



BELL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY & PLANETARIUM

A Charge Forward: Activating the Nation's Planetariums to Excite the Public About Human Space Exploration of the Moon and Beyond

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A game was developed to accompany the planetarium show

Credits: Sarah Karnas, Bell Museum

The Bell Museum at the University of Minnesota aims to strengthen interest and engagement in STEM and STEM careers in a diverse set of students (grades 4-8), their caregivers and the public by developing a full-dome planetarium production focused on the human factors of long-duration space flight. The Bell leveraged its expertise in museum and planetarium accessibility to develop the planetarium show and a toolkit of related informal science activities that is relevant and accessible to a diverse audience. This project required the close collaboration and expertise of the Bell, NASA, UNC's Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, and

Karen Peterman Consulting Company, and relies on the network of over 1600 planetariums across the US. In addition to freely distributing project deliverables (show, toolkit) and evaluating their impact on audiences through this national planetarium network, we conducted and published a demographic study of planetarium audiences to fill a critical knowledge gap in the field. Working together, the Bell-led project team will enhance the public's STEM understanding and excitement about NASA's new era of sustainable human space exploration, including long-distance spaceflight to Moon and Mars.

List of Partners:

- Johnson Space Center
- U.S. Regional Planetarium Associations
- University Of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

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