

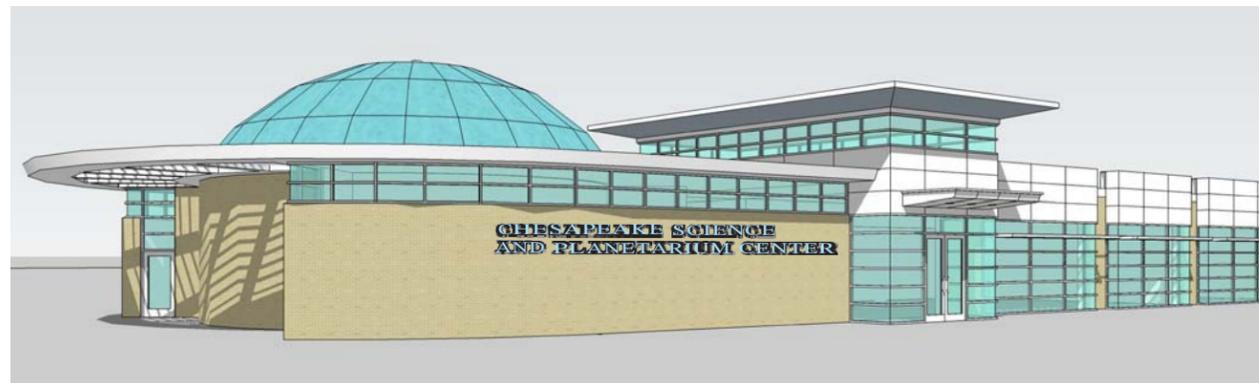
**Planetarium Planning  
Task Force Committee**

Paul Farrell Co-chair  
Buddy Copeland Co-chair  
Lee Baynor  
Steve Best Ray  
Conner Joseph  
Creed Dawn  
Glynn Russ  
Hanson Faye  
Mitchell Patrick  
Reynolds Randy  
Royal Bonnie  
Sutton Robert  
Tull William E.  
Ward Steven  
Wright

**Planetarium/Science Center  
Building and Finance Committee**

Susie Archer Co-chair  
Steve Best, Co-chair  
Wanda Barnard-Bailey  
Max Bartholomew  
Larry Battle  
Rhonda Bridgeman  
Buddy Copeland  
Joseph Creed  
Tim Culpepper  
Carole de Triquet  
Ed Elliott  
Dawn Glynn  
Russ Hanson  
Barbara Head  
Greg Ireland

Tim Kerr  
Mike Kos  
Jean Loxley-Barnard  
J. D. Miles, IV  
Jim O'Sullivan  
Patrick Reynolds  
Randy Royal  
Sharon Snead  
Al Spradlin Lou  
Tayon William E.  
Ward Jesse  
Williams Kelvin  
Wright



For more information go to [www.cpsef.org](http://www.cpsef.org)

**BUILDING ON THE PAST  
TO UNLOCK THE FUTURE**

**BUILDING ON THE PAST  
TO UNLOCK THE FUTURE**



**Steve Best**  
Co-Chair  
Science/Planetarium  
Center Building and Finance Committee

*"I'm excited to be part of this program to sustain a vision that began 50 years ago in Chesapeake. The Chesapeake Planetarium is not only an asset to our school system and city, but the entire region as well. Many generations have been touched by it. I can remember so well the first time I visited the Chesapeake Planetarium in the 60's as a young elementary school child. The sensory of the darkness, seeing all of the stars, and how the heavens could move before our eyes was awe inspiring. It helped to promote an interest in the sciences and a desire to learn that lasted throughout my Fire Service career and is still with me today."*



**Lea Lenhart**  
5th Grade Student  
Deep Creek Central Elementary School

*"I was in the Chesapeake Planetarium with all my classmates from Deep Creek Central Elementary. It was delightful to learn about planets, stars, and our solar system. The Planetarium is a great place for both children and parents. It is one of my favorite places. And I love Science! Science is the most interesting subject in school."*

## Background Information

An event occurred on October 4, 1957, that changed the world. A small grapefruit-sized object was placed in orbit around the Earth. It was called Sputnik and was launched by the Soviet Union. The launching of this first ever man-made artificial satellite started the "space race." The United States Government began to consider the implications of not being the first into space. A fear began across America that we were falling behind...in order to facilitate the development of science and related technologies, the United States Government established the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) on September 2, 1958. The NDEA was to increase funding for studies of math, foreign languages, and science in public schools, colleges and universities across America. This funding program led Chesapeake Public Schools to construct the first planetarium built by a public school system in Virginia.

