



Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan

Besser Museum, Museum of Alpena Michigan

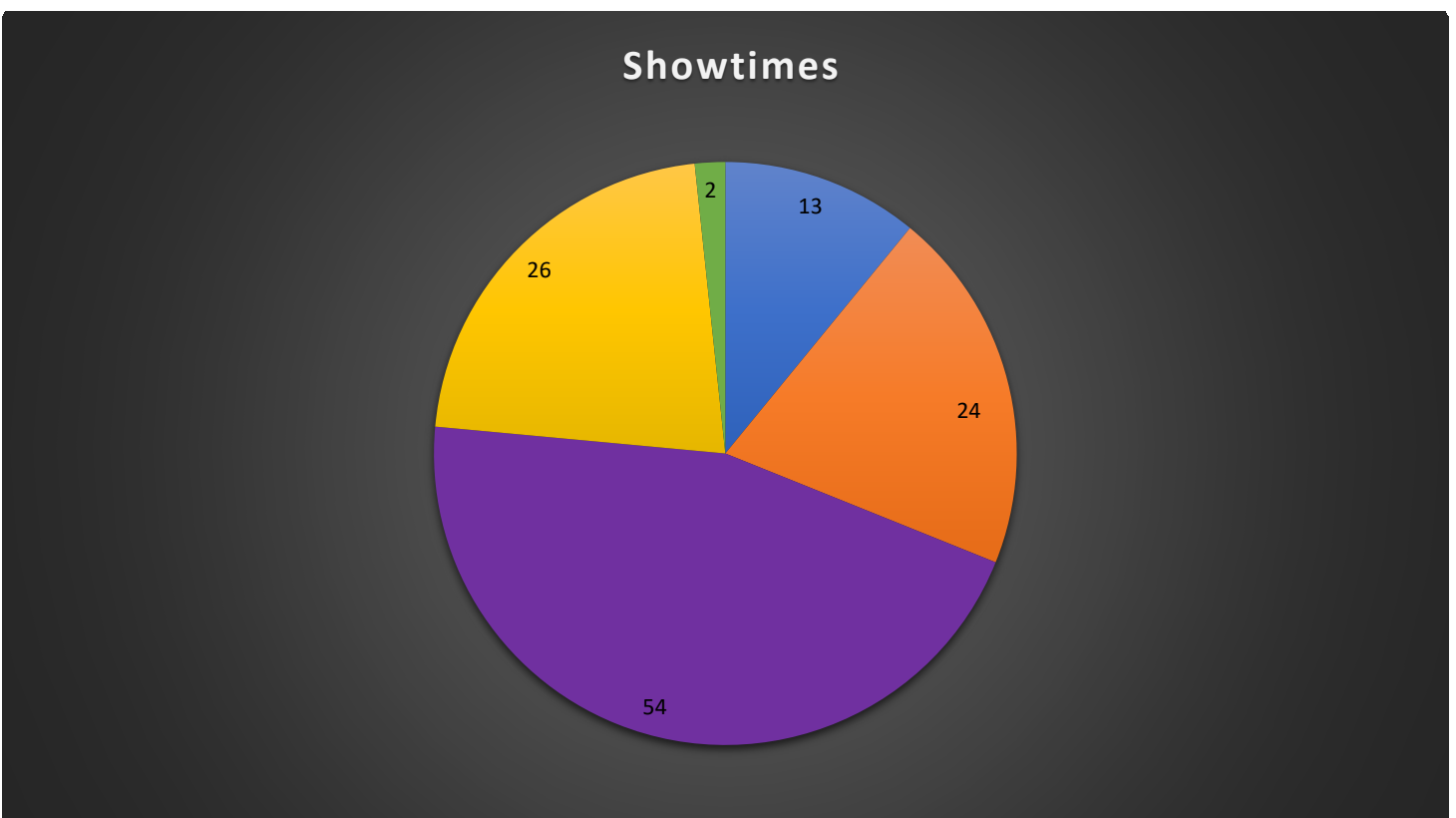
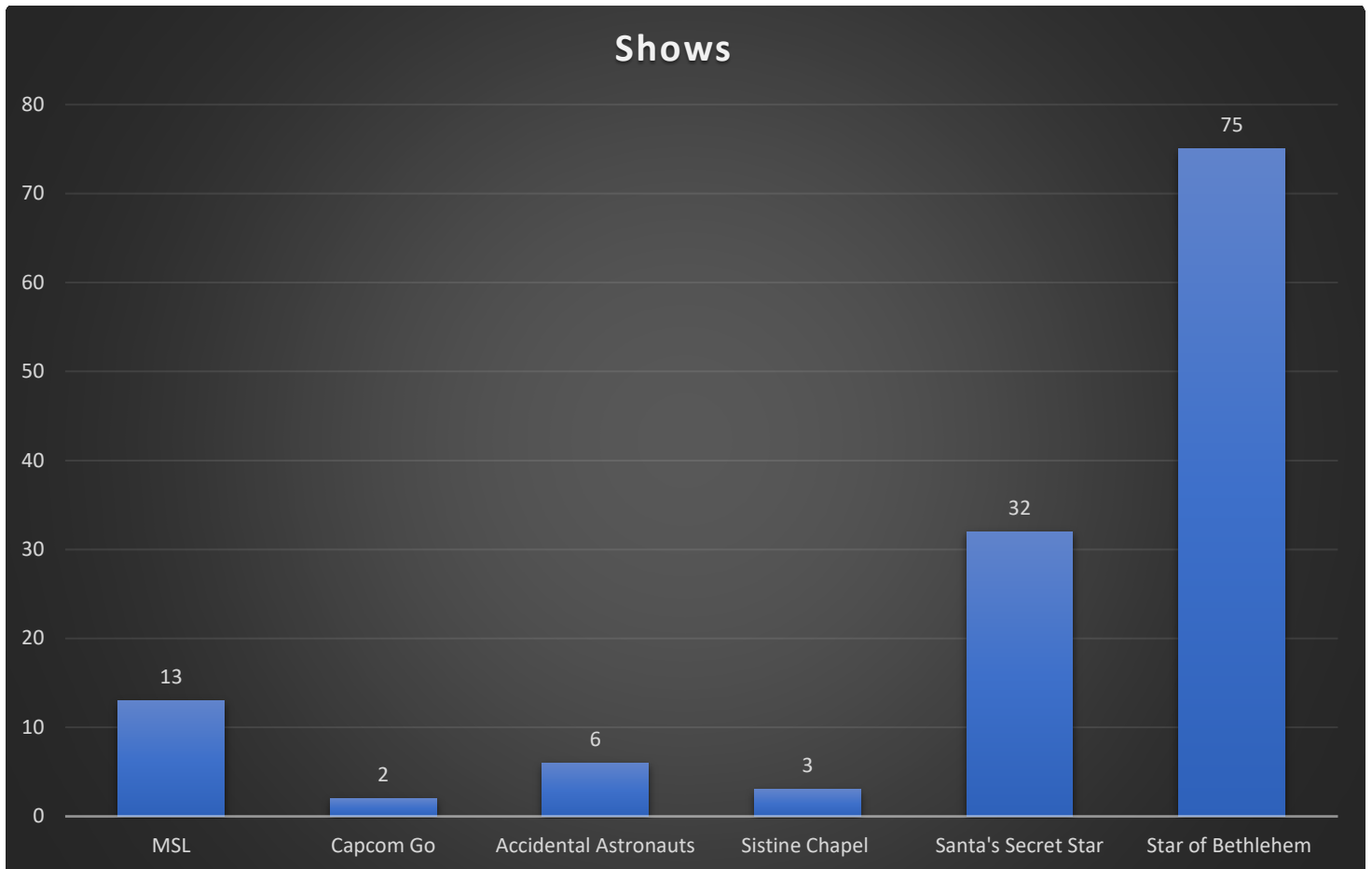
Museum of Alpena, Michigan, 491 Johnson Street 49707-9998

