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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
UNWRAP THE UNIVERSE THIS SEASON - NEW EXPEREINCES PERFECT FOR A VISIT TO CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

NEW EXHIBITION--*GOING THE DISTANCE: OUR REACH INTO SPACE*—TINKERING IN PROJECT CREATE, STARRY NIGHT FIRST FRIDAYS PROGRAM, NEW YEAR’S EVE BALLOON DROP, DECEMBER METEOR SHOWER VIEWING, OBSERVATION DECK EXHIBITS, SKY PORTAL, NEW COSMIC RAY DETECTOR AND MORE!**
Oakland, CA, November 13, 2018—The holidays are a perfect time to discover all of the new programs and exhibits at Chabot Space & Science Center. Pilot a rover through a Martian landscape; build a marble shoot that runs three walls or stay current on the latest space launches and missions. Come see what is new at Chabot.

It’s been a busy year of new exhibits, programs and activities at Chabot Space & Science Center with three new exhibits, including the new exhibition *Going the Distance: Our Reach Into Space*, and high-energy thematic programming and activities every first Friday (December 7 and January 4), hands-on DIY for all ages from stop-action movie making to fashion design to engineer and build in Project Create, December 13/14 Geminid meteor shower viewing, interactive exhibits on our outdoor Observation Deck, a newly installed cosmic ray detector, recreate a vision of the sky of the past in the new Sky Portal, enjoy New Year’s Eve Balloon Drops and more! Descriptions of what’s new may be found below or visit [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org) . All exhibits are free with regular admission.

**ENJOY THE NEW EXHIBITS THAT OPENED THIS PAST YEAR**

***New Exhibit: GOING THE DISTANCE: OUR REACH INTO SPACE***

Visitors can pilot a remote-controlled model rover, sit at Mission Control, and build and test their own designs to land safely on a planet surface. This brand new exhibition explores how humans are expanding our boundaries by moving farther into the Universe than ever before. The exhibition frames large questions: why we go, how we get there, what we do there, and why this impacts us as humans.

Curated and built by Chabot staff, the exhibit includes models on loan from SpaceX and Planet, and draws inspiration and expertise from NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), NASA Ames Research Center and SatNOGS from Libre Space Foundation.

***New Exhibit:* *COSMIC RAY DETECTOR***

Visitors can see actual cosmic rays in real time made visible as they pass through our new cosmic ray detector. Cosmic rays are all around us all the time, and as they pass through this activated, see-through chamber of neon gas, they can be seen as mini lightning bolt-like charges as they criss-cross space right in front of you. Installed in October 2018. The exhibit was built by Dr. David Grossman.

***PROJECT CREATE***

Project Create is 3,000 square feet of tinkering space that encourages you to explore, experiment and build (or take apart) using your hands and a few handy tools. Plan to roll up your sleeves and spend some time building Marble Machines, creating a movie at our Stop Motion Stations, designing at Tinker Tailor, discovering the insides of a computer at our Tech Take Apart and much more.

Step into our workshop for deeper engagement opportunities led by Chabot staff with a variety of activities set to let your imagination run wild. At Project Create, we love seeing families and friends work together to discover their inner innovator as they create something awesome.

***SKY PORTAL***

Be transported in Chabot’s newest personal-experience exhibit that invites you to step into the past by re-creating the sky exactly as it was during an important event in your life. At every moment in time, the pattern of celestial bodies in the sky has a unique arrangement that will never be repeated. At Sky Portal, you can configure the constellations, Sun, Moon, and planets that arced across the sky back when you were born, graduated, got married, or first set foot on Antarctica. Set the time and place and travel back on your own sky journey.

***OBSERVATION DECK***

The Chabot Observation Deck is Chabot’s newest permanent Exhibit that invites visitors to observe the world around them in new ways. Opened in April 2018, the 3200 sq. ft. exhibition area features 12 interactive stations.

***New in November: Mutual Air***

What’s that sound? An Oakland-wide Art Installation, designed by artist Rosten Woo and The Exploratorium to make visible the ubiquitous yet invisible public commons: the air. Working with Berkeley Atmospheric CO2 Observation Network (BEACON) that uses a high density of low-tech instruments to provide a detailed picture of real-time pollutant concentrations, Mutual Air is a series of sensor-activated chimes that sonify carbon fluctuations, The first public bells are installed at The Exploratorium, Chabot Space and Science Center Observation Deck, and the Oakland Museum of California. These sculptures will work in unison, ringing out the daily highs and lows of carbon concentration and densities of particulate matter, working as Trojan horses in a sense, utilizing interest in civic art to enhance the quality of environmental monitoring and synchronizing residents with one another and their environment in a new way.

