

ADLER PLANETARIUM AWAITS NASA'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE FINAL DESTINATION OF THE FOUR RETIRED SPACE SHUTTLE ORBITERS

Adler celebrates the history of spaceflight and hopes to bring a shuttle orbiter to Chicago

What:

On Tuesday, April 12, 2011, NASA will announce the names of the four institutions that will receive a shuttle orbiter for permanent display. The Adler is one of 21 institutions across the nation being considered for a shuttle orbiter. The four shuttle orbiters are: Discovery, Atlantis, Endeavour and Enterprise.

NASA's long-awaited announcement will be made during celebrations at Kennedy Space Center to commemorate the 30th anniversary of America's first shuttle orbiter flight, and the 50th anniversary of the first human in space, Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

To commemorate these milestone anniversaries, the Adler will feature an all day *Celebration of Spaceflight* at the museum with space-themed activities FREE with paid museum admission. At 12 p.m., Adler visitors can watch NASA's announcement live in the Universe Theater.

When:

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

12 – 1:30 p.m. (CST): NASA shuttle disposition announcement aired live at the Adler

Where:

Adler Planetarium

1300 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605

312-922-7827

www.adlerplanetarium.org

Details:

On April 12, Adler visitors can enjoy a *Celebration of Spaceflight* event from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. featuring FREE space-themed activities with paid general admission.

Watch an Adler educator use a blowtorch to demonstrate heat resistance on a space shuttle tile. Learn how these special tiles protect a shuttle orbiter during flight.

From 2 – 3 p.m. in the Space Visualization Lab, talk to an Adler astronomer about the history of the space shuttle program.

About the Adler

The Adler Planetarium - America's First Planetarium - was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. A recognized leader in public learning, the Adler inspires young people - particularly women and minorities - to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math. Scientists, historians and educators at the museum inspire the next generation of explorers. Learn more at www.adlerplanetarium.org.

###