CAMPAIGN FOR

INNOVATION

STRASENBURGH PLANETARIUM | PHASE 1: GIFTED!

In 2019, the RMSC reopened the Strasenburgh Planetarium with a new, state-of-the-art full-dome projection system featuring unprecedented clarity and breathtaking images. As visitors enter the renovated Star Theater, they discovered new carpeting, wall coverings, wider aisles, and a flexible seating
plan that allows the space to be used for diverse events and programs. Visitors enjoy wider chairs; a colorful new ambiance created by a ring of programmable LED lighting; and upgraded sound and laser systems.

Architectural updates in the lobby and Star Theater have been carefully planned to show respect for the Planetarium's original design while adding flexibility for the future. The lobby and theater now function together for private events such as weddings and business meetings, with a new food and beverage service bar.

A View from Home
Viewers enjoy digital images thanks to lenses made right here in Rochester, NY. Projection onto the dome is handled by two concealed digital cinema projectors equipped with special hemispherical lenses made by Rochester-based optics manufacturer Navitar, Inc.

Orbit Around Pictures of the Past
The Gambit-1 (KH-7) spy satellite optical system (seen above on the right) is a national treasure you can only see at the Strasenburgh Planetarium. Visitors can explore the components of this technological masterpiece, designed and manufactured in Rochester in the 1960s. Through interactive lighting visitors will marvel at the extraordinary resolution of its photos and solve design problems faced by the Gambit's original engineers. These engineers played an important role in giving the United States an intelligence edge during the Cold War.

For more information, please contact: Melanie Barnas-Simmons,
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RMSC

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STRASENBURGH PLANETARIUM | PHASE 2: FLIGHT PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

New Planetarium exhibits will take visitors through an exploration of the universe and humanity's place in it! Same Sky will feature multicultural approaches to observing the natural sky in a series of stunning multimedia presentations and share cultural astronomy knowledge from the Maya, Dine,and Haudenosaunee people. Visitors will explore the ancient, modern, and universal endeavor of skywatching through unique cultural perspectives as artists, and storytellers interpret breathtaking objects and artwork on display from the Museum's collections.

Rochester in Space will take guests through the intersections between the space sciences and Rochester's technological past, present, and future. Authentic objects and participatory experiences will demonstrate surprising ways in which Rochester-based innovations in space exploration have influenced technology, and perhaps even saved the world. In addition to the existing Gambit-1 (KH-7) spy satellite optical system, this exhibition features locally-built technology including space telescopes such as the Hubble, Chandra, and James Webb, as well as the optics found in the Spirit, Curiosity, and Opportunity rovers.

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