**A STELLAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE SEASON**

**NASA InSight Landing Live Stream**

November 26, 11am-2 pm
Price: $8

Join us at Chabot as we live stream the NASA InSight Landing on Mars in our Megadome Theater. Don’t miss this once in a lifetime experience to watch live as the probe enters Mars atmosphere and prepares for its long journey of discovery on the Red Planet! Join our resident astronomers for a talk about InSight and explore our new exhibit, Going the Distance: Our Reach into Space, where you can pilot a rover across a Martian terrain and view

***FIRST FRIDAYS***
December 7, 6 pm - 10 pm

Price: $5

Starry Night
Learn about the stars and constellations and the mythology behind them. Discover the night sky and find out what the sky looked like on the day you were born. Build constellations to take home and listen to star stories from our local astronomers. This will be an evening of wonder as the Oakland Youth Chorus joins us in the Planetarium for their winter concert.

***GEMINID METEOR SHOWER VIEWING***
11pm, Dec 13-3:30am, Dec 14
Price: $8 / Hot Chocolate included

Bundle up and join hundreds of community members who flock to Chabot to get above the urban light pollution to view the last spectacular meteor shower of 2018, learn about heavenly bodies and wish upon the “falling stars”.

Weather permitting. Open areas for viewing, so lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged.

***PLANNING A TRIP TO MARS:*** *A**Talk by Margaret Race, Senior Research Scientist at SETI*

2 pm, December 29th

Free with Admission

We know a lot about Mars, our nearest planetary neighbor, but so far, all exploration of the Red Planet has been done entirely with robotic spacecraft and rovers. What will it take to someday put humans on Mars? How long before we can spend a holiday vacation there? Come join us for a special presentation about planning the trip of a lifetime. Dr. Margaret Race, an astrobiologist with NASA and SETI Institute, will explain the kinds of questions and concerns that arise when planning human missions to Mars. It takes more than rocket scientists and astronauts to get to Mars!  You'll be amazed at the variety of careers involved and how long the planning will take!

***18th Annual NEW YEAR’S EVE BALLOON DROP***
December 31, 2018

An East bay holiday tradition, families can ring in the New Year without staying up all night with one of Chabot’s most popular annual events. Celebrate strokes of midnight around the world at 11am, 1pm, and 4pm. Kids will count down and celebrate with hundreds of colorful balloons dropping from above and stay for the day to participate in fun activities throughout the Center.

Drop Times:

11am: Ages 5 & Under (Rotunda)
1pm: Ages 6 -12 (Rotunda)
1pm: Ages 5 & Under (Discovery Lab)
4pm: Ages 6 – 12 (Rotunda)
4pm: Ages 5 & Under (Discovery Lab)

Registration:

December 3: Member priority registration begins
December 10: Guest registration begins

.***COSMIC RAY DETECTOR***

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**A SEASONAL SPECIAL**

**SHARE THE SKIES: Give a Gift of a Chabot Membership**

November 23-December 31st

Chabot will donate a gift membership to a family from a Title I Oakland Unified School District partner school for every Gift of Membership purchased. Give a gift that will delight your loved ones all yearlong and brighten another family’s year at the same time.

Chabot family memberships start at $99. Discounts do not apply.

**About Chabot Space & Science Center**

Chabot Space & Science Center is a non-profit institution and community resource located on 13 trail-laced acres in Redwood Regional Park in Oakland. Chabot features a 241-seat full dome planetarium, interactive and hands-on exhibits, space artifacts, a giant screen theater, a Challenger Learning Center, and the only research-level telescopes regularly available to the public for weekly live viewing in the Western United States.

Chabot’s mission is to inspire and educate learners of all ages about the Universe and Planet Earth.

Chabot Space & Science Center is open Wed.-Sun. 10 am-5 pm with $5 First Fridays the first Friday of every month 5-9 pm. Admission is Adults: $18 • children 3-12 $14 (under 3 free) • Students/Seniors $15 • Memberships available.

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