENTENNIAL PARTY

Over 100 people came to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the invention of the Planetarium projector with indoor stargazing, music, and lots of fun!

Experiencing the rich cultural heritage around the globe

At our new series, Our Shared Sky, over 300 people embraced the significance of different cultures around the world and their views of the night sky.



Indigenous Voices

Sharing the Wisconsin Sky



Celestial Celebrations: Jewish Traditions



Dancing Under the Stars



STUDENT UNION
Sociocultural Programming

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE

Under African Skies



STARS, STORIES, & RHYTHMS OF AFRICA



2023 RESEARCH



In September 2023 Director Jean Creighton published an article in The Planetarium discussing the importance of making planetariums inclusive spaces by building collaborations with diverse communities. Dr. Creighton shared three approaches used at the UWM Planetarium to achieve inclusivity: 1) co-creating content with Indigenous cultures and languages of Wisconsin; 2) collaborating with African American community leaders and artists; and 3) highlighting Islamic connections to the sky in partnership with the Student Muslim Association and the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition.

“These collaborations have led to more diverse audiences, enriched content, and a better understanding of different cultures at the UWM Planetarium.”



2023 DONATION SPENDING REPORT

TOTAL DONATIONS:
\$30,745.98

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

\$3,500



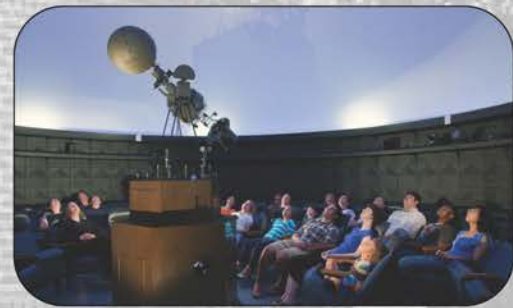
PLANETARIUM CENTENNIAL
EVENTS

\$10,870.80



SAVING TOWARD A NEW
PLANETARIUM PROJECTOR

\$16,375.18



2023 Scholarship Recipients

Andreas Beyer-Bowden
Autumn Carroll
Jack Koshkin
Natalie Starks
Quinn Stephens
Rohith Chandra Batchangari
Sophia Teubert

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



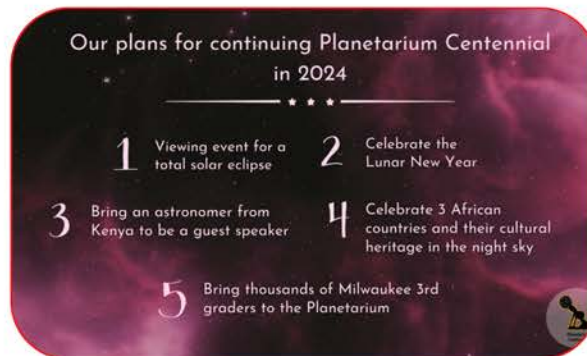
The Manfred Olson Planetarium is a non-profit organization that strives to give opportunities to talented undergraduate students while maintaining affordable programs for all to enjoy space.

2024 Fundraising Goal: \$20,000

STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIPS
\$3,000



PLANETARIUM CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATIONS
\$5,000



SAVING TOWARD A. NEW
PLANETARIUM PROJECTOR
\$12,000



We hope you'll consider donating to our fundraising goal for 2024.



ONLINE



Donate using our secure portal at:
<https://bit.ly/3rCzO2F>

BY MAIL



Make checks payable to:
**UWM Foundation ---Manfred Olson
Planetarium Fund (2712.00)**

Mail to:
UWM Physics/Planetarium
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Thank you for your support!