

Background:

The Barlow is one of the busiest stand-alone university planetariums in the United States. It is at or near the top of similar facilities in the Midwest (including Michigan State, Delta College, Parkland College and Ball State).

- The current planetarium serves **30,000 visitors per year** with its 1990's technology – Evans & Sutherland Digistar II, Sun Sparc Ultra workstations and Windows 95 computers.
- In the UW System the Barlow is the most attended and highest admission revenue generating planetarium <https://www.msn.com/en-us/feed>
- The Barlow serves more people (from 23 of Wisconsin's 72 counties) and generates three times the revenue the rest of the UW planetariums combined.

The current projection system is running on technology and parts that are no longer available to support the existing system. When issues arise, parts need to be obtained by purchasing old identical systems on Ebay etc. Parts are very scarce and becoming very difficult to obtain, therefore a renovation of this planetarium is critical to its future.

The next generation of the Barlow Planetarium is conservatively estimated to serve nearly 60,000 visitors per year and enhance the state of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) education in the Fox Cities and Northeast Wisconsin.

Policy Discussion:

Attachments:

Draft resolution will be attached.....