

OUT OF THIS WORLD

The UTA Planetarium celebrates 20 YEARS of inspiring awe in attendees both young and old.

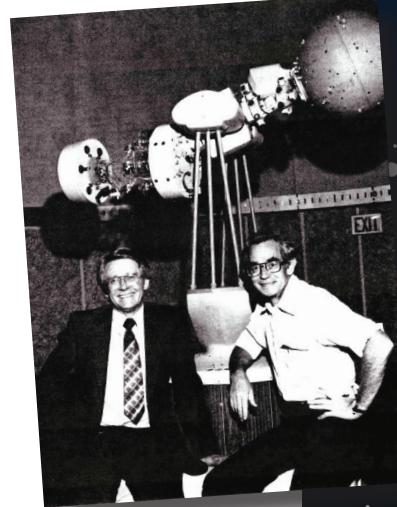
This year, the UTA Planetarium celebrates its 20th anniversary and marks two decades of bringing awe-inspiring views of the solar system, stars, and distant galaxies to audiences of all ages.

The UTA Planetarium is indisputably world-class. Levent Gurdemir, director since 2008, said that from the start, it has been a wonderful venue that helps connect UTA with the wider community.

"We are very fortunate to have a facility as beautiful as the Planetarium here at UTA," Gurdemir says. "The Planetarium is an excellent community outreach tool and has brought hundreds of thousands of visitors to campus. It's great to have a facility of this caliber to entertain and educate people about the wonders of space and the universe."

THE FIRST PLANETARIUM AT UTA

The UTA Planetarium was not the University's first. In 1975, physics professors Ulrich Herrmann and Cecil Thompson began a campaign to turn the Roundhouse—a 1928 building adjoining Preston Hall that was originally used for livestock viewing and has had multiple other uses over the years—into a planetarium. Six years passed before the funding could be obtained, but in 1981, the Roundhouse Planetarium opened for shows and astronomy classes.



UTA PLANETARIUM OPENED TO RAVE REVIEWS

A sparkling new planetarium debuted in 2006 with the opening of the Chemistry and Physics Building. The UTA Planetarium featured a 60-foot dome projection surface, a fully digital projection system, advanced digital software, and seating for 150 people. It was quickly hailed as one of the finest planetariums in the state of Texas and the surrounding region. A variety of programming and regular facility upgrades have only enhanced its reputation.





UTA PLANETARIUM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

INSPIRING K-12 STUDENTS' INTEREST IN SCIENCE

The Planetarium began hosting field trips of students from area schools as soon as it opened, and their wide-eyed reactions to the venue sowed the seeds of STEM in many young minds. The Planetarium hosts around 30,000 K-12 students from around the DFW Metroplex annually. Since 2021, yearly grants from H-E-B Tournament of Champions Charitable Trust have helped pay for the cost of field trips for area schools with significant numbers of economically disadvantaged students.

THE LATEST IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

When the Planetarium opened in 2006, it featured a Digistar 3 video projection system, the latest state-of-the-art technology available at the time. Since then, the Planetarium has had four technology upgrades and now features Digistar 7, which uses six high-resolution laser projectors to create an immersive 360-degree full-dome experience and has access to an array of astronomy and science databases. The most recent upgrade was made possible by a \$50,000 gift from Women Inspiring Philanthropy, an Arlington organization dedicated to high-impact giving.

STARS AND PLANETS, PARTIES AND MUSIC

In addition to entertaining and educational programming for schoolchildren and the public, the Planetarium also offers special events, including private parties and holiday-themed programming. The latest addition to the Planetarium's lineup is a live concert series where visitors can enjoy performances from area musicians while surrounded by stars, planets, the universe, and other graphics in the Planetarium theater.



OBSERVING THE SKY IN REAL TIME

To further augment its educational and outreach abilities, in 2022 the Planetarium opened the UTA Observatory, located atop the Park Central Garage. The facility features a fully automated 16-inch LX200GPS Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope with optical filters, which gives spectacular views of the moon and planets. The Observatory is open to the public for special viewing events, such as the annual International Observe the Moon Night.

