



Chabot Space & Science Center
"Your Place in the Universe"

December, 2005–March 31, 2006
(Issued December 7, 2005)

This document and all Chabot Space & Science Center news releases and photos may be found online at www.chabot.space.org under Press room.

**** PUBLIC HOURS ****

Monday–Tuesday CLOSED
Wednesday–Friday, 10 am – 5 pm;
Friday & Saturday 10 am – 10 pm; Sunday 11 am – 5 pm
Closed 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas

Telescope Viewing

Friday & Saturday, 7 – 10 pm (weather permitting)

Special Extended Holiday Hours

Winter Break
Check website for details

**** ADMISSION ****

\$13 Adult / \$10 Student & Senior / \$9 Youth
Movies: \$8 Adult / \$7 Youth, Student & Senior
Evening planetarium shows: \$8 Adult / \$7 Youth, Student & Senior
Telescope viewing only: Free

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER — Indoor stargazing in Ask Jeeves Planetarium, outdoor viewing through telescopes, large format films in Tien MegaDome Theater, interactive exhibits and hands-on activities. Open Wed. – Sun. Observatory hours Fri. & Sat., 7 - 10 pm. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 336-7300. www.chabot.space.org

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Oakland, California 94619
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www.chabot.space.org

OPENING EXHIBITS

Chabot Observatories Exhibit —OPENS March 25, 2006

Since 1883, countless visitors have gazed through the Chabot telescopes at the wonders of the night sky. A new exhibit in the observatory domes explores the history of the Chabot Observatories and how its historic telescopes continue to be used today. Daytime visitors can virtually operate a telescope, experiment with mirrors and lenses to understand how telescopes create images of distant objects, and travel through more than a century of Chabot's history via multimedia kiosks, historical images, and artifact displays.

ONGOING EXHIBITS

Designed for Space Travel

Get a behind-the-scenes peek as Chabot's collection of space artifacts is restored. Find out how spacesuits and other equipment work to protect astronauts from the harsh environment of outer space. Learn about space food and the factors considered in packaging. Watch Chabot staff and volunteers prepare these artifacts for long term preservation in the Space Artifact Lab.

Solar-Go-Round — Take a tour of the Solar System, from the radiant Sun and the ringed planet Saturn, to giant Jupiter and far-away Pluto. Discover what makes the planets go round, then design a solar system and launch your planets into orbit. Find out how rocks from outer space can change a planet's surface and climate, then try making craters yourself. Hunt for signs of water on other planets, find out about the weather on Mars and Titan, and learn how telescopes and robotic spacecraft are helping us explore our planetary neighbors.

Destination Universe — Take a journey from our Sun to the farthest reaches of the cosmos! Along the way, you'll see where stars are born, how they die, meet nebulae of all kinds, and travel to distant galaxies. Experience the Origins Theater; crawl into a black hole; see what happens when galaxies collide; and view stunning space images!

Mars Encounter — The exhibit features a four-foot tactile Mars globe, complete with craters and volcanoes; a Martian meteorite; a Martian Sci-fi theater; a Mars Mission Control where visitors can obtain data on current and past missions; videos of Rover missions; a wall-size mural embedded with quiz games; a vacation to Mars planning station and a play area for the younger crowd. Sponsored by the National Aeronautics & Space Administration, with additional support from Microsoft, Inc.

One Giant Leap: A Moon Odyssey

For all astronaut wannabees— take a simulated Moon-walk, try on a space helmet, climb into a Mercury capsule, and land a lunar module in this new hands-on exhibit that explores the legends and science fiction about the Moon; the Space Race and the Moon landings; and the Earth-Moon system. Learn what the Moon is made of, how it affects the Earth, what causes Moon phases, gravity on the Moon, and more. You can even take a look at an ancient piece of the Moon up close! The exhibit includes space artifacts and replicas, from Sputnik and Mercury to Gemini and Apollo.

A New Space Race: ANSARI X PRIZE — Check out the latest rocket science and learn about the talented teams that competed for the ten million dollar prize in the international X Prize competition. Try “launching” a rocket yourself, place your vote on how much you would pay to travel into suborbital space, view short video clips from the competitors, and learn about engineering strategies used by each team.

