

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

September 25, 2026

In-person: Perkin Reading Room, Rose Center, AMNH
9:12 a.m.

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

Directors Absent: None

AMNH Staff Present: Dan Slippen, Executive Director for the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority (“Planetarium Authority”); Daniel Stoddard, Senior Vice President Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer; Jennifer Obus, Planetarium Authority Pro Bono Counsel; Orchid Baron, AMNH Vice President of Finance and Controller; and Christina De Cola, AMNH Manager of Legal and Board Operations

Others Present: Dennis Morrone and Paul Cunningham of Grant Thornton

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 26, 2025 meeting of the Directors of the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority in the form included as part of the September 25, 2026 Board book, which was previously distributed to the Board.

Approval of the FY26 Audited Financials

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Directors in attendance unanimously approved the FY26 Audited Financial Statements for the American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority in the form included as part of the September 25, 2026 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 Museum visitation, programming, and improvements to the Planetarium over the last year. He reported

that Museum-wide ticketed attendance in fiscal year 2026 was 4.1 million visitors. For comparison, Museum ticketed attendance in fiscal year 2025 was 4.2 million visitors and in fiscal year 2024 was 4.4 million visitors. Visitation among New York residents had increased, while international visitation remained below historical levels. Ticketed attendance for “Encounters in the Milky Way,” the newest Planetarium show, reached approximately 868,000 visitors, compared with 810,000 in fiscal year 2025. The show received significant international recognition, receiving the highest honor of “Best Film” at the International Planetarium Society (IPS) Fulldome Festival in Fukuoka, Japan, and the Director’s Award from the Brno Fulldome Festival in Czechia. The show was made possible by funding from Van Cleef & Arpels, which provided \$1 million split between 2025 and 2026.

Planetarium Capital and Content Improvements

Mr. Slippen reported on investments in Planetarium technology and related infrastructure, including upgrades and major repair of the Zeiss Mark 9-star projector costing approximately \$43,000; training sessions for Education, Science Visualization, and AV on the Zeiss Mark 9 interface and control software costing around \$18,000; and improvements to listening and foreign-language systems at a cost of approximately \$13,000. The total cost of these improvements was approximately \$74,000.

Open Space

Mr. Slippen reported receipt of an \$8 million NASA federal award to support continued development of open-source international software used in educational programming and co-developed by NASA and the Museum to visualize the entire known universe and to support teaching, programs, and research in the development of space shows. The award will be distributed over five years and builds upon approximately \$10 million in funding received from NASA in prior years, as well as \$150,000 in bridge funding.

Planetarium Programming

Mr. Slippen reported that during fiscal year 2026, the Planetarium Authority hosted 15 onsite programs attended by almost 8,000 people. These included the Asimov Memorial Debate hosted by Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Discussions included the impact of visitor demographics on revenue, logistical challenges to increasing school visitation, the Museum’s contributions to science education through school programs, teacher training, and Earth Science teacher certification.

Adjournment

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