

NATIONAL CENTER FOR INTERACTIVE LEARNING

EXCITE. EXPLORE. DISCOVER.

Education & Outreach Newsletter

Happy New Year
from NCIL!



A Museum visitor tests a sample to determine if it's an asteroid or an Earth rock, at the **Great Balls of Fire!** prototyping event at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.

Comets, Asteroids, Meteors
GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!

Great Balls of Fire Tour Schedule (Large Exhibition)

June 1st - December 31st 2011
Science Museum of Virginia
Richmond, Virginia

October 1st - December 31st 2012
Catawba Science Center
Hickory, North Carolina

Dates available for this tour!

Contact Lisa Curtis-- curtis@spacescience.org
or visit www.greatballsoffireexhibit.org to learn more!



Giant Worlds Tour Schedule

February 1 - April 30, 2011
Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium
Lafayette, Louisiana

Great Balls of Fire! Heads to Fabrication

The Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning is pleased to announce that its **Great Balls of Fire! Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors** exhibitions have entered fabrication.

The **Great Balls of Fire!** project includes two separate exhibitions, a 3000-square-foot exhibit that will premiere at the Science Museum of Virginia in June 2011, and a 750-square-foot exhibit that will open in July of 2011 and tour small science centers. Jeff Kennedy Associates Inc. designed both exhibits and Kubik-Maltbie Inc. is fabricating them. Cortina Productions is producing an immersive multimedia experience that will be a central attraction in the large exhibit.

The large exhibit has four main areas: Origins, Asteroids, Comets, and Impacts. The centerpiece is *Comet and Asteroid Quest*, a spacecraft that visitors will climb into and blast off on a mission to explore asteroids and comets and learn about the origin of the Solar System, the formation of asteroids and comets, and what happens when comets impact a planet like Jupiter.

The small exhibit includes a variety of multimedia experiences, such as computer-based activities that calculate risks from impacts and one that allows visitors to see how accurate their favorite disaster movies are. The smaller footprint of this exhibit makes it ideally suited for smaller science centers with limited exhibition space.

If your museum or science center is interested in hosting either **Great Balls of Fire!** exhibit, please contact: Lisa Curtis, curtis@spacescience.org

NCIL Welcomes Dr Robert Russell

The National Center for Interactive Learning would like to welcome Bob Russell to its staff. After serving on SSI's Board of Directors for ten years, Russell stepped down from that position to join NCIL in October 2010. He brings over 25 years of experience in STEM education to NCIL, having served as executive director of a children's museum, a science museum, a Latino non-profit, and a Program Director in NSF's Informal Science Education Program. Russell has consulted with many science centers, community/youth and media organizations to help them design and evaluate informal science and health education projects.

Much of Russell's recent work has focused on developing projects to increase Latino access to science and health education resources. To help achieve that goal, he started a national Spanish-language science and health news service and the national *Celebra la Ciencia* science outreach network.

June 1 - August 31, 2011

OPEN

October 1 - December 31, 2011

OPEN

Only two more dates available for this tour!

Contact Lisa Curtis-- curtis@spacescience.org or
visit www.giantworlds.org to learn more!

NCIL is eager to use Russell's expertise in designing and evaluating projects that specifically target underserved and minority groups. Potential project areas include health education; using social marketing approaches in science and health education; and designing media-focused projects ranging from basic print media to large format films.



Expanding the frontiers of knowledge and understanding

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