

NOAA Science On a Sphere Users Collaborative Network Workshop
NOTES

Day 1, INTRODUCTION PRESENTATIONS FROM INSTITUTIONS WITH SPHERICAL
DISPLAY INSTALLATIONS CONTINUED Session

Bishop Museum
July 29, 2008
Honolulu, HI

SOS at the Fiske Planetarium

Want to start using clickers so that they can poll their audiences and display results on the sphere

Q. How much do they cost?

A. \$20.00 for each clicker and the software is free

Q. Could you see the clicker being hardwired into something, like a kiosk, so that you don't have them disappearing.

A. They just pass them out and haven't had to worry about them walking out the door

Q. Do you have to realign after you hoist the sphere?

A. Nope

Q. Have you considered using the clickers to choose what dataset you are going to show next?

A. No, but that's a good suggestion. We can use that for opinions as well as answering questions

SOS at the Museum of Science and Industry

Q. Who wrote the 10 programs?

A. A lot of the staff wrote them with scientists and did their own research. They use RSS feeds to keep the stories current.

Q. How many staff do you have for this?

A. 6 staff, but have room for 8 and have student interns as well

SOS at NOAA's National Severe Storms Lab

Q. Are you using the same projectors?

A. They are using more expensive, brighter projectors that have 5000 lumens

Q. Do you get oscillations from suspending it so high?

A. No not really, though the one near a staircase vibrates some.

SOS at Clark Planetarium

Q. Did you make the ventilation device for your projector?

A. Yes, we made it in house. We can provide specs if wanted.

SOS at the Lawrence Hall of Science

Q: activities on table tops could be separate from sphere?

A: Yes, we're not going to close sphere space off, so we've decided to stantioning off the space and people can watch what's going on from aside.

Q: On flow chart, the script from the SOS software is a line... So how do you get people

A: We are not using more than one or two data sets now. The tree is for within that one dataset. We're training our docents that from where people start, what patterns can you make, what can you say about where they go with learning.

Q: How long are the sessions?

A: 10 minutes.

Results in Tag team parenting... "you go there I have this question I want answered." Heard in the facility space.

SOS at the National Renewable Energy Lab

Found out getting the sphere end of June, it arrived for install on July 7, the White House and Dept of Energy called and said "we're visiting on July 25th." Somehow, data was put together in time for the visit. The dignitaries liked it. NREL *hopes* they will be able to secure some programmatic funds, because they have the sphere now.

NREL's visitor center is open to the public. So, the only space for the sphere that was accessible to both the scientists and the public was the conference room. So NREL lost the conference room. Therefore, some of the NREL scientists are not happy about the sphere.

Q: How tall is your conference room?

A: We came to look at the Fisk Planetarium for ideas on install. We have to build to Leeds standards (cleanliness standards) so the sphere has to stay at 10 feet.

Q: Have to look at power consumption?

A: Yes, so we won't be cranking SOS all day. Then again, we get VIPs, school groups, heads of state, as well as other visitors so there's a certain challenge. We need to walk the talk and keep energy consumption down while still being accessible.

SOS at the Smithsonian Ocean Hall

Q: none.

Bill is looking forward to having a whole new set of information next year. Their first year in operation should be interesting, especially handling 4 million visitors

SOS at Whitaker Center

40,000 kids visit per year. 10 years old and in process of renewing exhibit space. The sphere will be included in Forces of Nature exhibit. They also have a theater associated with the science center –a unique feature!

Whitaker wondering: How will they use their performing arts focus to help SOS come alive in a whole new way? They already have a basic science performing arts element to their program. Should be interesting, yet to be determined.

Q: Where do you draw actors?

A: From our community. Local theater organizations, also Hershey Park draws people interested in performing, so performers are in the area.

Comment: Would encourage (we hired actors) you to find actors with curiosity in science when hiring.

Q: Is that you in the lower left?

A: No, that's another good looking guy.

Steve said: There is a IMTAL (International Museum Theater Alliance) – we will draw from them in lessons learned.

Comment: Much curiosity about from the audience regarding including theater and science!

SOS at NC Aquarium

13,000 students each year.

Suggestion: traffic control issues. Found most effective was outline of footprints on the ground. Almost everybody follows them. (Doug)

Dia says they are going to do a gobo on the floor and appreciates the suggestion!

SOS at Smithsonian Zoo

2nd SOS for SI, and 2 now in DC. No questions asked.

Magic Planet at Hatfield Marine Science Center

Nancee wants to highlight all the research at her facility – lots of various topics and agencies.

They focus on Place Based learning. They study how people work with and interact with exhibits and how they learn from them. (Celeste is basing her PhD research on learning through data viz tools... false color images especially)

Heavy evaluation component of their MP education program. Real-time evaluation techniques.

Q: Do you find any difference between 3 and 6 foot sphere perceptions?

A: Haven't had it long enough to know, and also don't have a 6 ft for comparison, but Celeste has experience with MD and hopes to look at that question.

SOS at Boonshoft Museum

“People in Ohio have disconnect from both the ocean and the global environment.” Their SOS program hopes to change this reality.

No questions

SOS at the Wildlife Experience

Exhibit under construction, expected to open in 10 months.

Q: none

SOS at the Bishop Museum

The group visited the SOS exhibit at Bishop.

Leon demonstrated a number of content pieces developed by Bishop. These content pieces are used for a variety of programming needs. Among them were content pieces developed for formal school group visits. Leon also described the process for handling visits from student groups.