

Revolve

REVOLVE
IPS CONFERENCE
WARSAW 2016

**THE PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON THE
PROGRAMME OF IPS2016 CONFERENCE**

Purpose

- To understand the expectations of the society regarding the conference program considering:
 - opinions derived from previous conferences;
 - expectations that have not been met yet.
- To collect information about the respondents.

Survey

- The survey was conducted between the end of June 2014 and the end of September 2014.
- The survey involved 69 people from around the world who represent approximately 10% of invited voters.
- The survey was conducted over the on-line platform, and the questions could have been answered by everyone through the links.

THE BASIC TYPE OF THE SHOWS



*1) Can you please select typical show schemes that you follow?

		Response (%)	Responses
Only Live Show		8.59	11
Only Fulldome Show		3.91	5
Live Show + Fulldome Show		42.19	54
Star Show		27.34	35
Lecture		17.97	23
		Answered Question	68
		Skipped Question	0

Summary of the results

- Over a half of the respondents have live shows in their repertoire (8.59%+42.19%=50.78%);
- 45% of the respondents show full-dome pre-rendered shows.
- 27% of respondents have star shows in their repertoire. This should be taken into consideration while arranging the conference programme.

Conclusions

- We should devote a significant amount of our schedule to the subject of creation of "live" interactive shows, including lectures and star shows.
- We must think about activities for people who do not have the digital projection system or select mainly star shows.
- We should consider combining IPS with full-dome Film Festival and show the best movies on Friday after the conference (awards will be presented during the IPS2016).

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES



*2) Do you have any special shows in your programme- like live concerts, invited talks etc.?

		Response (%)	Responses	
Music Shows		18.37	27	
Laser Shows		10.20	15	
Live Concerts		20.41	30	
Invited Talks		29.93	44	
Book Reading		7.48	11	
Cosmic Movies		6.80	10	
None of the Above		6.80	10	
			Answered Question	68
			Skipped Question	0

Summary of the results

- 30% of respondents give indoor lectures (Invited Talks).
- Over 20% of respondents have live concerts in their repertoire , and almost 50% (49.98%) have music-related shows in their repertoire (music shows+ laser shows+ live concerts).

Conclusions

- We should consider devoting a session to preparation and conducting of lectures in an interesting way.
- The session concerning the organization of cultural and entertainment events/shows seems to be a good idea, especially about music events, about the role of the planetarium in culture, etc.

TYPE OF THE SHOWS



3) What type of fulldome shows you are mainly showing in your theatre. Please rate:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Responses	Total
Astronomy related Shows	0%	3.23%	0%	0%	4.84%	4.84%	14.52%	4.84%	17.74%	50.00%	62	533
Popular Science Shows	5.66%	7.55%	3.77%	9.43%	20.75%	13.21%	11.32%	16.98%	3.77%	7.55%	53	306
Entertainment Shows	20.45%	15.91%	13.64%	11.36%	20.45%	6.82%	2.27%	2.27%	4.55%	2.27%	44	167

Summary of the results

- The vast majority of respondents are focused on Astronomy.
- The cultural and entertainment full-dome shows (like the Dark Side of the Moon) are a vast minority, yet they are present.

Conclusions

- On one hand, when preparing the repertoire of any full-dome festival, the interest of the respondents should be taken into consideration. On the other hand, however, being aware of the enormous potential of the planetarium, we should think about a session showing the potential and the possibilities to popularize the science/teaching in other fields.
- We should think about the session which would bring adult audience to the Planetarium, about the repertoire for them, about whether the cultural and entertainment offer attracts them to the Planetarium? Are there any planetariums that are not interested in this target group at all?
- It is very interesting to compare this slide with the previous one, as it indicates that music-related shows are present in the repertoire of almost 50% of respondents. However, in this slide they are low-rated.

THE AUDIENCE



4) What is your target audience? Please rate:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Responses	Total
Kindergarten Groups Age 3-6	8.62%	13.79%	10.34%	12.07%	8.62%	10.34%	6.90%	3.45%	0%	25.86%	58	322
School Groups Age 6-10	0%	3.03%	6.06%	1.52%	9.09%	13.64%	9.09%	4.55%	13.64%	39.39%	66	511
School Groups Age 10-15	0%	2.99%	7.46%	1.49%	4.48%	11.94%	14.93%	7.46%	11.94%	37.31%	67	518
Adults	1.52%	3.03%	7.58%	7.58%	15.15%	10.61%	13.64%	9.09%	7.58%	24.24%	66	448
Families with Kids	1.47%	1.47%	1.47%	0%	4.41%	4.41%	19.12%	13.24%	13.24%	41.18%	68	563

Summary of the results

- Distribution of age groups shows the advantage of school groups and families with children over adults and pre-school groups.

Conclusions

- The purely educational nature of the planetarium in some cases should be considered during a programme preparation.
- Perhaps it is worth preparing a session on how to bring adults to the Planetarium – especially in comparison to the previous slides?

EVENTS AND OBSERVATIONS



*5) Do you organize any events outside the dome ?

		Response (%)	Responses
Basic Night Sky Observations		23.42	37
Public Telescope Viewing		31.01	49
Workshops (Stargazing, photography etc.)		20.25	32
VIP (Astronomers, Astronauts) lectures/meetings		18.35	29
None of the Above		6.96	11
		Answered Question	68
		Skipped Question	0

Summary of the results

- About 1/3 of the respondents organize evening events related to the observations of the sky through telescopes, and nearly ¼ other simpler observations.
- A very small percentage of respondents (7%) do not organize any events.

