



**CARNEGIE
SCIENCE
CENTER**

One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

MEDIA ALERT

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CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER TO HOST OPEN FORUM FOR NASA RESEARCH

PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO SHARE THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE

OF SPACE EXPLORATION AT CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

PITTSBURGH, March 22, 2011 —At the invitation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Carnegie Science Center is holding a town hall meeting as a Café Scientifique session on Monday, April 4, 2011, in order to gather public feedback for consideration in NASA's strategic plans for the next decade of planetary and space science. This is the first time that NASA has asked its volunteer network and affiliates to hold an open forum on such an important topic: the future of space exploration. Carnegie Science Center is one of a few select locations across the nation employed by NASA to hold an open dialogue with the community on this topic.

Science Center staff will share the results of the 2013 Planetary Science Decadal Survey, released by the National Research Council (NRC), and then record community feedback to the survey's findings. Every ten years, or decade, the NRC conducts the Decadal Survey, which consists of input from leading Earth and Space science experts, in order to define and shape comprehensive objectives for national scientific research. The 2013 Decadal Survey was released on March 7, 2011, and will cover the interval 2013-2022.

NASA uses the Decadal Survey to guide its goals and objectives for space research, such as identifying the composition of our solar system, revealing the process that formed our universe, mapping the bio-history of the Earth and its relationship to the Sun, and predicting the future of our environment. NASA has six weeks to respond to the NRC with its reactions to the 2013 Decadal Survey. For the first time ever, NASA is seeking to engage the public in order to gain feedback and reactions to the NRC's findings. NASA will then use the data in order to shape its own 10-year plan for future space endeavors.

"This is a unique and special opportunity for the region to have a clear voice in determining priorities in the area of space exploration," says John Radzilowicz, director of Science and Education at the Science Center. "Many of our exhibits and educational programs at the Science Center are a direct result of NASA's 10-year plan, so we are thrilled to be hosting an open dialogue that will influence the next generation of scientists and educators, who will be looking to this document for guidance."

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“This process is hugely important to NASA, and the outcomes affect the way we think about space and our place in the universe,” says Radzilowicz. “We really hope to engage as many community members as possible to ensure that western Pennsylvania has a seat at the table when it comes to a national space science agenda.”

Science Center doors open at 6 pm; the presentation will begin at 7 pm and will conclude around 9 pm after a question-and-answer session. Admission to Café Scientifique is free, but [online registration](#) for this event is recommended. Dinner will be available to purchase for \$8, including a vegetarian option. A cash bar also will be offered. Café Scientifique, also known as Café Sci, is THE place in Pittsburgh where adults interested in science can get together to discuss today's hot topics in a cool, informal setting. Each event features eating, drinking, and informal discussion led by guest speakers who are experts in their fields.

About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center brings the world of science alive for visitors of all ages. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center features hands-on exhibits, three live demonstration theaters, a four-story Omnimax theater, Highmark SportsWorks[®], an interactive full-dome digital planetarium, a Cold War-era submarine moored on Pittsburgh's Ohio River, the world's largest and most comprehensive robotics exhibition, and a world-renowned model railroad display. Carnegie Science Center is located at One Allegheny Avenue on Pittsburgh's North Shore next to Heinz Field. Visit CarnegieScienceCenter.org, or call 412.237.3400 for more information.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2009, the museums reached more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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