

PROGRAM SUCCESSES, MILESTONES AND TESTIMONIALS

The *Voyage Program* is designed to provide an entire community an understanding of Earth's place in the Solar System and the Sun's place among the stars through a diverse set of educational experiences.

Successes and Milestones to Date

- The *Voyage* exhibition opened on the National Mall in Washington, DC, in October 2001. The one to 10-billion scale model Solar System stretches 2,000 ft (600 meters) between the National Air and Space Museum and the Smithsonian Castle.
- The exhibition went through the same approval process as any new installation on the National Mall, *e.g.*, the World War II Memorial, with needed authorization by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission. The Commissions required a seamless fusion of sculpture and science education, conveying an aesthetic beauty worthy of placement on the National Mall.
- A wide array of educational resources and programming has been developed, including: the *Voyage* exhibition, exhibition tours and tour brochures, grade K-13 lessons, family and home activities, educator workshops, grade K-20 classroom programs, and public and family events.
- The National Center for Earth and Space Science Education launched the Exhibition Replication Phase in summer 2006 for communities across the nation and around the world.
- Community-wide *Voyage* programming has been successfully conducted in communities across the nation through the Center's *Journey through the Universe* program. A team of scientists, engineers, and educators, from research organizations nationally, traveled to each community and delivered a week-long event—*Journey through the Universe Week*—including 100-200 classroom presentations to 3,000-10,000 grade K-20 students; educator training for 30-200 teachers; and public/family events for 200-2,000. All presentations were based on the *Voyage* theme, and the *Voyage* educational materials were used as the 'curriculum'.
- The *Voyage* grade K-13 education materials are comprehensive enough to be adopted by school districts as the space science curriculum, as is the case for sixth grade in Washington, DC.
- Over 1,000 educators a year are trained on the grade K-13 *Voyage* lessons through the *MESSENGER Educator Fellowship Program*, and *Journey through the Universe*, both overseen by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education.



Impressions and Thoughts

"I had no idea how small the planets were and how far apart they are."

– 6th Grade Student, Lincoln Middle School, Washington, DC

"The name of the planet is in raised letters and next to it is a "bump" allowing the visitor to feel the size of the planet at scale. Jupiter is easily seen and felt. Mercury can barely be sensed by the fingertip.

Each plaque directs the reader to displays on each side, giving distances to other things. The asteroid belt, for example, notes that Jupiter is 55 steps to the left, Mars 28 steps to the right."

– *News Miner*, Fairbanks, AK
Oct. 13, 2001; The Associated Press

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Voyage exhibition Opening Day on the National Mall in Washington, DC, October 17, 2001.

To become a *Voyage Community*, contact Stacy Hamel, Director, Voyage Exhibition Replication, National Center for Earth and Space Science Education at: 703-508-2898, shamel@usra.edu or visit www.voyagesolarsystem.org.

“*Voyage* dramatically portrays the nature of our existence on planet Earth, and celebrates the human capacity to explore. Using models as powerful tools of exploration, we hope to change visitor perspectives of home, and inspire the next generation of explorers.”

– Jeff Goldstein, Director, National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (Smithsonian Press Release, September 6, 2001)

“It’s not easy to comprehend the scale of the Solar System. The *Voyage* exhibition on the National Mall creates a visual and tactile experience that cannot be contained in books or even museums. Walking the distance between Mars and Jupiter one student exclaimed, “I get it.” Back in the classroom, the *Voyage* lessons provide a frame of reference for discussing space travel and distances to other astronomical objects, such as the nearest star. These are wonderful educational tools and a great experience for all.”

– Maureen Kerr, Chief of Education, Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum

“We are thrilled to have played a roll in developing this new outdoor educational experience. Millions of visitors to the Smithsonian will have the opportunity to learn about our Solar System through this dynamic experience.”

– J. Dennis O’Connor, Under Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution (Smithsonian Press Release, September 6, 2001)

“A whole new Solar System was revealed when NASA finally developed the capability to actually visit planets. Through this exhibition, NASA hopes to share what has been discovered, and the strangeness, wonder and beauty of these newly revealed worlds, with the public.”

– Dr. Jeffrey D. Rosendhal, Director of Education and Outreach, Office of Space Science, NASA Headquarters (Smithsonian Press Release, September 6, 2001)

“The challenge of the project was to create an elegant yet accessible solution to a hard-to-visualize concept—the scale of the Solar System and its worlds.”

– Vincent Ciulla of Vincent Ciulla Design (Smithsonian Press Release, September 6, 2001)

“Visitors to *Voyage* will take a sidewalk walking tour of the Solar System, experiencing the worlds as exciting destinations in space. The exhibition brings the educational experience outside, beyond the walls of the museums.”

– Smithsonian Press Release, June 25, 2001

“The empty space between the towers is part of the story too. It gives the visitor a sense of the distance between the planets.”

– Carolynne Harris Knox, Project Manager, Smithsonian Institution

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Development and installation of the exhibition in Washington, DC, was a joint project of Challenger Center for Space Science Education, the Smithsonian Institution, and NASA. Replication and installation of the *Voyage* exhibition at sites nationally and internationally is a program of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSE; www.ncesse.usra.edu), Universities Space Research Association. *Voyage* was designed by Vincent Ciulla Design (www.ciulladesign.com).



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UNIVERSITIES SPACE
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

We believe that to continue the legacy of scientific exploration, every generation must be inspired to learn what we know about our world and the Universe, and how we have come to know it.

We also believe that it takes a community to educate a child... and that it takes a network of communities to reach a generation.