Astronomy In California 1850–1950: Telescope Makers, Telescopes, and Artifacts — Explore California's rich astronomical history and Chabot Observatory's own 120-year history through a display of telescopes, artifacts, and the histories of their makers, on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

Skywise—Astronomy Cartoon Exhibit — Have you ever tried to picture how far the Sun is from Earth? Or wondered what the skies would look like from another place on Earth -- or another place in our Solar System? This exhibit of astronomy comic strips provides an entertaining and informative vehicle for discovering and understanding astronomical phenomena. The exhibit is made possible in part through support from the Ask Jeeves Foundation and *Sky & Telescope Magazine*.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual New Year's Eve Balloon Drop

Saturday, December 31, 2005, 3:45 - 5 pm

Free with General Admission. *Space is limited, advance tickets required.*

Tickets available at the Chabot Box Office, 510-336-7373

Join us for our fifth annual Balloon Drop to cheer the arrival of New Year 2006. At the stroke of 4:00 pm (midnight Greenwich Mean Time) celebrate the start of the real New Year with music and balloons dropping from our Rotunda, many filled with prizes. Children ages 5 and under are invited to their own balloon drop in the Discovery Lab.

Lunar Lounge Express Nights

Friday, January 27, February 24, March 24; 8 – 11 pm;

Tickets: \$20 Regular / \$15 Student; Available at the Chabot Box Office, 510-336-7373

Party under the stars, come in costume and view the Red planet as it makes its second closest approach in 60,000 years. Enjoy an evening of food, beverages, live performances, music, movie shorts, a SonicVision planetarium show, telescope viewing, hands-on exhibits, giveaways and outta-this-world fun!

“Love Mission” to Mars

Saturday, February 11, 3:30 & 5:30; Sunday, February 12, 1:30 & 3:30

Tickets: \$60 per couple; available at the Box Office, 510-336-7373

Celebrate with your Valentine and take a simulated space mission to the Red Planet. Includes chocolates, fizzy beverage and a souvenir of your trip to outer space.

Celebrating Black History

Saturday, February 18, 10:30 am -4 pm

Activities free with General Admission

A day of activities that include Meet a Scientist, hands-on spotlight activities, and “Inventions and Inventors” in the Discovery Lab. In the planetarium, **free** showings of *Follow the Drinking Gourd* throughout the day.

Science Fair Display

Wednesday & Thursday, March 29 & 30, 10 am – 5 pm

Free with General Admission

View entries to the Oakland Unified School District’s annual science fair.

Total Solar Eclipse

Wednesday, March 29, 1:15 – 3:15 am

Tickets \$8 Adult/\$5 Youth; Available at Chabot Box Office, 510-336-7373

Stay up late or get up early and view a live webcast of the total solar eclipse, broadcast from Turkey. Hear a guest speaker talk about eclipses and provide commentary on the eclipse happening in Turkey.

Sun-Earth Day: Eclipses

Saturday, April 1, 12 Noon – 5 pm

Activities free with General Admission

This year’s theme, Eclipse: In a Different Light, shows how eclipses have inspired people to observe and understand the Sun-Earth-Moon system. Join us in an extraordinary journey of exploration, discovery and understanding as we celebrate the total solar eclipse on March 29, 2006! Activities at Chabot on this day will include solar viewing, sun videos, various hands-on activities and demos, and planned showings of the large format film *Solarmax*.

WEEKEND HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Earth and Environmental Science Programs

Saturdays, Jan 7, 21, Feb 11, 25, Mar 11, 25; 12 Noon – 4 pm
Free with General Admission

Come join in the fun as Chabot's Environmental Programs Team of staff, interns, and volunteers help you explore the mysteries and science of planet Earth. Every 2nd and 4th Saturday during the winter you'll have the opportunity to learn more about Earth's atmosphere, solar energy, worm composting, our surrounding redwood forest, and how NASA uses satellites to study the Earth from space. Build a solar car, take a hike, have fun with worms, or see a special a slide show on one of our special themes.

Space Science Hands-On Fun

Saturday & Sundays, 1 – 4 pm
FREE with General Admission

Enjoy a cornucopia of fun, hands-on activities led by our very own team of Galaxy Explorers. Examine real spacesuits, create galaxy flipbooks, learn about telescopes, minerals and skulls, make your own comet and more in these afternoon drop-in activities.

Daytime Telescope Viewing

Saturday & Sunday, 1 – 4 pm
FREE with General Admission

Don't wait until dark! View the sun, the moon, and the planets through the telescopes during the day. (weather permitting)

Discovery Lab

The Discovery Lab is a place especially for the younger crowd, ages 2–7
FREE with General Admission; drop-in lab
Wed – Thurs, 1 – 3 pm; Fri, 1 – 4:30 pm; Saturdays, 11am – 4:30 pm; Sundays, Noon – 4:30 pm

A hands-on, open lab, an environment where you and your child can interact through play and inquiry take time out to experience and explore, stop and think and wonder, spend time together, listen to a story, try on a costume, have fun with friends and clean up when done!

Visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at www.chabotspace.org

WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

Discovery Club

Wednesdays, 3:30 – 5pm, FREE, Registration required

This after-school workshop for children ages 3 1/2–8 to explores the theme “Our Place in the Universe.” Meet new friends, brainstorm, problem-solve, design, create, and explore the scientific process. For registration, contact Dionne Laffoon, Discovery Lab Instructor/Coordinator, at (510) 336-7362 or dlafoon@chabotspace.org.

For ages 3 ½ - 5:

- December 7— ***The Nine Planets and the Sun:*** Learn about the planets and the Solar System
- January 11— ***Things That Fly:*** Test the force of the wind, then design and fly a craft that flies.
- February 8— ***Simple Machines:*** See how machines work and become an inventor and design your own.
- March 15— ***The Many Faces of the Moon:*** Learn about the phases of the Moon.

For ages 5 1/2 - 8:

- December 14— ***The Nine Planets and the Sun:*** Learn about the planets and the Solar System.
- January 18— ***Things That Fly:*** Test the force of the wind, then design and fly a craft that flies.
- February 15— ***Simple Machines:*** See how machines work and become an inventor and design your own.
- March 22— ***The Many Faces of the Moon:*** Learn about the phases of the Moon.

Visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at [**www.chabotspace.org**](http://www.chabotspace.org)

ASK JEEVES PLANETARIUM SHOWS

New Show:

Molecularium: Riding Snowflakes — November 25, 2005 – June 30, 2006. Meet a lively cast of atomic characters and learn about the basic structures of our universe in this magical, musical adventure to inner space. Jump aboard their marvelous spaceship and take an exciting journey with them into the world of clouds, raindrops, earth and space. Travel even further into the structure of a snowflake and see how atoms bond together to make all the materials in our universe. Ideal for families and their children. (*Running Time 20 minutes*)

Continuing Daytime Shows:

The Search for Life: Are We Alone? — Narrated by Academy Award–nominated actor Harrison Ford, this engrossing immersive theater experience whisks you on an incredible journey in search of the answer to this most intriguing question. This exhilarating voyage from the depths of Earth’s oceans to the outer reaches of the cosmos features breathtaking visualizations—many seen for the first time—such as a brilliant panorama of deep space, a walk on Mars and a dramatic visualization of the formation of our own fragile planet. *The Search for Life: Are We Alone? was developed by the American Museum of Natural History in collaboration with the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA).*

Secret of the Cardboard Rocket— Two young adventurers turn an old cardboard box into a rocket and with the help of a magical book and their vivid imaginations blast off on an awesome journey to the most amazing places in the Solar System. Gasp in amazement at the huge planet Jupiter, find out what Saturn’s rings are made of and discover the secret of the cardboard rocket. The show has been upgraded for digital full-dome systems and provides an excellent introduction to the nine planets of our Solar System. Especially for ages 5 – 10.

Sunshine—This 15 minute-long program lets the younger set interact with our closest star, The Sun, as he takes them through a quick look at the work he does all day and the many friends he has—the other stars! (15 min)

Evening Shows:

The Sky Tonight— Saturdays, 8 pm. Presented live and in the new digital format, the show is a current look at the stars, constellations, and planets from our perspective here in Oakland. The content of this show changes monthly. (40 min.)

Immersive Space: Journey Through the Cosmos— Friday, 8 pm. Experience the Digital Universe in our new full-dome system as it whisks you to the nearest star and beyond in merely seconds. Travel 1,000 light years to Orion; 2 million light years to the Andromeda galaxy, home to a super massive black hole; and 10 million light years to other galaxies in our Local Group. Journey further to the edge of the known universe and take a peek at what’s on the other side. (40 min)

Sonic Vision—Friday & Saturday, 7:15 & 9 pm. Sonic Vision is a trip out of this world and into the minds of the universe’s most creative musical artists and digital animators, set to a soundtrack featuring today’s coolest music. This mind-warping roller-coaster ride is mixed by Moby and features tracks from Radiohead, U2, David Bowie, Coldplay, Queens of the Stone Age, Prodigy, The Flaming Lips, Fischerspooner, Spiritualized, Audioslave, Stereolab, Boards of Canada, David Byrne and Brian Eno, Goldfrapp, Zwan, White Zombie, and Moby. The show uses next-generation digital technology to illuminate the Planetarium’s dome with a dazzling morphing of colorful visions in this one-of-a-kind computer-generated musical and visual experience. *SonicVision was developed by the American Museum of Natural History in collaboration with Moby and in association with MTV2. SonicVision is made possible by generous sponsorship and technology support from Sun Microsystems.*(38 min) *Portions of the show feature loud music and large fast moving images that may startle small children.*

For showtimes, visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at www.chabotspace.org

TIEN MEGADOME THEATER

Holiday Shows:

Mysteries of Egypt — (December 20 – January 2) — Soar over the great pyramids of Giza, cross the deathly quiet Valley of the Kings, and descend into the shadowy chambers of the sacred tomb of King Tut. *A co-production of National Geographic Films and Destination Cinema.* (40 min)

