



5/21/20

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LASM Presents Pilot Reopening Program on Saturday, May 30 in the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium**

**BATON ROUGE, LA** – The Louisiana Art & Science Museum (LASM) will present its pilot reopening program on Saturday, May 30 from 10 AM to noon. Visitors will enjoy Stargazing, a live, presenter-led exploration of the local nighttime sky, the planetarium show *Magic Tree House: Space Mission*, and the giant-screen movie *America's Musical Journey* on the dome of the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium. Tickets, which are \$15 each and include parking in LASM's employee parking lot, can be purchased at [tinyurl.com/LASMtickets](http://tinyurl.com/LASMtickets).

"We are overjoyed to serve our community in-person again," stated Serena Pandos, LASM President & Executive Director. "Though our physical doors have been temporarily closed due to COVID-19, our doors have been open all day, every day online at [virtual-lasm.org](http://virtual-lasm.org). Our pilot reopening program was carefully designed with your feedback, your safety, and our mission in mind. Attendees will be sent a post-experience survey to share their thoughts with us, if they so choose."

Further plans are underway to present workshops, new Irene W. Pennington Planetarium shows, guided tours, and more at LASM after this family-oriented pilot program is evaluated. Virtual content hosted at [virtual-lasm.org](http://virtual-lasm.org) will continue to be updated and shared on social media as the Museum gradually reopens.

"As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that relies heavily on our earned income – which we earn through school group programming, public admissions, event rentals, and Museum Store sales – to sustain operations, our temporary closure to the public has had a devastating financial impact," continued Ms. Pandos. "Your admission fee directly supports our operations. We have been looking forward to opening our doors again for over two months, and we are taking precautions to ensure that our reopening is as safe and effective as possible. As an art and science museum, it is especially important that we make well-informed, science-based decisions in order to keep our community and staff safe and healthy."

LASM members will be emailed special instructions in order to receive free admission to this pilot program. Masks will be required for all staff and visitors. If a visitor does not have a mask, a

disposable mask will be provided to them at no cost. Visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines by remaining 6 feet apart from those not in their groups and will be seated with appropriate space between groups. Only 42 tickets – 25% of the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium's maximum capacity – to this event will be sold.

For more details about this event, LASM's safety procedures, and to purchase tickets, please visit [tinyurl.com/LASMtickets](https://tinyurl.com/LASMtickets). Donate online to LASM's COVID-19 Relief Fund at [lasm.org](https://lasm.org). Donations of \$25 or more will receive a free washable, cloth LASM ampersand mask shipped to the address they provide. Since the LASM is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization, all gifts are tax-deductible.

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**Image:** The Irene W. Pennington Planetarium is freshly sanitized and ready for visitors during LASM's pilot reopening program on Saturday, May 30 from 10 AM to noon.

### **About the Louisiana Art & Science Museum**

Housed on the banks of the Mississippi River in a historic railway station on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown Baton Rouge at 100 South River Road, the Louisiana Art & Science Museum believes that art and science shape each other, our lives, and the world. The Museum is currently engaging in a phased reopening program; access the Museum's online portal for at home art and science experiences at [virtual-lasm.org](https://virtual-lasm.org).

The Museum, founded in 1962 and accredited by the American of Museums since 1972, is home to the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium, the largest and most advanced planetarium in Louisiana and one of the largest in the southeastern United States; a permanent collection including over 4,000 objects; one of the only permanent ancient Egypt galleries in the southeastern United States; and displays changing art exhibitions of local and international acclaim.

A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the Museum relies on the support of donations to operate; support the Museum at [lasm.org](https://lasm.org). Stay in touch at [lasm.org](https://lasm.org) and on social media, where further reopening plans for will be shared.