



WUCAO

Windows on the
Universe
Center for
Astronomy
Outreach

at Kitt Peak National Observatory



Credit: Dean Salman/KPNO VC

National Optical Astronomy Observatory
www.noao.edu





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In a unique repurposing of the recently retired McMath-Pierce solar observatory at Kitt Peak National Observatory, a new 5,200 square foot astronomy outreach and education center is being developed. Use of the 3 large heliostats will continue for public education and live displays of the Sun, several interactive exhibit galleries will be created, and two science visualization areas developed: a digital planetarium and a Science On a Sphere (SOS) theater. The Windows project will feature scientific results from NSF-funded astronomy facilities around the globe, thus providing a more comprehensive view of modern astronomy for Kitt Peak visitors.

A key activity of the Windows project will be to acquire visual data from other NSF-funded facilities and create easily shared data sets capable of being displayed at 161 SOS-equipped museums and attractions and about 100 planetaria. The \$6,100,000 project is funded by a \$4,500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and \$1,600,000 in projected revenue from future Visitor Center operations. The planned timeline is for public opening in late 2020.

