

HOUSTON, CITY OF

## HPL Astro-Dome: Linking Youth to the Universe

Rachel M Stout 2/01/22 - 1/31/24



Families enjoy a virtual trip through space in the planetarium. Credits: Houston Public Library

The library's portable planetarium ("Astro-Dome") will be incorporated into existing initiatives, all of which have a proven track-record of success in teaching STEM education to underserved Houston youth. The Mobile Express, Camp STREAM, and Neighborhood Library events include numerous visits to school campuses, community centers and other locations that help bring library services directly to communities that struggle with digital access or transportation to library locations. The Astro-Dome programming will be based on NASA Next Gen STEM teacher toolkits and NASAinspired planetarium shows focused on three main topics of interest: Mars, Astronomy, and Astrobiology. Each youth participant will get a take-home STEM kit. In addition, two Star Parties will be hosted at the Central Library in conjunction with local astronomy clubs, during a noted astronomical event.

## List of Partners:

- Alief Independent School District
- Houston Independent School District
- Comicpalooza
- Houston Cinema Arts Society
- BakerRipley
- Central Library
- Young Library
- Alief Library and Community Center

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