

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

September 26, 2025

In-person: Perkin Reading Room, Rose Center, AMNH
9:40 a.m.

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

Directors Absent: None

AMNH Staff Present: Dan Slippen, Executive Director for the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority (“Planetarium Authority”); Jackie Powers, AMNH Pro Bono Counsel; S. Yasir Latifi, AMNH Senior Associate General Counsel; Orchid Baron, AMNH Vice President of Finance and Controller, and Clarissa Dondero, AMNH Associate Controller

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, 2024 meeting of the Directors of the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority in the form included as part of the September 26, 2025 Board book, which was previously distributed to the Board.

Approval of the FY25 Audited Financials

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Directors in attendance unanimously approved the FY25 Audited Financial Statements for the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority in the form included as part of the September 26, 2025 Board book, which was previously distributed to the Board.

Approval of the Open Meeting Law Resolution

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Directors in attendance unanimously approved the Open Meetings Law Resolution in the form included as part of the September 26, 2025 Board book, which was previously distributed to the Board.

Report of the Executive Director

Visitor Attendance

Dan Slippen, Executive Director of the Planetarium Authority, reported on visitorship, programming, and improvements to the Planetarium over the last year. He reported that Museum-wide ticketed attendance in FY25 was 4.22 million visitors. For comparison, Museum ticketed attendance in FY24 was 4.5 million visitors. Ticketed attendance for all shows at the Hayden Planetarium in FY25 was approximately 810,000 visitors; in FY24 it was 899,000 (“Worlds Beyond Earth” was the only show). For FY25, ticketed attendance for “Worlds Beyond Earth” was 422,000 in the Planetarium and 139,000 in LeFrak Theater; for “Passport to the Universe,” it was 312,000; for “Encounters of the Milky Way,” it was 75,000 since June 2025.

Planetarium Capital and Content Improvements

A full replacement and upgrade of the Hayden Planetarium Audio system was completed in February 2025, with significant improvements to immersion and intelligibility. The cost for this project was approximately \$1.5 million.

Frontiers Lectures and Astronomy Live and Online Programming

Mr. Slippen reported that during FY25, the Planetarium hosted 13 programs with a combined attendance of approximately 5,000. The programs included:

- September 17, 2024 - Astronomy Live: The Future of Space Exploration presented by Jackie Faherty
- October 8, 2024 - Frontiers Lecture: Parker Solar Probe presented by Manolis Georgoulis and John Wirzbarger
- November 20, 2025 - Astronomy Live: 330 Hours in Space presented by John Herrington
- December 17, 2024 - Astronomia en Vivo: un viaje por el universo (Spanish) presented by Genaro Suarez
- December 17, 2024 - Astronomy Live: Grand Tour of the Universe presented by Jackie Faherty
- February 25, 2025 - Frontiers Lecture: The Vera Rubin Observatory presented by Dara Norman
- March 25, 2025 - Astronomia en Vivo: JWST (Spanish) presented by Sherelyn Alejandro and Jasmine Ramirez
- March 25, 2025 - Astronomy Live: JWST (English) presented by Jackie Faherty
- April 8, 2025 - Astronomy Live: Spinning Stars Reveal Ages presented by Mark Popinchalk
- April 22, 2025 - Relaxed Astronomy Live: Grand Tour of the Universe presented by Kate Schmidt and Devin D'agostino
- May 20, 2025 - Frontiers Lecture: LMC and SMC presented by Gurtina Besla
- June 17, 2025 - Frontiers Lecture: Lunar Volcanoes presented by Tim Glotch
- June 25, 2025 - Astronomy Live: The Making of a Space Show presented by Jackie Faherty and Carter Emmart

Upcoming Activities

Mr. Slippen noted additional initiatives for the coming fiscal year:

- Increasing accessibility in the dome through new sensory-friendly (low-sensory) and Spanish language programming.
- Improving the dome geometry in the next few months in collaboration with Museum's display provider (Christie Digital) at cost of approximately \$30,000.
- Beginning formal research & development for the next generation display system, which is scheduled to go online in 2029. This has not been budgeted for yet but the new display will cost approximately \$4 million for a projection display or \$15 million for direct view LED display.

Adjournment

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