The construction planning for the planetarium began early in 1961 when the school system was known as Norfolk County Public Schools. Construction started during the 1962-63 school term, and it was during that time Norfolk County merged with South Norfolk to become the City of Chesapeake. Under the direction of E.W. Chittum, school superintendent, construction for the planetarium was completed, and the first lesson in the planetarium was conducted on September 17, 1963. In its first year of operation, the planetarium served over thirty-seven thousand students and adults in the Tidewater area. Students from all of the school system's elementary schools attend the planetarium yearly for lessons specifically geared to the state Standards of Learning.

Although the planetarium was constructed as a teaching tool for the Chesapeake Public School System, it has been recognized as a valuable science teaching center for other school districts, colleges, and universities. The United States Navy has used the facility to teach celestial navigation. Chesapeake's planetarium draws students and adults from the Eastern Shore of Virginia, northeastern North Carolina, and the Outer Banks. Students as far west as Richmond have visited the planetarium. Thursday night programs are free and open to the general public throughout the year.

During The Chesapeake Planetarium's many years of operation, the space race has continued. From the first satellite in 1958, to man walking on the Moon in 1969, to the Space Shuttle program, and the building of the International Space Station, the planetarium has educated and inspired students and citizens of Tidewater. The planetarium celebrates its 50th year of operation in 2013. As with all technologies, the planetarium needs to expand and improve over the next half century. This unique planetarium facility of the Chesapeake Public Schools will continue to spark the imagination of countless minds, young and old, as humankind reaches farther into space.



## Mission Statement

The mission of the Chesapeake Public Schools Planetarium is to provide a stimulating educational experience that fosters the students' interest in science, creates a spark of imagination to motivate learning, and promotes lifelong learning by instilling a sense of wonder about the universe in which we live.

## Project Abstract

Chesapeake Public Schools is seeking grants to expand and update our planetarium facility with the objective of providing the students and adults of Chesapeake and the greater Hampton Roads area an educational experience that can be shared by all generations. The goal is to replace the outdated mechanical projector with a new state-of-the-art digital system and build a Science Center with emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math. Funding in the amount of \$5 million is necessary for the digital projector and the new Science Center.

## Statement of Need

The Chesapeake Planetarium's projector is outdated and no longer being manufactured. Due to advances in technology, planetariums are shifting away from mechanical projectors to digital systems to expand the visual experience for patrons. Over 50,000 students and adults visit the Chesapeake Planetarium annually to view educational programs free of charge. The current facility has no display area or waiting room to accommodate the volume of students and adults.

Chesapeake Planetarium will replace the antiquated and oft-repaired mechanical projector with a digital star projector system. The Spitz SciDome XD dual projector video system has a resolution capability of 2560 x 2560 pixel full dome video. The system includes custom fisheye lenses, projector stand and enclosure, control console, Starry Night Dome software, hard drive storage/playback for full display, ATM-4 Windows-based automation control, spare lamps, full dome shows, space library, and basic training. The addition of 360-degree programmable 3-color (RGB) LED cove lighting will further enhance the presentation.

A new building will provide space for an observatory to study the night sky and a Science Center to provide hands-on opportunities for students and adults to unlock new perspectives in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Partnerships with corporations and businesses will be forged to support the need for ever-changing innovation in these areas.

## OUR Challenge

When the Chesapeake Planetarium opened fifty years ago, it was state-of-the-art and leading the way in learning. As stewards of the present, we have an opportunity to carry on this legacy of service to our community and insure the Chesapeake Planetarium is available for many generations to come. We can bring the resources together that will create a stellar facility to inspire bright young minds in the all important areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. Challenging our students and channeling their interests in these areas will help to insure that our City, Region, State, and Country have a well educated, competent, and committed workforce for our future.

Join with us as we seek to build a bridge to open the minds of future generations. YOU have an opportunity to leave a legacy through their lives.

# BUILDING ON THE PAST TO UNLOCK THE FUTURE