

National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Dear Curator:

Congratulations! Your museum has been selected to receive a large endowment from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund a brand new Astronomy exhibit. Before we present you with the award, we would like to see how you would build and design this exhibit. We would like to send a representative to your museum to view a presentation on your proposed exhibit. The representative will evaluate your presentation and determine whether it is suitable for funding or not.

Enclosed in this letter are topics for your consideration. Please present an exhibit design for one of these topics. We prefer that your presentation be in either Power Point or a poster.

Topics

1. Stars and fusion
2. Examining light from stars
3. Classifying stars
4. Temperature and brightness of stars
5. Life cycle of stars
6. Death of a star and birth of elements
7. Formation of the solar system
8. Galaxies
9. Milky Way Galaxy
10. Determining distances to objects in the universe
11. The Big Bang Theory

The representative will evaluate your exhibit on the following criteria:

1. What will the exhibit look like? Be specific. What materials, graphics, and design will you use?
2. What principles of astronomy and science do you think are important to include in the exhibit? Be specific. Write at least a paragraph on the ideas related to your topic that you think are important to include.
3. Why are these principles important to include? Why should someone care about astronomy and this exhibit?

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

The National Science Foundation

Rubric for Assessing Project Plan

- 1: NEEDS IMPROVEMENT, I would not fund this project
- 2: FAIR, I might fund this project if some big changes were made
- 3: GOOD, I would fund this project with some adjustments
- 4: EXCELLENT, I would fund this project as it is

Topic:

Group Members:

1. Did each member of the project team contribute to the presentation? _____.
2. Were you able to imagine what the exhibit would look like? _____.
3. Was the project design creative and interesting? _____.
4. Were the appropriate principles of science and astronomy emphasized? _____.
5. Did the project team understand and complete the assignment? _____.
6. Did you feel convinced that this exhibit would be important for the community and the museum? _____.

TOTAL SCORE: