

GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY
FOUNDATION

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



Dear Friends,

When I joined Griffith Observatory Foundation as Executive Director in April 2025, I started hearing the same thing everywhere I went: “I love Griffith Observatory.”

I heard it from all walks of life. I heard it from grocery store clerks, soccer coaches, and the local dry cleaner. I heard it from elected officials, world-renowned scientists, and international royalty. I hear it nearly every day from my seven-year-old son, a proud Antares member and massive fan of Observatory Director, Dr. E.C. Krupp.

Nearly everyone I’ve encountered in my daily routine over the past year shares the same emotion about Griffith Observatory that you, our valued supporters, have always known and nurtured.

Griffith Observatory is more than an iconic building with a nine-decade commitment to science and public service. It is a feeling—of wonder, discovery, belonging—that we open our doors to every day, thanks to each of you.

In 2025, we celebrated Griffith Observatory’s 90th anniversary with programs and events made possible by your generosity. As you read about some of our accomplishments, I hope you will feel, as we do, that your commitment to Griffith Observatory Foundation truly matters.

Together, we made real strides forward. Our In-person School Program is welcoming more fifth graders to the Observatory this year than ever before. You helped the Foundation underwrite hundreds of bus scholarships, ensuring that transportation costs are never a barrier. Your contributions sparked a literal “Wow!” for thousands of excited 11-year-olds as they climbed out of buses to marvel at the Hollywood Sign and panoramic city views. Many have never been to Griffith Park before or seen so much sky.

Your donations helped to pay dedicated experts. The Museum Guides leading our School Programs are astronomers, designers, engineers, and physicists—some of whom still remember their own fifth-grade trip to the Observatory. These capable people wait on the front lawn every morning, rain or shine, ready to greet a new busload of young explorers.

It has been our great honor to share a love of Griffith Observatory with you, your friends, family members, students, teachers, and the 1.5 million people who visited us last year from throughout Los Angeles and across the planet. Thank you for your generous support of Griffith Observatory Foundation. I look forward to experiencing even more wonder, learning, and love of the Observatory with you on this new trip around the Sun.

With galactic gratitude,



Elizabeth Greenway
Executive Director



90TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

A legacy as remarkable as Griffith Observatory's called for an equally remarkable birthday ceremony.

On May 14, 2025, Griffith Observatory and Griffith Observatory Foundation gathered City officials, benefactors, staff, volunteers, friends, and honorable guests for speeches and programming honoring the heritage of the Observatory and its impact on people over the last 90 years.

From actors and astronomers to civic leaders, speakers shared this sentiment: No matter who you are or from where you come, the Observatory is your home in the universe.

Fifth graders from Toluca Lake Elementary joined Dr. E.C. Krupp on the North Steps to sing "Happy Birthday" to the Observatory and celebrated the Observatory School Programs and our commitment to free and accessible science education.

True to its mission, the Observatory stayed open and free to the public on May 14—and with your continued support, it always will.



“ Here in Los Angeles, we have people who are from all over the world and yet they can come here and get a perspective on how we're all members of this precious blue dot. ”

Jacqueline Hamilton
Deputy Mayor of Neighborhood Services
Office of Mayor Karen Bass

90TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

“ We are all integral parts of the universe. Whether we explore it for our jobs or for our souls, the universe is for all of us. In this regard, Griffith Observatory has been a trailblazer for 90 years. ”

Dr. Aomawa Shields

Clare Booth Luce Associate Professor in
the Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of California, Irvine



On May 16, **Los Angeles Councilmember Nithya Raman** continued the celebration. Her district includes Griffith Observatory, and she presented an **official City proclamation** at a Los Angeles City Council meeting commemorating the Observatory's 90th anniversary. Dr. E.C. Krupp also spoke on the Observatory's character and lasting impact.



From left: Foundation Board President D. Khan, Councilmember N. Raman, Foundation Executive Director E. Greenway, Observatory Director E.C. Krupp, Observatory Deputy Director M. Pine, and Recreation and Parks General Manager J. Kim

90TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

In the fall, we celebrated another milestone: the 70th anniversary of the theatrical release of *Rebel Without a Cause*. For the first time in Observatory history, the Foundation screened the film where it was made, and commemorated the building's enduring connection to Hollywood. This was the first film to portray the Observatory as itself and as an essential "character" in the story.

The Foundation hosted two exciting evenings where guests could explore the building and grounds, and discover the film's iconic locations, behind-the-scenes details, and fascinating history. The sold-out screenings in the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon theater were preceded by illuminating reflections, including one from

Howard A. Rodman—professor and former chair of screenwriting at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. All tickets and original poster proceeds directly supported Griffith Observatory and its programs.



Ronnie Ayala brought his 1949 Mercury Coupe for photo opportunities.



From left: K. Knack, H. Rodman, and Dr. E.C. Krupp present *Rebel* on October 27, 2025.

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

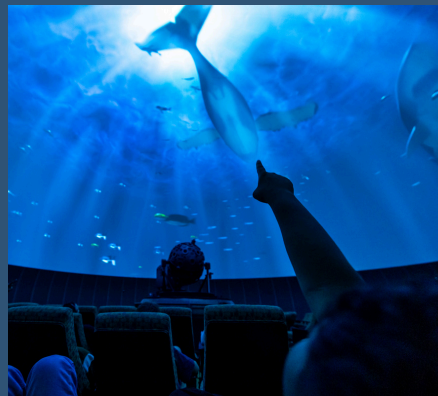
Griffith Observatory Foundation supports and promotes Griffith Observatory as a home for science literacy, education, and public astronomy through resource development and advocacy in partnership with the community. In 2025, we built on this commitment by expanding student access, introducing new educational tools, and deepening community connection.

