

Editorial

Between October 2023 and May 2025, we celebrate the Centennial of the Planetarium: one hundred years of storytelling, learning, and exploration under the dome. In these one hundred years, countless planetariums have emerged to bring the awe-inspiring night sky to people worldwide. This issue of CAPjournal represents a special edition of our special edition. All of the articles published in this issue are planetarium stories: non-peer-reviewed accounts of the diversity of planetariums worldwide. These articles collectively tell an important story about the different forms that planetariums can take in their communities, as driving forces of STEM learning and engagement.

Dani LeBlanc of the Museum of Science, Boston and co-Chair of the International Planetarium Society's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee describes the ever-evolving landscape of storytelling in the planetarium. She prompts us to consider that the planetarium has always been a venue for community building through sharing experiences of the night sky.

This issue presents a diverse collection of articles that span a wide range of the planetarium's functions. In an interview with Noreen Grice, Carolyn Collins explores the important and long-term process of creating accessible planetarium materials with and alongside communities. Accessibility, equity, and inclusion are prerequisites for establishing representation in STEM, generally, and in astronomy in particular. *Aruba's first planetarium: A work in progress* details the developing plans to establish the first planetarium in Aruba, epitomising the phrase "you can't be what you can't see". Similarly, in *Planetarium María Reiche: A vintage planetarium in the digital age* the author presents a planetarium dedicated to the archaeo-astronomical work on the Nasca Lines of María Reiche and pairs cultural preservation with a unique tourism environment, shining a light on the incredible ingenuity of the Nasca people. Planetariums of all sizes can inspire learners of all ages to explore their curiosity in astronomy. The article *Celebrating the Centennial of the Planetarium – Reflections and innovations in the planetarium community in Kuwait* discusses a planetarium and museum that work in tandem to bring impactful experiences to the next generation of scientists in Kuwait. In recent years, we have seen the planetarium move from being solely dedicated to displaying the night sky to hosting a wide variety of creative events that bring the community into the immersive environment of the planetarium. In *Unisphere after three years of operation*, the authors describe their many creative uses for their young planetarium. Also touching on this topic, the authors of *The Infini.to planetarium: One tool, many ways to make the most of it!* offer a case study and best practices of a science center and planetarium that bridge researchers and teachers alike to make the most out of their planetarium experience. Of course, planetariums can be important tools in academic settings. In *The first planetarium in an astronomy department in Turkey*, the authors describe how the Istanbul University Planetarium was conceived, constructed and operated to this day. Highlighting the historical importance of planetariums, the authors of *Archival research in a planetarium: The first projector at Armagh Planetarium* sift through the history of the Amagh Planetarium to better understand their beginnings.

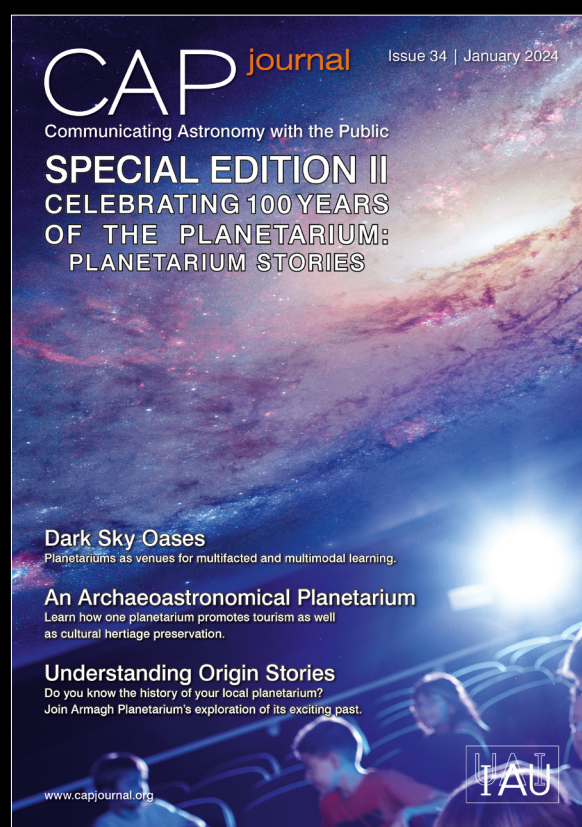
As the planetarium has evolved over these last one hundred years, its function has broadened to include a varied collection of creative and innovative community-driven activities. We hope that these articles inspire you to get curious about the unique ways you could interact with your local planetarium, and the diverse communities you could invite into the space to not only experience a true dark sky, but also to engage in multidisciplinary STEM learning.

As a note to our readers and potential authors: all articles in this are exceptions to our new guidelines for submission. Typically, each article will be reviewed by a member of our Editorial Board and an external Peer Reviewer. In this special edition, however, we decided to publish these stories alongside our peer-reviewed issue (CAPjournal #33) to promote the accomplishments of planetariums worldwide. We welcome submissions on a rolling basis and invite everyone to learn about our new Submission Guidelines for peer review on our website, www.capjournal.org.

Kelly Blumenthal
Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

Cover: This issue is part two of our special edition of CAPjournal, celebrating one hundred years of the planetarium. From the first planetarium in 1923 (pictured in the foreground of CAPjournal Issue #33) to today, planetariums have undergone a substantial change. Once a venue to view only the stars in the night sky, planetariums are now educational powerhouses, transporting audiences across space and time. This image shows a view from inside the state-of-the-art planetarium at Cité de l'espace in Toulouse, France, where audiences are shown dazzling images of galaxies and brought on journeys to black holes.

Image Credit: Cité de l'espace



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