



1400 W Mars Hill Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001-4499 | USA  
lowell.edu | 928.774.3358

April 18, 2022

Mr. Greg Clifton, Manager  
City of Flagstaff  
211 W. Aspen  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Dear Greg,

We broke ground for the Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation Astronomy Discovery Center on June 26, 2021. We have raised \$33.5 million for this 40,000 square foot facility. Due to pandemic supply issues, our construction costs have increased far beyond the original \$38 million budget. We expect the budget to escalate closer to \$50 - \$52 million.

Key features that will make this a world-class astronomy destination include:

- The Universe Theater, an immersive experience that combines elements of IMAX and planetaria with innovative LED screen technology;
- The Dark Sky Planetarium, open to northern Arizona's famously dark night skies;
- Interactive astronomy exhibits in two galleries: the Curiosity Zone for children ages 1 - 8 and an astronomy gallery for ages 9 - 99.

Senator Wendy Rogers and Representative Walt Blackman both approached us last year with offers to help get State ARPA funds to complete the project. To make a long story short, SB1029, which is a request for \$19.6M from ARPA funds to completely wrap up the project, is now in the State "budget box." Gov. Ducey will ultimately have to approve and sign the request, since authority to distribute ARPA funds rests with him.

The governor's staff, some senators, and Debbie Johnson at AOT have *all* advised us it will be a great help in budget negotiations if we can show local support for the project. To that end, we are asking the City of Flagstaff for \$50,000 toward the Astronomy Discovery Center.

Our vision is for Lowell Observatory to be the premier public astronomy destination in the world. Thank you for helping us achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hall  
Executive Director