

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Newark Museum Presents ***Great Balls of Fire!*** ***Comets, Asteroids, Meteors*** **October 1, 2014 through January 4, 2015**

NEWARK – What exactly are asteroids, comets and meteorites, and where do they come from? What can they tell us about Earth and the origins of our Solar System? The Newark Museum's upcoming exhibition *Great Balls of Fire! Comets, Asteroids, Meteors* explores recent discoveries and cutting-edge science relating to these incredible objects. It opens on October 1 and runs through Jan. 4, 2015.

The exhibition is divided into four areas: Origins, Asteroids, Comets and Impacts. It includes a variety of interactive, multimedia experiences. Visitors can have an Asteroid Encounter inside a spaceship that rockets them to the edge of the solar system to learn where asteroids originate and how they can sometimes impact planets. They can test their knowledge of the truth about comets and asteroids at the Science Fact or Science Fiction Theater. Children and adults alike will enjoy discovering the facts about comets, asteroids and meteors and how they have helped shape our world and how they might change it in the future.

While asteroids and comets are popular subjects for movies like "Armageddon" and "Deep Impact," they are also playing their own starring roles in scientific research. Over the past several years, a small fleet of NASA probes and space telescopes have been exploring asteroids and comets. In 2013, more than a thousand people in Chelyabinsk, Russia were injured when an asteroid exploded in the air above their city. With all this interest and excitement, asteroids and comets are compelling subjects for an exhibition.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum is holding Astrofest on Saturday, October 18, from 10 am to 4:30 pm. This fun-filled family festival will allow kids to explore space and astronomy with hands-on activities, demonstrations and laser shows. In addition, Firefall, a new planetarium show, will open Wednesday, October 1 at the Dreyfuss Planetarium to compliment the exhibit.

The Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning, with funding from the National Science Foundation and NASA, has developed this national traveling

exhibition program. This work was completed by the Space Science Institute, which was supported by NSF under Grant No. ESI-0404414.

For additional information, follow the Museum on Facebook at facebook.com/newark.museum or Twitter at twitter.com/newarkmuseum; or visit www.newarkmuseum.org.

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ABOUT THE NEWARK MUSEUM

The Newark Museum is located at 49 Washington Street in the heart of the Downtown/Arts District of Newark, New Jersey, between the Rutgers Newark Campus and NJPAC. The Newark Museum is 10 miles west of New York City and easily accessible by NJ Transit and PATH. The Museum is open all year round: Wednesdays through Sundays, from Noon – 5:00 p.m. Suggested Museum admission: Adults, \$12.00; Children, Seniors and Students with valid I.D., \$7.00. Newark Residents and Members are admitted free. The Museum Café is open for lunches Wednesday through Sunday. Convenient parking is available for a fee. The Newark Museum campus, including its collections, facilities, and other resources, is accessible to accommodate the broadest audience possible, including individuals utilizing wheelchairs, with physical impairments, other disabilities, or special needs. For general information, call 973-596-6550 or visit our web site, <http://www.NewarkMuseum.org>.

Newark Museum, a not-for-profit museum of art, science and education, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Council on the Arts/Department of State — a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the Prudential Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Wallace Foundation and other corporations, foundations and individuals. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.