CONTINUING SHOWS:

Forces of Nature — Witness the awesome power and the unimaginable destruction of explosive volcanoes, ground-buckling earthquakes, and deadly tornadoes as you head into the field with scientists who risk their lives exploring the origins and behaviors of these fearsome natural disasters. Narrated by Kevin Bacon. *A National Geographic Film, produced by Graphic Films, made possible by Amica Insurance and funded in part by the National Science Foundation.* (40 min)

Cosmic Voyage

A breathtaking journey through time and space! Zoom from the surface of the Earth to the largest observable structures of the Universe, and back down to the sub-nuclear realm—a guided tour across some 42 orders of magnitude! Explore some of the greatest scientific theories, many of which have never before been visualized on film. *Cosmic Voyage* was nominated for an Academy Award® in the Best Documentary Short Subject Category. (40 min)

The Human Body

The incredible story of our inner universe and looks at the daily biological processes that go on without our control and often without our notice. Peek inside and follow a tomato on its journey to the biological blender of our stomach, accompany a red blood cell on its journey to the heart and see the cells inside of an ear dance to music. *A presentation by The Learning Channel (TLC) and BBC Worldwide of a Discovery Pictures/BBC co-production done in association with the Maryland Science Center and the Science Museum, London, with major funding provided by the National Science Foundation and distributed by nWave Pictures Distribution.* (43 min)

The Living Sea

Take an action packed journey to the depths of the ocean. Swim with jellyfish and whales, surf thundering waves, and meet strange creatures living at the bottom of the sea. Featuring songs and music by Sting and narrated by Meryl Streep. *Produced by MacGillivray Freeman Films* (45 min)

SolarMax

Featuring live images of the Sun and footage from around the world of solar observatories of the past, present, and future, *SolarMax* tells of humankind's struggle to understand the Sun. Travel around the world to visit historical sites of sun worship, see scientists studying the Sun, and view the majesty of a total solar eclipse. (40 min)

For showtimes, visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at www.chabotspace.org

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER FACTS

- Location:** 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland (in the Oakland Hills)
- Hours:** Closed Mondays & Tuesdays; Wednesday–Thursday, 10 am – 5 pm; Friday–Saturday, 10 am – 10 pm; Sunday, 12 Noon – 5 pm
(Closed July 4th, Thanksgiving & Christmas; Open New Year’s Day and other major holidays)
Telescope Viewing: 7 – 10 pm, weather permitting
- Admission:** **General admission** (includes a Planetarium show and free parking): \$13 Adult / \$10 Students and Seniors (65+); \$9 Youth (ages 4-12); Children 3 and under admitted free
MegaDome Theater Show only — \$8 Adult / \$7 Youth, Student & Senior
Evening Planetarium Shows — \$8 Adult / \$7 Youth, Student & Senior
- Tickets:** Tickets may be purchased at the door, or by calling (510) 336-7373.
- Celestial Cafe:** Snacks available. Indoor and outdoor seating.
- Disabled Access:** Chabot Space & Science Center is wheelchair accessible. A limited number of wheelchairs are available without charge on site. Designated parking is available near the main entrance.
- Parking:** Convenient free parking is available in the adjacent parking structure or in the Knoll Lot off Skyline Blvd. Spaces for disabled visitors are located near the main entrance (outside of parking structure).
- Directions:** **** Please Note: Public transportation via AC Transit is no longer available****
From downtown Oakland or San Francisco: Go east on I 580 to Highway 24 (towards Walnut Creek). From 24, go south on Highway 13 (Warren Freeway) towards Hayward. Take the Joaquin Miller/ Lincoln Avenue exit. Turn left and proceed up the hill on Joaquin Miller to the crest, then turn left at the signal onto the two-lane portion of Skyline Blvd. Chabot Space & Science Center is 1.3 miles up Skyline on the right.
From eastern Berkeley, Orinda etc.: Go south on Highway 13 (Warren Freeway) towards Hayward. Take the Joaquin Miller/ Lincoln Avenue exit. Turn left and proceed up the hill on Joaquin Miller to the crest, then turn left at the signal onto the two-lane portion of Skyline Blvd. Chabot Space & Science Center is 1.3 miles up Skyline on the right.
From Hayward, Castro Valley and points East: Go west on I 580 and take the Highway 13 (Warren Freeway) turnoff. Take the Joaquin Miller/Lincoln Avenue exit. Turn right, and proceed up the hill on Joaquin Miller to the crest, then turn left at the signal onto the two-lane portion of Skyline Blvd. Chabot Space & Science Center is 1.3 miles up Skyline on the right.
- Info Phone:** (510) 336-7300
- Website:** www.chabotspace.org

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