

CLARK PLANETARIUM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Location: Virtual and In-Person Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Board attendance:

Rod Parker, Chair
Mike Maxwell, Vice Chair
Joe Bauman
Ken Gritton
Emily Lehnardt
Gina McBride
Bob Moore
Priscilla Hansen Neve
Shawn O'Kane
Michelle Schmitt
Tanasia Valdez

Patrick Neville

Natalie Pinkney, Council member

Others Present:

Kunbi Adekunle
Justin Anderson
Robin Chalhoub
Duke Johnson
Misty Morris
Tera Nicolo-Smith
Scott Sherrick
Anna Marie Tueller
Jason Trump
Jayceen Craven Walker

Board, absent:

Andrea Garavito-Martinez

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME at 12:35 p.m. by Rod Parker.

- a. Rod Parker asked the Board members if any of them had received public written or verbal comments to be presented to the Board. No comments were shared.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES & CURRENT BUSINESS

- a. Rod asked if there were any questions or comments about the August 2026 minutes.
 - i. Shawn O'Kane motioned for approval of the minutes and Bob Moore seconded. The August minutes were approved.
- b. Rod announced that two members, Andrea Garavito-Martinez and Tanasia Valdez, are retiring from the Board due to term limits. Rod expressed his



gratitude for the members' service, and the board thanked Andrea and Tanasia for their unwavering support.

- c. Duke Johnson reminded the members that we currently have five Board positions to fill; however, applications have been sparse. We have only received three inquiries thus far. Dukes asked the members to consider their networks and to refer appropriate candidates to the online application. Jayceen Craven Walker volunteered to resend the application link via email to all current members.
- d. Duke shared some beautiful imagery and video content from his recent trip to Bears Ears. He noted that the 360 degree video content is being formatted for use in the dome theatre, and we are evaluating ways to effectively present the content publicly.

III. PLANETARIUM BUSINESS & DISCUSSION

- a. Kunbi Adekunle shared the August financials. Overall, August was successful across numerous areas. Of note was how well the IMAX® performed, along with associated areas like concessions, as well as the special presentation of Phoebe Bridgers dome show. Duke pointed out that any improvements in numbers are due to solid staff efforts and a willingness to jump in to take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. Ultimately, special IMAX and dome presentations made July and August particularly successful and helped the organization's bottom line—bringing our annual year-to-date back up to budgeted expectations.

- b. Duke reminded the members that he, Jason Sills, Anna Marie Tueller, and the finance team have been working tirelessly on the 2027 budget. He commended the team's efforts, especially because of some unique proposals we are submitting this year, and thanked them for their excellent work.
- c. Scott Sherrick reported to the Board about theatre attendance and ticket trends. August (about 8% increase in ticket sales year over year). The Planetarium also saw a 10% increase in guests over this time last year.
- d. Justin Anderson shared theatre updates and discussed the efforts that have been made to provide new and unique offerings to the public. Although we have reported on The Odyssey and the Phoebe Bridgers show at the last meeting, he noted that these special presentations continue to show how unique programming has the potential to increase attendance. These events and shows have helped balance out some of the lower ticket sales to the regular film offerings. We will continue to seek out unique special programming and immersive experiences to maintain increased attendance.
 - i. Duke added that these types of events are made possible because of the enormous amount of work and willingness of staff to try new things and pivoting as needed. This is exemplified by the willingness and diligence of the GET staff to manage new events and larger crowds.
- e. Justin Anderson talked to the Board about recent Development plans and campaigns and how much work he and Tera Nicolo-Smith are doing to build an

infrastructure for philanthropy at Clark Planetarium. Tera outlined our upcoming year-end fundraising campaign, centered on the winter solstice.

- f. Duke Johnson informed the Board that several staff members are representing the planetarium at the annual ASTC Conference. He presented photos to illustrate our booth and reported that while we currently have roughly \$100,000 in exhibit quotes circulating, and ASTC is another excellent venue in which to present our exhibit offerings to prospective customers.

IV. EDUCATION UPDATE

- a. Jason Trump reported on the Education department's impact during this past school year. He presented statistics and feedback for field trips, outreach, and teacher professional development. He also showed comparisons between Clark Planetarium's impact and other sites' within our ISEE Collective.

V. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS UPDATE

- a. Misty Morris shared photos and events that happened in August. These included star parties at both Salt Lake County's Flight Park and Silver Lake (in Big Cottonwood Canyon), as well as the early morning live stream of the Roman Space Telescope launch. She also noted that we have adjusted the dates for our upcoming cell phone astrophotography workshops. She concluded by reporting that 1,920 people participated in August programs.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- a. The next meeting of the Advisory Board will occur on October 22, 2026.
- b. Rod adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.