BUHL PLANETARIUM GETS STAR TREATMENT AT CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER

PLANETARIUM CLOSED TO VISITORS FROM SEPT. 4-21 FOR REFURBISHMENT

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 29, 2012— The Buhl Planetarium at Carnegie Science Center will be closed to visitors from Tuesday, Sept. 4, through Friday, Sept. 21, while it’s undergoing major improvements. During this time, there will be no planetarium or laser shows.

“This is the largest renovation the planetarium has received to date,” said Frank Mancuso, planetarium producer at the Science Center. “The last upgrade occurred in 2006, when the planetarium installed the Digital Sky System, made possible by a generous gift from the Buhl Foundation.”

Improvements to the planetarium include cleaning and re-painting the dome; re-upholstering the seats; installing new carpeting and LED lighting; and upgrading the sound and interactive systems.

Grants from The Grable Foundation, Allegheny Technologies, PPG Industries Foundation, and private donors helped the Science Center raise $1.4 million for associated upgrades to the Buhl Planetarium and the new SpacePlace exhibit, which will open Nov. 16.

During the planetarium’s refurbishment, visitors are encouraged to participate in Buhl Observatory SkyWatch sessions on Friday and Saturday nights (weather permitting) for just $1 per person.

“September is generally among the clearest months for stargazing in Pittsburgh,” said Dan Malerbo, education coordinator of the Buhl Planetarium & Observatory.

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It is recommended that visitors call 412.237.3327 the night of the session for times and to make sure the weather is cooperating.

Planetarium and laser shows will resume on Saturday, Sept. 22. Planetarium shows are free with general admission to the Science Center. Laser shows cost $2 for members; $8 for non-members. Add a second laser show for $5.

For a complete list of showtimes or more information about the Buhl Planetarium, visit CarnegieScienceCenter.org.

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. Annually, the museums reach more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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