

# ***Growing Up Great Together Under One Big Sky*** **Mobile Planetarium Tour**

## **Fact Sheet**

### **OVERVIEW**

The *Growing Up Great Together Under One Big Sky* mobile planetarium tour features an inflatable dome that introduces children to the night sky while forging cross-cultural connections. Inside the dome, children ages 4 to 6 view a special planetarium show – *One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure* – created by Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind *Sesame Street*<sup>TM</sup>, and its partners, with major support from the PNC Foundation.

A part of *Grow Up Great* – a \$350 million, multi-year initiative that began in 2004 to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life – the portable *Growing Up Together Under One Big Sky* dome travels throughout markets served by PNC to early childhood education centers and other organizations where children would not otherwise have the opportunity to visit a planetarium.

### **FEATURES**

- ***One World, One Sky* planetarium show:** Through the lens of astronomy, children join Elmo, Big Bird and Hu Hu Zhu – a Muppet from the Chinese co-production of *Sesame Street*<sup>TM</sup> – as they explore the night sky and take an imaginary trip from *Sesame Street* to the moon. In the process they learn 1.) basic principles of math, geometry and physics, and 2.) about each other's culture.
- **Educational tools:** At the *Growing Up Together Under One Big Sky* mobile planetarium, each child receives a day time/night time activity poster, which is trilingual (English, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish) and has reusable, glow-in-the-dark stars to display at home. Prior to the event, teachers at the schools and centers receive astronomy-based curriculum to share with students before the dome arrives, as well as follow-up activities and ideas for after it departs.

### **EDUCATIONAL GOALS**

- **To provide young children with an age-appropriate introduction to astronomy and encourage positive attitudes toward science.** For example, students have the opportunity to interact with the program by drawing constellations and counting the stars that form them. Also, when Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu "travel" to the moon, they discover some basic but surprising scientific facts, such as they can't fly a kite on the moon because there is no wind.
- **To foster cross-cultural appreciation between children.** For instance, Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu teach each other how to say words such as "star" and "moon" in their native language and later discover that children in both counties enjoy flying kites. The program aims to nurture a child's natural sense of wonder while bridging cultures to enable children of different nations to both learn more about one another and discover common connections.

### **FACTS**

- The dome is made of durable, lightweight fabric and can be set up in less than 30 minutes. There is room for 35 students to sit on the floor and a few chairs.
- The dome is 16.5' wide and approximately 10' high. It is used indoors and requires a minimum area of 20' x 20' with a ceiling height of at least 12'. The blower that inflates the dome provides a constant flow of fresh air that keeps the audience cool.
- The 27-minute planetarium show is a high-definition video animation with full-dome stereo sound.
- Two mobile planetarium tours serve PNC's expanded territory in the Midwest and Florida. The exhibits travel from autumn through spring.
- In 2011, the two exhibits toured 34 markets in nine states, had 870 showings over 176 days, traveled more than 30,400 miles and distributed approximately 24,300

activity posters. In the process, approximately 23,500 students attended the planetarium show.

## **BACKGROUND**

*PNC Grow Up Great* helps prepare children from birth to age five - with a focus on underserved children - for success in school and life. Founded by The PNC Financial Services Group, *Grow Up Great* and *Crezca con Éxito* form a comprehensive bilingual, corporate-based school readiness program committed to helping produce stronger, smarter and healthier children, families and communities.

**One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure** was created as part of a global partnership between Sesame Workshop, the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, the Beijing Planetarium and the Liberty Science Center (Jersey City, NJ)

- **Received additional major funding from the National Science Foundation** with additional support from the W.L.S. Spencer Foundation, China Association for Science and Technology and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. Additional outreach resources include a Parent/Child Brochure, Planetarium Educator Materials and Teacher Materials; all available at [www.sesameworkshop.org/sky](http://www.sesameworkshop.org/sky)