



September 10, 2023

Dear Friends of the IDSDC,

We owe a big THANK YOU to Celestron.

Celestron, the world's leading manufacturer of telescopes, showed strong support for the IDSDC by donating telescopes for the Private Viewing Terrace. They also plan to donate microscopes for the Einstein Exploration Station and perhaps additional telescopes next year.



Board members Geoff Yazzetta and Ted Blank with Celestron shipment on the site of the IDSDC

As stated by Board member Kevin Beck, “We are so thankful that we reached out to Celestron and informed them of our project. We are very thankful for Celestron’s support and excited that we’ll be working with them in a lasting, mutually beneficial relationship.”

Joe Bill said, “I knew these were professional, top-of-the-line telescopes when I saw that the shipping weight for the three scopes was 326 pounds.”

“These telescopes are outstanding,” said Ted Blank. “The CPC Deluxe 1100 HD telescopes offers amazing views of so many objects in our dark skies.” Two days after receiving the shipment, Ted inaugurated one of these awesome telescopes at a Star Party at Needle Rock.

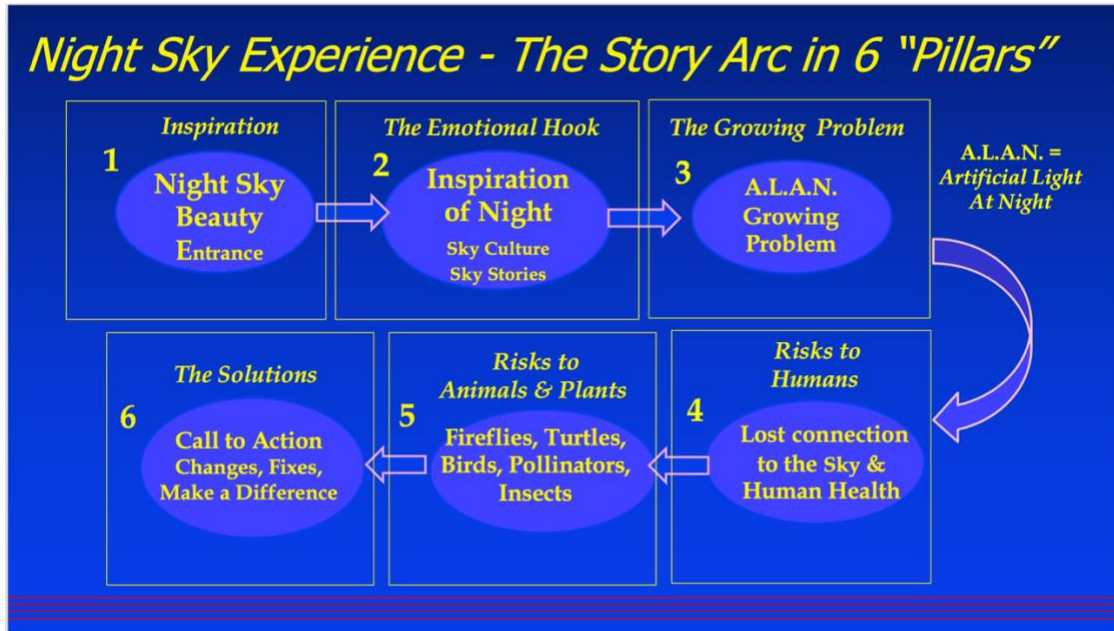
There will be upcoming star parties where you’ll have an opportunity to experience what a good telescope is all about. We look forward to when visitors will have this opportunity on a regular basis after the Discovery Center opens.



Exciting New Phase for Exhibit Design

We are happy to announce that **Split Rock Studios** has joined our effort to complete the design of the exhibits in our Immersion Zone. The company is based in Minneapolis, and they have the capability to finalize our preliminary designs, fabricate the full range of static and interactive exhibits, and follow through with installation.

On August 28 and 29, we launched our collaborative effort with two full days of discussions, presentations, and brainstorming. The image below outlines the flow and the themes in the various areas.



The following image demonstrates an exercise to select theming, color schemes, and graphic styles.



Below, Niki Murray, Split Rock Studios Project Manager, outlines the project players.



The Split Rock Studios team visited the Discovery Center site with the Immersion Zone Committee.



Photo taken at site on south side of Centennial Circle

L. to R. IDSDC Exhibit Committee

Scott Adams, Geoff Yazzetta, Lisa Miller, Tony Pistilli, Vicky Derksen, Chandra Merica, Nancy Bill, Ted Blank, Joe Bill

L. to R. Split Rock Team

Cathan Murray, Niki Murray, Margaret Lee, Brendan Grant, James Tordoff

Our exhibit committee is comprised of just over half our Board members and chaired by Board member Tony Pistilli who starts our weekly meetings by saying, “Isn’t this exciting?!” That enthusiasm is contagious.



Fundraising Goal Within Sight

The ground-breaking shovel is anxiously awaiting the remaining \$6M needed. **Private donors and foundations will be critically important for this last phase!**

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

Please forward this email to anyone who might be interested in the International Dark Sky Discovery Center.

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](#).

Thank you for your interest in the IDSDC.

May all your stars align,

Board of Directors

Joe Bill, President

Ted Blank, Vice President

Nancy Bill, Treasurer

April Sessner, Secretary

Scott Adams, Kevin Beck, Jerry Butler, Vicky Derksen, Jeff Esposito, Walt Franklin, Alan Magazine, Chandra Merica, Tony Pistilli, Geoff Yazzetta

	JOIN OUR LAUNCH CREW	
	International Dark Sky Discovery Center 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:	
	\$5,000 or more:	Mission Controller
	\$1,000 - \$4,999:	Launch Founder
	\$500 - \$999	Launch Patron
	\$100 - \$499:	Launch Sponsor
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: darkskycenter.org/donors All donors will be added to the email list of supporters to receive occasional updates.		