

To: Adrien Wendell, Budget Manager, CBJ

From: Rosemary Walling, Board Secretary, Friends of the Marie Drake Planetarium

My answers below are in regard to the following request for clarifications from the CBJ Assembly Finance Committee:

- *It looks like the request is for the full cost. Has Friends of the Marie Drake Planetarium pursued other funding sources like grants, JSD, etc.?*
- *Is JSD contributing to this request? What is the backstory of Friends of the Marie Drake Planetarium and its funding levels?*

Additional Funding Sources

We have not yet sought funding from additional sources. In the past few days, I reached out to our primary contact in JSD, the Director of Teaching and Learning. She knew of no available funding sources within JSD.

We receive substantial indirect support with respect to a use of the planetarium physical facility, previously from JSD and now from CBJ. This has been a 30+ year tradition of free programming to the public, community groups, and JSD classrooms in return for use of the planetarium facility.

Seeking multiple sources of funds is always possible and part of our tradition. What would be most helpful is if this year we can receive at least partial funding for our Community Funding Request, and let us build upon that momentum.

The Marie Drake Planetarium and Funding

The planetarium physical facility is funded indirectly as described above. JSD and recently CBJ also provided insurance for our digital projector housed in their building. Community donations and small grants given to FOMDP can go to special projects, operating expenses, or bus transportation for JSD field trips to the planetarium. Since our purchase of the digital projector in 2019, our annual donations have increased somewhat, for example to around \$6,000 in 2024. This money goes primarily to operating expenses (fulldome-media licensing, printing, website, etc.) and student transportation. Neither the Planetarium nor the nonprofit have paid staff.

In FY2027, we expect to receive \$5,600 for FY2027 from a CBJ Youth Activity Grant to assist with fulldome-media licensing and student transportation—first time for direct funding from CBJ.

The purchase of the \$100k digital planetarium projector was funded by local and state-wide grants, ranging in size from \$5k to \$25k, in addition to community donations of even smaller size. The manufacturing and installation of permanent signs for a Planet and Bird Walk at Twin Lakes is being funded by three small grants in size from \$2k to \$3k, plus indirect funding from Parks and Recreation for the design of the signage.