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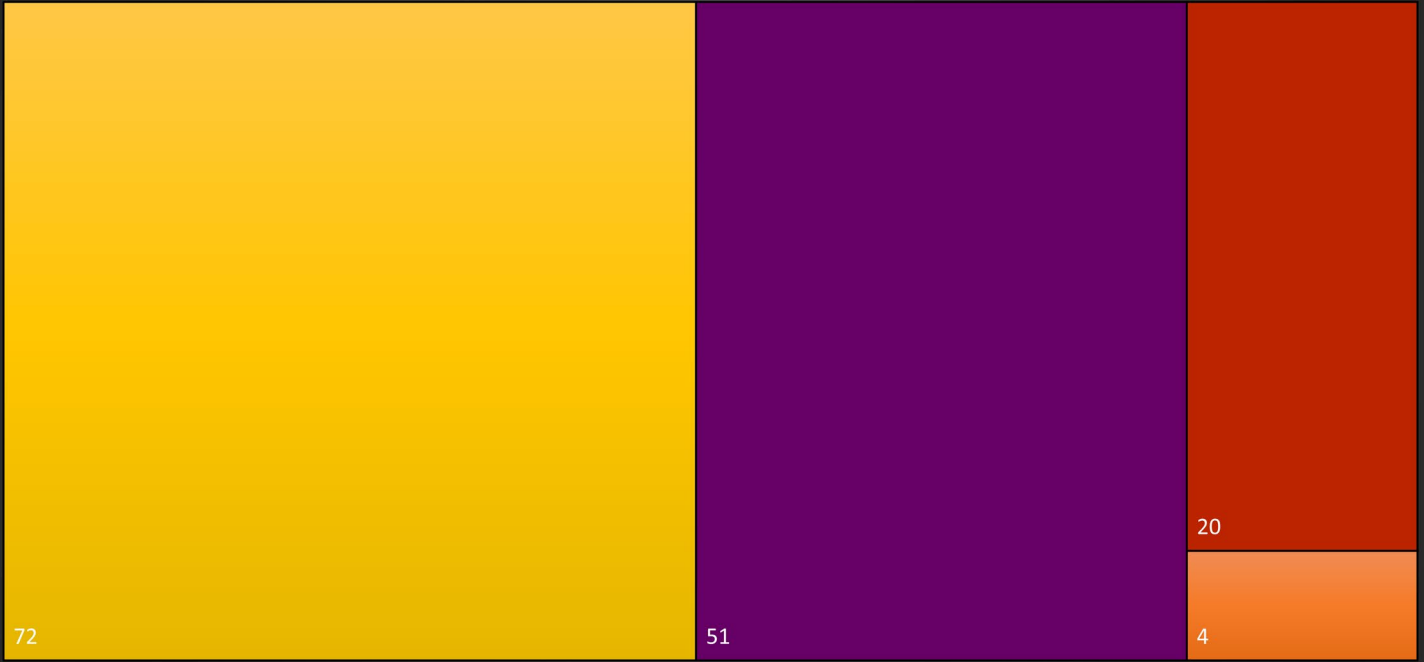
- (1) December Goals
- (2) Attendance
- (3) Astronomy Update
- (4) January Goals

