

MEDIA CONTACT:
Mary Catherine Frantz
425-442-8402
pr@chabotspace.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER CELEBRATES 20TH YEAR AT THE SKYLINE CAMPUS WITH SPECIAL EVENTS, AN ONLINE AUCTION AND A COLLECTIVE LOOK BACK AT THE LAST 20 YEARS.

Oakland, CA, July 30, 2020 – Celebrating the latest chapter in its 137-year legacy as an Oakland institution, Chabot Space & Science Center will celebrate 20 years of learning at the Skyline Campus throughout the month of August.

Events will include two virtual community celebrations, an online silent auction to benefit STEM education at the Center and a look back at highlights from the past 20 years.

Chabot Space & Science Center was reopened at its Skyline location in August, 2000. Since then, the Center has expanded with new programs, exhibitions and events.

Starting in 2000, Chabot's [Galaxy Explorers](#) program has welcomed thousands of local high school students for hands-on community service work. This competitive program offers students hundreds of community service hours made up of impactful science demonstrations, team projects, enrichment lectures and more. Many have earned the President's Volunteer Service Award and moved on to exciting STEAM careers. This is also the 20th anniversary of Chabot's annual [Balloon Drop](#), a popular event that has gathered the community to celebrate and learn together.

Since 2000, Chabot has debuted fun and impactful exhibitions that have received national attention, including [Bill Nye's Climate Lab](#) and [Going the Distance](#). New permanent additions to the Center include [Chabot's most powerful telescope "Nellie"](#) and a 3200 sq. ft. [Observation Deck](#) in partnership with the Exploratorium.

[Chabot's Star Party Spectacular](#) on Friday, August 21 at 8 p.m. will celebrate this milestone with engaging STEM activities, a virtual dance party, appearances from leading scientists and Executive Director, Adam Tobin.

This celebration will be followed by [137 Years of Chabot Space & Science Center in 60 Minutes](#), a special virtual talk on Wednesday, August 19 at 8 p.m. Look back through more than a century of Oakland history with this special look back by astronomer Ben Burrell.

Chabot will hold a special silent auction to benefit STEM education at the Center, featuring private telescope viewings, an exclusive Hike and Sip event and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience a private viewing under a starry sky created

by the Zeiss Universarium machine, one of four in the country. Chabot will also be auctioning off select prints from last year's popular Luminous Moon exhibition. All proceeds raised help fuel accessible STEM programming for the community.

This August, Chabot Space & Science Center is encouraging the community to share their favorite memories from the past 20 years on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with #ChabotSpaceMemories. Chabot will be sharing contributed memories on social media from members, leaders and community partners.

Since 1883, Chabot Space & Science Center has evolved and adapted from its original founding as Oakland Observatory. The Center has evolved from an Observatory to Oakland's science center, expanding offerings to include programs that incorporate biology, physics and more.

One of the oldest science centers on the West Coast, Chabot Space & Science Center has moved three times over the last 137 years. Founded in Jack London Square as the official timekeeper of Oakland, Chabot Observatory had to find a new location outside the city center as light pollution changed astronomical visibility in the 1800.

In 1918, Chabot Observatory found a new home on Mountain Boulevard and added a 90-seat planetarium, science labs and classrooms that allowed the Observatory to bring science to life in new ways.

When seismic concerns threatened the Center on Mountain Boulevard, the City of Oakland came together to give science a home on Skyline Boulevard. The new Chabot Space & Science Center opened to the public on August 19, featuring telescopes Leah and Rachel, a full dome Planetarium, three labs, several classrooms and new exhibits. Chabot Space & Science Center is a testament to the power of community and togetherness through science.

[Historic Photos](#)

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 amid the largest stand of coastal redwoods in the East Bay. 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.

###