Conclusions

- It seems that spending some time during the conference on "outdoor" event is not only an opportunity for networking, but also might be the inspiration and a good start for the exchange of experience in this field. Maybe a good idea would be a joint organization or invitation to speeches (language barrier)?

TYPICAL FORMATS DURING THE CONFERENCE



6) Please rate the following typical IPS conference formats/activities:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Responses	Total
Fulldome shows	2.99%	1.49%	7.46%	5.97%	8.96%	5.97%	17.91%	14.93%	5.97%	28.36%	67	479
Live shows	2.99%	2.99%	4.48%	4.48%	7.46%	11.94%	17.91%	10.45%	1.49%	35.82%	67	489
Lectures, Posters	1.49%	4.48%	2.99%	10.45%	17.91%	22.39%	7.46%	7.46%	8.96%	16.42%	67	430
Vendors Presentations	2.99%	2.99%	8.96%	8.96%	19.40%	11.94%	8.96%	11.94%	7.46%	16.42%	67	422
Networking	1.52%	3.03%	4.55%	6.06%	4.55%	3.03%	3.03%	9.09%	10.61%	54.55%	66	542
Dome Village	1.56%	0%	7.81%	9.38%	12.50%	14.06%	20.31%	9.38%	6.25%	18.75%	64	429
Activities & Events	1.52%	0%	3.03%	7.58%	4.55%	7.58%	25.76%	18.18%	6.06%	25.76%	66	493
Workshops	1.52%	0%	4.55%	9.09%	9.09%	9.09%	15.15%	10.61%	9.09%	31.82%	66	490

Summary of the results

- Commercial shows (of exhibitors) and Dome Village, which generally constitute the lion's share of the conference programme, proved to be the least popular.
- Content-related session were also quite lowly rated, which may call for hard work to improve their level.
- Networking got the highest score by far - this must be reflected in the programme.

IMPORTANT TOPICS



Question

7) What are the important topics you would like to hear about during IPS2016 conference?

Selected comments:

- Live presentation--including examples of shows that are considered to be great live performances.
- More emphasis on live presentation topics and techniques. More content applicable to portable and small school planetarium. Less emphasis on full-dome movie playback. Presentation of content that applies to both star balls and digital systems.
- Operations (as dry as that sounds). It would need to be divided into different types of institutions (museums are very different from schools).
- Keeping up with current science. Martin Radcliffe's speech at Western Alliance Conference about current astronomy and where to go for accurate, up to date information has been very helpful.
- full-dome clip libraries, other educational topics in the dome (history, literature, other sciences etc.).
- Innovative uses of full-dome systems, public perception of astronomy and science, advances in show production.
- Professional development and training.
- full-dome projection technology, production tools (software) for full-dome.
- ...

GENERAL REVIEW:



Question

8) Do you have any other general comments?

Selected comments:

- More on Science communication--practical approaches and interactive hands-on activities.
- Although vendors pay a lot to participate, we need to avoid having the conference focus too much on technology and gadgetry. We need to think about planetariums' presence in our communities, about planetariums' values, and planetariums' audiences.
- Please plan to have enough time for networking!
- Good luck!
- I think it would be great if there was a way to engage schools and smaller planetariums. Maybe a travel-grant contest to raise awareness of the conference for them? In our area, the assumption is that these folks will travel really far (it's not funded out of our US state) and not see much benefit.
- I want you to focus about IPS2020 vision. Then we want to have a session of directed at the future.
- ...

Question

9) What other things not seen so far you would like to see?

Selected comments:

- Combine IPS meeting and full-dome festival in one city.
- A strong historical component and a cultural component are very important. This is a special anniversary, all about the history of astronomy and the host country. These elements should not be ignored
- I would love to see innovative approaches to the full dome medium besides the common playback full-dome film.
- Full-dome hands-on production workshops - to understand what goes into making a full-dome film.
- Some big shot from a national or (better) international institutions like ESA, ESO, NASA etc. Not scientists or "public information officers,, but real managers or directors from top level. It is not so important what they have to say, but it is important that they become aware of the planetarium community and see how big and active and engaged this group of people is in promoting science and improving science education.
- Behind the scenes and making of "Dream to Fly"
- IPS conferences need more fun! Dances? Pub Crawls? Things to get people together and have fun.
- Any mid-conference tours should take a whole day. Not half a day where you only get 1.5 hours in New Orleans or 2 hours at the Forbidden City.
- ...

CONCLUSIONS FROM QUESTIONS 6-9



Conclusions

Ratings are quite scattered, however, some emerging trends can be observed:

- There is a belief that the burden of the conference should be transferred from commercial shows to content-related sessions and activities, which requires some compromises within the programme.
- The need for content-related and interesting sessions on relevant topics emerges, such as: production of live shows, production of full-dome shows, interesting presentation techniques, planetarium maintenance etc. There is a need for a good programme committee, proper lecturers, deliberate content-related programme that will define the themes of the session. There is also a need for selection of abstracts and taking care of their level.
- Some comments on the Vision 2020 and the future of IPS appeared, therefore, a well-prepared session on this topic must be organised.
- Networking is emerging as the most important activity for the respondents and it should be included in the programme by creating the conditions for effective networking. It is worth thinking about both the programme and the tools (application, the QR code)
- There is a need for diversification of the programme from the participants' point of view, so that both representatives of large institutions and small school or portable planetariums could find something for them.
- There were some comments on the willingness to build/improve the cooperation between the community of planetarians and large institutions with regard to such topics as: ESA, ESO, NASA etc. It would be a good idea to pull the representatives of these institutions – preferably someone from higher-rank management.
- We should consider the fulldome film festival.
- The local characteristic of the place (culture, history), such as Copernicus, is interesting for the respondents.