



May 12, 2023

Dear Friends of the IDSDC,

## Major Tipping Point Donation!

We are exceedingly happy to announce that the AZ state budget signed today by Governor Hobbs includes **\$10 million** for the International Dark Sky Discovery Center. This brings our total funds raised to **\$18.5M** and moves the project much closer to the excitement of putting a shovel in the ground for this amazing educational facility.



Much credit for this budget allocation goes to Arizona State Senator John Kavanagh. His understanding of the value that the Discovery Center brings to the state is reflected in his support statement as follows:

*“The International Dark Sky Discovery Center will be a STEM centerpiece for educating people about the space sciences and the importance of dark skies to humans, plants, and animals.”*

**Thank you Senator Kavanagh!!**

## Governor's Office Support

Support for this project is also strong in the Governor's office as evidenced by the following support statements:

*"With its STEM education focus and a mission consistent with the Smithsonian's Lights Out exhibit, the International Dark Sky Discovery Center will serve as a symbol that our state leads the way in protecting our starlit skies for future generations."*

**Katie Hobbs, Governor, State of Arizona**

*"Dark skies are an increasingly important part of Arizona's tourism offerings and Fountain Hills admirably represents our state's dedication to astronomical research, discovery, and stargazing culture at the Smithsonian. We're excited to continue welcoming visitors inspired by this amazing exhibit to experience all our state - and night skies - have to offer."*

**Lisa Urias, Executive Director, Arizona Office of Tourism**



The AZ Office of Tourism (AOT) recognizes that our STEM education facility also has great tourism potential in the astronomy state of Arizona. Recently, our project was highlighted in **The Grand Connection**, which is AOT's profile series designed to connect Arizona's tourism industry through the experiences and insights of those who drive it. Choose the Discovery Center near the top after clicking this [LINK](#).

## Private Donors Play Key Role

While state support is GREATLY appreciated, we are also thankful for the support from private donors. Two major pledges have been made:

One at \$1M  
One at \$250K

The number of Launch Crew donors, now at 241, continues to grow:

11 Mission Controllers; \$5,000 or more  
49 Launch Crew Founders: \$1,000 - 4,999  
33 Launch Crew Patrons: \$500 – 999  
148 Launch Crew Sponsors: \$100 – 499



Learn more about our donation and pledge programs [HERE](#).

Worth pointing out is the statewide, national, and even international support:

140 – Fountain Hills  
36 – From Arizona cities outside Fountain Hills  
21 – From other states  
1 – From outside U.S.

## Some Work Remains

Although we are closing in on our fundraising goal, work remains. The ground-breaking shovel is anxiously awaiting the remaining \$6M - \$8M still needed. **Private donors and foundations will be critically important for this last phase!**

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Please forward this email to anyone who might be interested in the Discovery Center or might wish to learn more about our [donation and pledge programs](#).

If you received this email because someone forwarded it to you and you wish to be added to our email distribution list, you can subscribe on our [Contact Page](#).

May all your stars align,

**Board of Directors**

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	<b>JOIN OUR LAUNCH CREW</b>	
	<b>International Dark Sky Discovery Center</b> a 501(c)3 nonprofit AZ corporation, EIN: 83-3364739	
Your donation will support our fundraising efforts and you will be recognized for your early involvement. Those donating \$100 or more will be displayed on a prominent plaque in the facility as follows:		
	<b>\$5,000 or more:</b>	<b>Mission Controller</b>
	<b>\$1,000 - \$4,999:</b>	<b>Launch Founder</b>
	<b>\$500 - \$999</b>	<b>Launch Patron</b>
	<b>\$100 - \$499:</b>	<b>Launch Sponsor</b>
Name: _____ Donation Amount: _____		
Address: _____		
Email address: _____ Date: _____		
Please make check payable to: International Dark Sky Discovery Center Mail to: International Dark Sky Discovery Center, PO Box 18198, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269 Donations can also be made via PayPal on our website here: <a href="http://darkskycenter.org/donors">darkskycenter.org/donors</a> All donors will be added to the email list of supporters to receive occasional updates.		