

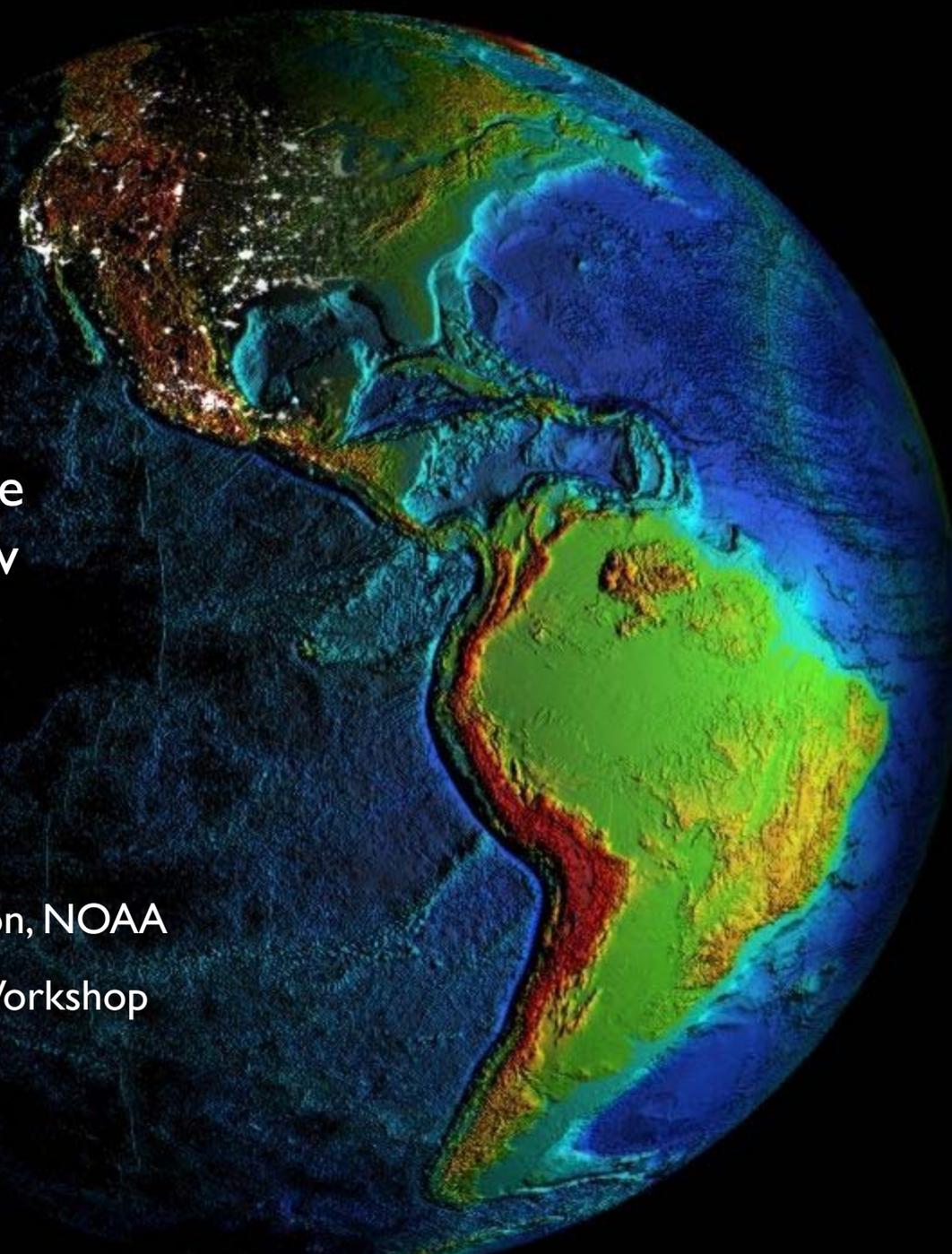


# NOAA's Science On a Sphere Education Program Overview

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SOS Users Collaborative Network Workshop

Colorado 2009





# Program History

- Dr. Sandy MacDonald invented SOS in 1995
- David Himes brought it to life in 2000
- And it all started here!
- Summer 2004 Maryland Science Center receives NSF funding to install SOS on floor, temporarily, and evaluate visitor reaction
  - Over 98% of those who viewed SOS rated it as v.g. or excellent
- 2005 Office of Education begins to offer funding to public science centers
- A network of museums and science centers with SOS begins to grow
- Office of Education has supported 27 SOS projects
- Other parts of NOAA have supported 10 projects





# NOAA Support for the Program

- Fund individual museums to install and build exhibits around SOS and other spheres:

