



**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan**  
**Besser Museum, Museum of Alpena Michigan**  
**Museum of Alpena, Michigan, 491 Johnson Street 49707-9998**

From: Planetarium Coordinator of Besser Museum

To: Executive Director of Besser Museum

Subj: December Action report

Ref: Hawaiian Islands Live

Nov Report

Enc: (1) Projects

(2) Public Outreach

(3) Conclusion

1. During the month of December 2018 Hawaiian Islands Live occupied most of the Coordinator's time. However, the first phase of a Valentines Day themed show is in the works. For non-live shows, the Apollo exhibit and its subsequent full dome program, Capcom Go, were also attended to over the month of December.
  - a. Hawaiian Islands Live is the same show as Hawaiian Skies Live, from the previous month's report. While the name has changed, the substance of the show remains relatively the same. The name change comes from the show's variety of subjects, which include topics outside of astronomy. The script is almost complete, and it is being proofread and tweaked to be brought up to the Coordinator's standards.
    - i. Another advancement in the show's progress comes from contact being established with Carolyn Kaichi, the education/outreach specialist at the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy. Contact with Ms. Kaichi was only established within the last working week of December, so any actual contact will be postponed until after the holiday season. While the show's script is nearing completion, there are a few questions that the Coordinator would like to ask about Hawaii's astronomy community, in the hopes of gaining a finer understanding of the astronomical topics discussed in the show. If new information comes up, then it will be added to the script before release. While contact with Ms. Kaichi is helpful, Hawaiian Islands Live covers more than just astronomy, so the coordinator is looking into communicating with other specialists from the islands in hopes of enhancing the overall quality of the show.
  - b. The as of yet unnamed Valentine's Day show is in its earliest form of development as of right now, and it will not be complete for February of 2019. The concept behind the show would be a 30-minute live program that explores tales of romance and love within astronomical objects across multiple cultures. While looking at these stories, the cultural significance of these stories to the specific culture would also be explored, giving audience members an insight into how romance-based holidays are explored all throughout the world. While the show will not be ready for Valentine's 2019, the show could also be used around holidays similar to valentine's day from across the world.
  - c. Apollo Exhibit & capcom Go. While there is a lot to discuss about this topic, very little will be covered in this report, because the contents of the whole event are better suited for the staff meetings, and their

subsequent write-ups. Instead, any updates will be saved for the next meeting about the exhibit and will be relayed at that time. This descriptor exists for the sole purpose of informing the director that most of the goals delegated to the Coordinator have been reached or progress has been made towards them.

2. Public outreach for the month of December was predominantly done in the form of school groups and Christmas parties, with the exception being the Geminid Meteor Shower party.
  - a. Through the month of December, Besser Planetarium hosted 12 separate groups from 10 different organizations, with 524 people sitting in on a planetarium shows. In comparison, for all of 2017, Besser Planetarium brought in about 5,000 people, which means that these past two weeks provided 10% of the Planetarium's yearly attendance.
    - i. The majority of the shows given were to elementary and middle school students, who were shown Santa's Secret Star. There were at least three separate groups which didn't want to see Santa's Secret Star, for varying reasons, and were instead presented with our newest live show, Powers of Ten. With few exceptions, all of the shows went well and without issue. This year, Santa was played to kids that came for Christmas visits, but next year, many of the students may want to see a separate show, as they come through in much the same way they did this year. The Coordinator will explore options for replacing Santa in 2019, for guests and groups that may desire a Christmas themed show, but are either too old to enjoy Santa, or are wanting something different.
  - b. The Geminid Meteor Shower ended up needing to be canceled unfortunately, as weather on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> was not suitable for observing. While unfortunate, the event still brought in a lot of traffic to the Besser Planetarium Facebook page, and excited a lot of guests of the Planetarium itself. It is unfortunate that the weather did not cooperate this year, but the interest from the local community was definitely a positive takeaway from this event. Next year, after all of the summer showers are completed, working with Lost Lake Woods to host meteor shower parties may again be worthwhile. The location and the well-known name of the club are beneficial to both observing and community interest. The club itself also allows for warm facilities during the winter months, which is useful for obvious safety reasons. While previous communication issues with the Lost Lake Woods Club still stand, the overall convenience and utility that they provide cannot be overlooked, and with a line of contact already established, it is hopeful that these issues will not be present again next time.
3. In conclusion, the month of December was exceptionally busy for the planetarium. During this time, a large number of shows were presented to private groups who reserved the building for field trips or Christmas parties. The large number of private shows went smoothly over the season, and the majority of guests seemed to genuinely enjoy the show they were presented with. Outreach took up most of the Coordinator's time this month but work on Hawaiian Islands live still made progress and is nearing completion. Work on other shows, as well as next year's exhibit was also put forth, but to less extent than that of the former two subjects. While less writing and script production occurred this month, the slower pace of January should give the Coordinator ample time to complete at least one new live show.