



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LIBRARY

A collaboration between the City of San José and San José State University

News Release

For Immediate Release

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San Jose's King Library Celebrates the International Year of Astronomy with the Unveiling of Mural-Size Images from NASA'S Great Observatories

New Multi-wavelength Views Rekindle the Wonder in Our Night Skies

SAN JOSE , Calif. – The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library will take visitors on a journey to the center of our Galaxy when it unveils unprecedented mural-sized images of the Milky Way's core as seen by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope and Chandra X-ray Observatory.

The one-year exhibit, which celebrates the International Year of Astronomy 2009, unveils deep space images from NASA's great observatories. The exhibit at King Library is one of only two San Francisco Bay Area locations* where the public can see these unique images.

The images will be unveiled to the public in the Fourth Street Lobby at noon on Tuesday, November 17. The stunning photographs of the central region of our Galaxy commemorate the International Year of Astronomy. Dr. Michael Kaufman of San José State University's physics and astronomy department will explain the science behind the images and their relevance to current research. The voyage of discovery continues on Saturday, November 21, with a variety of free programs and activities for all ages at the King Library from noon to 5 p.m. For program details, visit www.sjlibrary.org/nasa.htm.

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 celebrates the 400th anniversary of Galileo turning a telescope to the heavens. Since Galileo's spyglass, telescopes have grown ever larger and ever better, and have moved to mountaintops and into space. NASA's Great Observatories represent

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the crowning achievements of astronomy four centuries later and are honoring this legacy with a national image unveiling.

A giant 6-foot-by-3-foot image presents a unique view that showcases the Galaxy in near-infrared light observed by Hubble, infrared light observed by Spitzer, and X-ray light observed by Chandra. This combined image was carefully assembled from mosaic photo surveys of the core by each telescope. It provides the most wide-ranging view ever of our Galaxy's mysterious hub.

The King Library will also unveil a matched trio of Hubble, Spitzer and Chandra images of the Milky Way's center on a second large panel measuring 3 feet by 4 feet. Each image shows the telescope's different wavelength view of the central region of our Galaxy that illustrates not only the unique science each observatory conducts, but also how far astronomy has come since Galileo.

Within these images one can trace the spectacle of stellar evolution – from vibrant regions of star birth, to young hot stars, to old cool stars, to seething remnants of stellar death called black holes. This activity occurs against a fiery backdrop in the crowded, hostile environment of the Galaxy's core, the center of which is dominated by a super massive black hole millions of times more massive than our Sun.

These multi-wavelength views provide both stunning beauty and a wealth of scientific information that could not have been dreamed of by Galileo.

For more information about the Hubble Space Telescope, see <http://hubblesite.org/>; the Spitzer Space Telescope at <http://www.spitzer.caltech.edu/>; and the Chandra X-ray Observatory at <http://chandra.harvard.edu/>. Additional information about NASA's celebration of the International Year of Astronomy is available at <http://astronomy2009.nasa.gov/>.

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The Deep Space Images from NASA's Great Observatories exhibit will continue through December 2010. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, located at 150 E. San Fernando Street in downtown San José, is open during the academic year as follows:

Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.sjlibrary.org/nasa.htm or call (408) 808-2397.

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* NOTE: [Chabot Space & Science Center](#) is the only other San Francisco Bay Area location exhibiting these unique images.

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