LECTURES

Almost 4,000 people attended lectures at the National Air and Space Museum in 2016. Following is a list of lectures and other programs held at the Museum, with links to the webcast of the lecture when available.

Exploring Space Lecture Series
This annual series of four lectures features distinguished speakers on the forefront of space science and history who talk about recent innovative space missions and take a look back at the history of space exploration.

Lecture topics and speakers:

- **NASA’s Mission to Europa: Exploring a Potentially Habitable World**
  Presenter: Robert Pappalardo, Jet Propulsion Laboratory
  400 attendees
- **How to Find an Inhabited Exoplanet**
  Presenter: David Charbonneau, Harvard University
  350 attendees
- **Going to Extremes: Putting the Squeeze on Life**
  Presenter: Pamela Conrad, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
  350 attendees
- **Searching for Life in Our Solar System**
  Presenter: Chris McKay, NASA Ames Research Center
  480 attendees — Sold Out

The Exploring Space lectures were made possible by the generous support of Aerojet Rocketdyne and United Launch Alliance.

Smithsonian’s Stars Lecture Series
This series of lectures is presented by Smithsonian researchers who are exploring the Sun, Moon, planets, stars, galaxies, and the universe.

- **Exploring Venus, Earth's Planetary Twin**
  Astronomer: Jennifer Whitten, National Air and Space Museum scientist
  233 attendees — Sold Out
- **Surprises in the Outer Solar System**
  **Pan-STARRS-1, New Horizons and LSST**
  Presenter: Matthew Holman, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
  233 attendees — Sold Out
- **Cloudy with a Chance of Solar Flares: How Space Weather Affects Your Everyday Life**
  Presenter: Kelly Korreck, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
  170 attendees
GE Lecture Series
Every spring and fall guest lecturers discuss aviation- and space-related topics.

- **Col. Kristin Goodwin: B-2 and B-52 Bombers, Airmen, and Attitude**
  250 attendees

- **Going the Distance and Breaking Records as a Boeing Test Pilot**
  Presenter: Suzanna Darcy-Hennemann, former Boeing chief test pilot
  180 attendees

- **Views from the Cockpit of the F-35**
  180 attendees

This lecture series was made possible by the generous support of GE Aviation.

Charles A. Lindbergh Memorial Lecture
Every May, to celebrate the anniversary of Lindbergh’s historic flight on May 21, 1927, guest speakers discuss their inspiring careers in aviation.

Due to unforeseen circumstances with the lecturer, the Charles A. Lindbergh Memorial Lecture for 2016 was postponed.

The John H. Glenn Lecture in Space History
Each year, legendary figures in space history reflect on their distinguished careers in space exploration.

  **Spaceflight: Then, Now, and Next**
  Presenters: Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins and Amazon.com founder/rocket entrepreneur Jeff Bezos in a panel discussion moderated by David Rubenstein, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of The Carlyle Group
  500 attendees, with 120 in overflow seating — Sold Out

This lecture was made possible by the generous support of Boeing.

What's New in Aerospace?
This daytime lecture series, presented in collaboration with NASA, covers recent research, developments, and discoveries related to space. The lectures are broadcast on the Museum's website and archived.

2016 topics, speakers, and attendees:

- **Mission to Mars**; Presenter: CEPS Geologist John Grant, 125 attendees
- **Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera**; Presenter: CEPS Senior Scientist Tom Watters and Director of the Planetary Science Division at NASA Headquarters Jim Green, 100 attendees
- **From Cowboy Boots to Space Boots**; Presenter: NASA astronaut Danny Olivas, 200 attendees
- Science and Spacewalking at the International Space Station; Presenter: NASA astronaut Kjell Lindgren, 250 attendees
- Cleaning Up Outer Space; Presenter: historian Lisa Ruth Rand, 150 attendees
- **Appropriate Attire**; Presenters: NASA Deputy Administrator Dava Newman and Space History Curator Cathleen Lewis
- The Mars Generation: A Conversation with Astronaut Christina Koch, 220 attendees
- Milestones: Inside Stories, 100 attendees

The “What’s New in Aerospace?” series was made possible by the generous support of Boeing.
Other Lectures

- **Vice Admiral Donald D. Engen Flight Jacket Night**  
  A National Air and Space Society members-only lecture  
  Presenter: Daniel Burbank, NASA Astronaut and Coast Guard Captain  
  230 attendees

- **John N. Bahcall Lecture**  
  *Building Stars, Planets, and the Ingredients for Life in Space*  
  Presenter: Ewine F. van Doshoeck, Leiden Observatory  
  250 attendees

Other Public Programs and Events

- The National Air and Space Museum celebrated the 40th anniversary of its flagship building in Washington, DC, with an evening ceremony and a very successful event called, "All Night at the Museum." For the first time, the Museum stayed open throughout the night with special guests and ongoing activities such as a film festival, music, tours, a scavenger hunt, and much more. The event also officially opened the newly renovated *Boeing Milestones of Flight Hall*. A 21-and-over paid event called "Launch Crew" rounded out the evening, drawing 350 attendees. The event was a rousing success, attended by 53,000 people. [Learn more](#)

- Ask an Expert Talks. Museum experts regularly give short talks to the public about the history or personalities related to a specific artifact or exhibition on exhibit.  
  1,500 attendees

- Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center Open House. Visitors were given a behind-the-scenes look at the work that goes on at the Center.  
  6,000 attendees

- Museum Moonshine: *Star Trek* in Our Lives  
  275 attendees

Band Concerts

- Independence Day Concert, featuring the United States Air Force Band's Ceremonial Brass Quintet at the Museum in Washington, DC  
  4 shows with an estimated attendance of 2,050

- Concert Series, featuring the U.S. Air Force Bands, at the Museum in Washington, DC  
  36 concerts, with attendance totalling 10,000