

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

September 22, 2020  
Zoom Conference Call  
1:30 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"); Ellen Gallagher, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of AMNH; Sheree Carter-Galvan, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of AMNH; Ann Siegel, Senior Vice President of Operations and Capital Programs of AMNH; Jackie Powers, Pro Bono Counsel; Milton Yuen, Controller of AMNH; and Robert Hurley, Associate Controller of 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 25, 2019 meeting of the Directors of the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority in the form included as part of the September 22, 2020 Board book, which was previously distributed to the Board.**

Report of the Executive Director

Dan Slippen, Executive Director of the Planetarium Authority, reported on the activities of the Rose Center for Earth and Space ("RCES") and the enormous operational and programmatic adjustments made since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Because of the pandemic, the entire Museum, including the Rose Center for Earth and Space and Hayden Planetarium, closed to the public on March 13, 2020. After a nearly 6-month closure, the Museum reopened to members on September 2, 2020 and to the general public on September 9, 2020. *Scales of the Universe*, the *Cullman Hall of the Universe*, and *Worlds Beyond Earth* in the Hayden Planetarium, among other halls and films, currently remain closed to the public.

Mr. Slippen stated that before the closure, nearly 12,000 visitors attended 17 in-person Hayden Planetarium Programs in FY20. About 25,000 viewers watched 4 virtual Hayden Planetarium Programs and the Planetarium expects virtual programs to have more 'visitors' since there are no physical limitations to them attending.

Paid attendance to the Space Show *Dark Universe* in FY20 was 506,718 and it ran from the start of FY20 to mid-January. Paid attendance to the Space Show *Worlds Beyond Earth* in FY20 was 123,255 and it ran from mid-January to mid-March of FY20. *Worlds Beyond Earth* was curated by Dr. Denton Ebel, Division Chair and Curator in the Museum's Department of Earth and Planetary Scientist whose specializes in meteorites. It was directed by Carter Emmart, the Museum's Director of Astrovisualization, who has been involved in all five of the Museum's Spaces Shows. *Worlds Beyond Earth* was narrated by Academy Award winning actress, Lupita Nyong'o.

Mr. Slippen reported that since the Museum closed, Hayden programs have transitioned to a virtual platform and many have gone online as "Field Trips," that are streamed live and archived on the AMNH YouTube Channel. These programs are hosted by Dr. Jackie Faherty, Senior Scientist and Senior Education Manager in the Department of Astrophysics, and Carter Emmart, with occasional guest scientists, and they cover a variety of topics including constellations, comets, and the Milky Way.

Mr. Slippen then described *Open Space* which is an open-source interactive software program designed to visualize the entire known universe and portray our ongoing efforts to investigate the cosmos. *Open Space* was used during the Constellation Field Trip on September 18, 2020.

*Space Fest* was held virtually on May 27 with a full day of live digital programming, including *Scientists at Home: Imagining Space Exploration*, hosted by Ruth Angus, Assistant Curator of Astrophysics; and *The Future of Space Exploration*, hosted by Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, Director of the Hayden Planetarium, Dr. Jackie Faherty, and Dr. Michael Shara, Curator of Astrophysics. *The Future of Space Exploration* premiered live on Facebook and the video currently has over 800 Facebook likes and over 600 comments.

The *Isaac Asimov Debate*, hosted by Dr. Tyson, was held virtually on September 8 on the topic of Alien Life and featured a panel of experts. It was live-streamed on Vimeo and was followed by a question-and-answer session via Zoom. 691 total tickets were sold for this always popular event.

Despite the Museum now being open to visitors again, upcoming Hayden programs continue to be virtual for the health and safety of staff and visitors.

Turning to capital improvements to the Hayden Planetarium, Mr. Slippen reported that energy efficient lighting upgrades were installed throughout the Planetarium. The City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) provided funding as part of its Expenses for Conservation and Efficiency Leadership Program. The *Astro Bulletin*

display in the *Cullman Hall of the Universe* was also updated from the Christie microtiles originally installed in 2010, to a Samsung direct view LED wall installed in August 2019.

Approval of the FY20 Audited Financials

**Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Directors in attendance unanimously approved the FY20 Audited Financial Statements for the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority in the form included as part of the September 22, 2020 Board book, which was previously distributed to the Board.**

Adjournment

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