School Programs Growth

For decades, Griffith Observatory has welcomed schools from across Los Angeles and beyond for field trips, and live, online programs. Through your generosity, tens of thousands of fifth graders participate in these immersive STEM programs entirely free of charge. This year, your contributions also allowed us to award a **record number of bus scholarships** for Title I schools.

In the 2025–2026 school year, Griffith Observatory’s In-person School Program will serve **more students than ever before**. A restructured schedule expanded In-person School Program service days to 99 days, which is an all-time high. During the 2025 calendar year, the Observatory served more than 68,000 students across both in-person and online programs.

The Online School Program also continued to evolve. In February 2025, the Observatory launched **Module 5: Earth Is Our Home**, which takes students on an astronomical journey through billions of years to uncover Earth’s relationship with life.



OUR MISSION IN ACTION

Expanding the Observatory Experience

Griffith Observatory entered a new digital universe with a free, downloadable **Minecraft map**. It allows players to explore a virtual version of the building and its grounds. Featuring life-like architecture, interactive elements, and a scavenger hunt, the map invites discovery for players of all ages, anytime, anywhere.



Museum Guide Maya V. stamps a Griffith Observatory Passport.

The Foundation also supported the launch of **Griffith Observatory Passports**—free, on-site activity booklets that guide visitors and families through the Observatory’s instruments and exhibits with a fresh and engaging perspective.

These experiences open new layers of the Observatory for everyone—whether visiting in person or exploring from afar—to discover familiar exhibits in unexpected ways or try something completely new. Every spark of curiosity is made possible by your support.

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

Volunteers & Community Outreach

Griffith Observatory Foundation's volunteer program is thriving and making great things happen. Volunteers support events, outreach, and so much more. You can find our volunteers tabling around the community and at the monthly **Public Star Party** on the Observatory lawn.

In 2025, we **doubled** the number of new volunteers from the previous year and celebrated an exceptional milestone with volunteer Penny K. marking **20 years of service** with the Foundation.



Run, Walk & Roll

with Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration was held right in Griffith Park. This event supports inclusive play and connection for children of all abilities.

Garvey Ranch Science Night

hosted by Los Angeles Astronomical Society is an annual family-friendly, astronomy-themed Halloween costume event at Garvey Ranch Observatory, complete with rocket launches and science demonstrations.



THE BEST DISCOVERIES ARE THOSE WE MAKE TOGETHER

For everyone from first-time visitors to longtime stargazers, every Observatory program offers a rare, expertly-guided opportunity to deepen understanding of our place in the cosmos.



On March 13, Observatory staff broadcast the **total lunar eclipse** and shared this beloved celestial event online with audiences across the globe and with Foundation supporters at a rooftop reception at the Observatory.

In October, we welcomed **Paddy Rodgers**, Director of Royal Museums Greenwich, to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the **Royal Observatory Greenwich**. His special lecture explored Britain's legacy in astronomy and bridged centuries of discovery across two hemispheres.



December marked the end of the latest **major lunar standstill** period. With significant Foundation support, the broadcast team streamed live from the Observatory and traveled to **Chimney Rock, Colorado** to livestream the northernmost moon from a prehistoric site where Ancestral Pueblo may have watched for that moon, too.



Thanks to our donors, Griffith Observatory brought these experiences to the public for free—through livestreams, educational commentary, and programming that makes astronomy enjoyable and accessible for everyone.

COMMUNITY IS THE CENTER OF OUR UNIVERSE

Foundation supporters constitute a community of philanthropic stargazers who share an enthusiasm for stellar service. In 2025, the Foundation honored that commitment in celebration of what has been accomplished and in vision of what we can achieve together.



On December 8, 2025, the Foundation honored the **Infinity Society**—a group of donors who have included the Foundation in their estate plans. At a private luncheon in the W.M. Keck Foundation Central Rotunda, we recognized these remarkable supporters and honored those no longer with us, including **Ruth Schweitzer**, a key benefactor, astronomy enthusiast, and longtime friend of Dr. E.C. Krupp.

In 2025, Foundation members enjoyed access to **Member Lounges**, including a family-friendly Star Party lounge on September 25. These gatherings foster belonging and celebrate members as an integral part of the Observatory community.



The September 2025 Member Lounge offered Foundation members exclusive rooftop access and a professional photo opportunity.

DONOR HONOR ROLL

We gratefully recognize donors whose cumulative gifts of \$1,000 or more were received between January 1 and December 31, 2025. All gifts to the Foundation help safeguard the Observatory as a vital public resource for Los Angeles for generations to come. We are truly grateful for the support of our members, donors, and partners. Your enthusiasm for science and service makes our world turn.

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“I want my kids to grow up in a world where a place as special as Griffith Observatory exists. A place that teaches the facts but also sparks curiosity. A place that at the same time feels quietly personal and endlessly expansive.”

Danish Khan
President of Griffith Observatory
Foundation's Board of Directors

* In memoriam



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“ Nothing is more fulfilling than the vicarious thrill you get from people gasping in awe at their first view of the Moon, a planet, or galaxy. ”

Tim Russ
Actor and Amateur Astronomer



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* In memoriam

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There's something especially magical about Griffith Observatory. It doesn't just sit on top of the hill, it sits at the intersection of science, imagination, education, and civic pride.



Jimmy Kim

General Manager of the
Department of Recreation and Parks

* *In memoriam*