**\$4,221,247**

- Fund content development: **\$3,230,064**

(incl Bishop & Fiske)

- Fund program-wide evaluation: **\$72,100**

- Support network meeting and collaborative activities: **\$126,500**

- 2005 ASTC
- 2006 ASTC
- 2007 Workshop-Maryland
- 2007 ASTC
- 2008 Workshop-Hawaii
- 2009 Workshop-Colorado





# Future Funding Availability

- Many of you have been able to secure complementary funds
- Show of hands if you or the institution you work for has been able to obtain additional funding
- NASA funding SOS projects
- NSF – NOAA collaboration
- NOAA Office of Ed:
  - \$7.5M available for informal/nonformal science education projects, 5-10 awards will be issued



Photo credit: Hampton University



# NOAA's Next Solicitation

## Eligible Applicants

- Institutions of higher education
- Other nonprofits
- State, local and Indian tribal governments in the United States

## Cannot be applicants, but can be partners:

- For-profit organizations
- Foreign organizations (but not governmental entities)

The goal of this funding opportunity is to support projects that engage the public in educational activities that **utilize emerging and/or advanced technologies and leverage NOAA assets\*** to improve understanding, and stewardship of the local and global environment. There is specific interest in projects that use emerging and/or advanced technologies to (1) **facilitate outdoor experiences involving scientific inquiry and exploration of the natural world** apart from formal K-12 curricula and (2) **visualize, display, and interpret data to improve understanding and provide a systems perspective of Earth's dynamic processes.**

This funding opportunity emphasizes the use of emerging and advanced technologies in the area of **informal/nonformal science education.**



# NOAA's Next Solicitation

All projects must focus on one or more of the following informal/nonformal science education activities:

- Technologically facilitated outdoor experiential learning for youth and adults: use technologies to encourage greater participation in, exploration of, and understanding of outdoor environments
- Public participation in science related to one or more of NOAA's mission goals: use technologies to engage new audiences in scientific research collaborations with scientists and/or enhance individual and group participation in scientific research projects
- Exhibitions and online programs allowing the visualization and exploration of data supporting the interpretation of ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, weather and climate sciences
- Spherical display system projects
- Professional development and training programs for informal/nonformal education staff and volunteer interpreters related to any of these activities



# NOAA's Next Solicitation

- Spherical display system projects
  - Programming that facilitates public audiences' interaction and learning with spheres including spherical **content** development, integration with other visualization systems, development, testing and implementation of **interactives**, and other sphere-related **programming**.
  - Informal science education **professional development**/training programs to ensure scientific integrity and quality in docent presentations; can include interpretive techniques, scientific content understanding, and inquiry techniques; could involve docents from more than one institution.
  - **Installation** of spherical display system(s) in public exhibits in informal/nonformal science education venues such as science centers, museums, and aquariums.
  - **Advanced evaluation studies** of sphere content, programming, professional development/training, or sphere interactives, can be focused on one institution or involve multiple institutions, must incorporate the findings of these evaluations and can advance the state of knowledge of educational use of spheres.
  - *All projects should be responsive to the findings of the Network*



# NOAA's Next Solicitation

## Funding Levels / Scale of Implementation

### Priority 1-large-scale projects

Regional to national scale implementation. should involve geographically distributed organizations/institutions or networks of organizations/institutions or results in a product or model that is broadly distributed or transferred to other institutions/organizations during the project period. Funding requests can range from **\$500,001-\$1,250,000**.

### Priority 2-small-scale projects

Occur over a shorter duration with local to regional implementation; may include proof-of-concept projects and installations of spherical display systems with minimal or no accompanying educational programming. Funding requests can range from **\$200,000-\$500,000**.



# NOAA's Next Solicitation

## Dates

- Solicitation will publish ~Dec. 30, 2009.
- An informational teleconference with program officers: January 21, 2010.
- Letters of intent (required) will be due Feb. 9, 2010.
- Full applications will be due April 6, 2010.
- Funding decisions will be made by July 2010.
- Projects may begin as early as Oct. 1, 2010.

The discussions we have here over the next few days are critical...

We recommend you begin discussing project ideas and possible partnerships with one another at this Workshop.

John and I are available to you if you want to discuss ideas.



# Closing

You will hear the diversity of uses of spheres and I hope this stimulates your thoughts for future uses and new ways of using these spheres to increase scientific and environmental literacy among the public.

It is this group that shapes future developments for SOS, how Office of Ed invests in this program, and ultimately how you will all succeed.

We hosts these workshops so that all of us may be more efficient and effective in our efforts.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make the meeting more productive for you.

Thanks for being here and contributing your ideas, opinions, experience, and showing us some really cool new stuff for the sphere!





# Questions?