1. The main goal of December 2019 was to run the Geminids meteor shower and finish MSL winter. The Meteor shower was cancelled due to weather and MSL winter finished in time for the new year. MSL winter took a couple of weeks to complete between the groups that were coming through, but the general lack of normal attendance gave me ample time to work on this show. As a result of this, I believe that MSL winter is one of the finest productions I've ever created to this date.
2. General attendance for December was rather low for almost the entirety of the month, with the exception of a sharp spike at the end of it over the holidays. In total there were 147 people who attended planetarium shows as part of our normally scheduled programs. This number excludes groups and field trips, which is substantially higher at 450 guests. These group and field trips numbers only reflects that of the students, as we typically do not charge for teachers and chaperones. This means that in total there were 597 paying guests on record for December 2019.
3. Notable objects in the sky this month include the constellation Orion, the bright star Sirius, and our sister planet Venus. The constellation of Orion begins the month by rising in the east just after 7:00pm. Throughout January Orion will be rising slightly earlier each day and by the month's end he'll be noticeable in the east as soon as the sun sets. Following closey behind Orion is the brightest star Sirius, which Orion's belt points down to. Sirius is the brightests star in the sky and it will be visible all throug out the season, always rising about an hour after Orion. The last object I'd like to point out for January is our sister planet Venus. Venus's appearance in our sky is like that of a very large and bright star, so bright that even manages to outshine the brightest star Sirius. Venus can currently be seen in the South West as soon as the sun begins to set, being the very first nighttime object to light up in the sky. Unlike Orion and Siruius though, Venus is only in the sky for a little bit, currently setting in the west just after 7:00pm. Later in the month Venus will spend more time in the night sky, rising a little higher with each day.
4. My goals for January are to pick up old interests and projects that might have fallen by the wayside during the busy seasons. The first one I'd like to try and tackle again is the concept of using 360 cameras to record planetarium content and put it up on the web. The first step to accomplishing this is to of course acquire a 360 camera. I've emailed John French from CMU and he has stated that he will mail us the 360 camera that we

discussed in November. This project is something I would ultimately like to write a paper on and present at GLPA this year, so hopefully everything works out this time.



DECEMBER ATTENDANCE



Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday