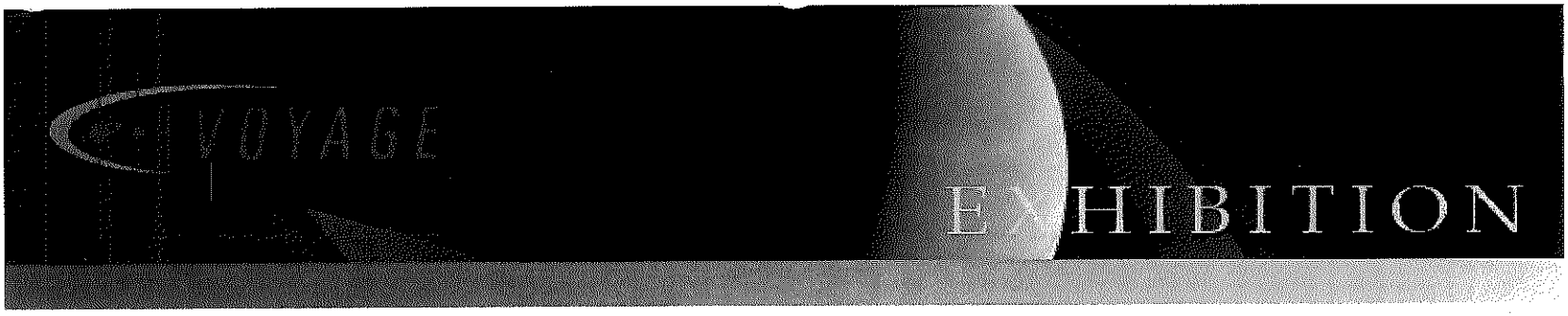


BECOME A VOYAGE COMMUNITY

EXHIBITION

- THE EXPERIENCE
- DESIGN
- UNITS
- STORYBOARDS
- STORYLINES & IMAGERY
- REPLICATION

EDUCATION

EXISTING COMMUNITIES

MEDIA

GALLERY

RALLYING SUPPORT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

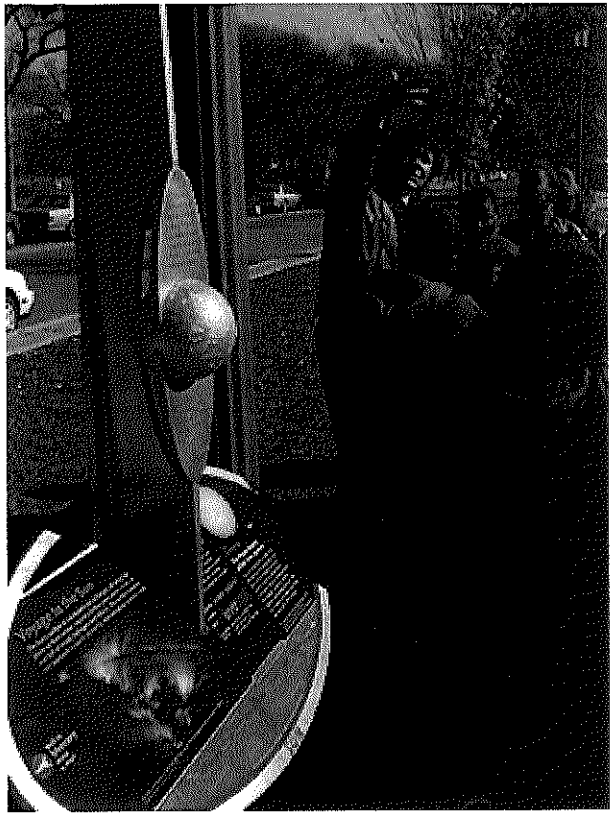
VOYAGE AND PLUTO

EXHIBITION

The *Voyage* exhibition is a one to 10-billion scale model of the Solar System stretching 2,000 feet (600 meters), and containing ten 8.5 -foot high aluminum stanchions locating the Sun and nine planets, and three smaller stanchions that provide entry points to the exhibition, and address asteroids and comets.

Voyage reflects a seamless fusion of sculpture and science education, conveying an aesthetic beauty worthy of placement on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., as required by the approving bodies—the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission.

Represented as a



A tour of *Voyage* begins at the Sun for a Washington, D.C. class of sixth grade students.
Credit: Washington Times, 2001

CONTACT US

For information, contact Harri Vanhala at (410) 740-6241 or by e-mail at

hvanhala@usra.edu.

WHAT'S NEW

New Web Pages (November 13, 2006)

- *Voyage* in D.C.
- NCESSE
- Rallying Support in Your Community
- *Voyage* and Pluto
- Media Resources

Pluto Remembered (September 5, 2006)

Archives

RESOURCES

Voyage Brochure (PDF, 1.6 MB)

The *Voyage* Program

striking gold-anodized
metal sphere, the Sun—our star—can be seen by visitors in the exhibition's outer Solar System. All planets and moons with a diameter greater than 1,000 km [24 worlds] are depicted to scale as 3-dimensional crystalline spheres laser-sculpted inside solid glass. The ring systems of the outer planets are also accurately depicted, including their orientation in space.

"The challenge of the project was to create an elegant yet accessible solution to a hard-to-visualize concept--the scale of the Solar System and its worlds."

Vincent Ciulla of Vincent Ciulla Design
Smithsonian Press Release, September 6, 2001

Full color imagery, much of which was commissioned for the exhibition, is found on porcelain enamel storyboards at each stanchion. Thought-provoking text transports the visitor by reshaping their Earthly experiences into those reflective of other worlds.

The imagery and text provide a compelling up-close view of the planets and moons, in stark contrast to the 3-D models that speak to the powerful reality of tiny worlds in a vast space. *Voyage* transforms visitors into cosmic explorers and turns a leisurely 20-minute walk into a fascinating journey through the Solar System.

(PDF, 252 KB)

Program Successes, Milestones and Testimonials (PDF, 668 KB)

The *Voyage* Exhibition (PDF, 544 KB)

Exhibition Design (PDF, 736 KB)

Exhibition Storyline and Imagery (PDF, 276 KB)

Community Programming and Educational Materials (PDF, 240 KB)

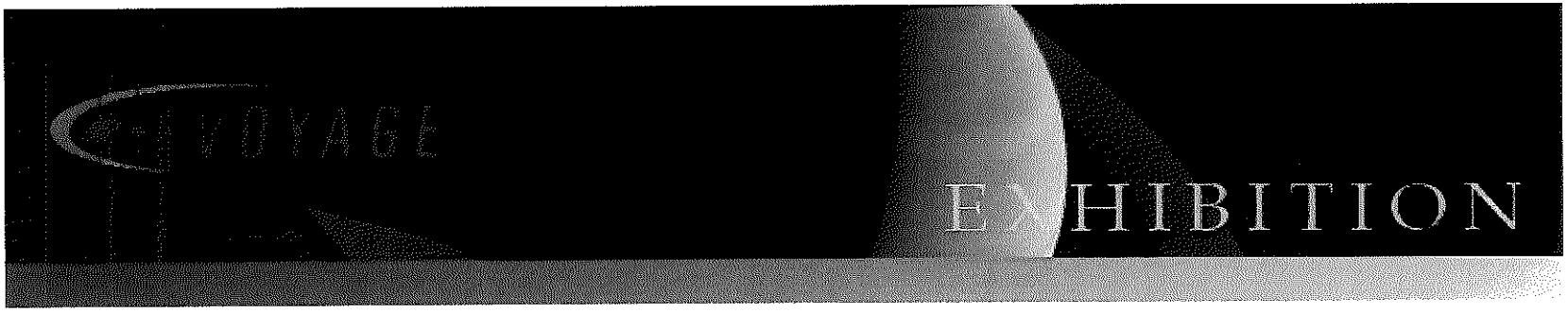
ANIMATION

Voyage Animated (AVI, 155 MB)

Sun (AVI, 11.6 MB)

Saturn (AVI, 11.8 MB)

Mars (AVI, 12.4 MB)



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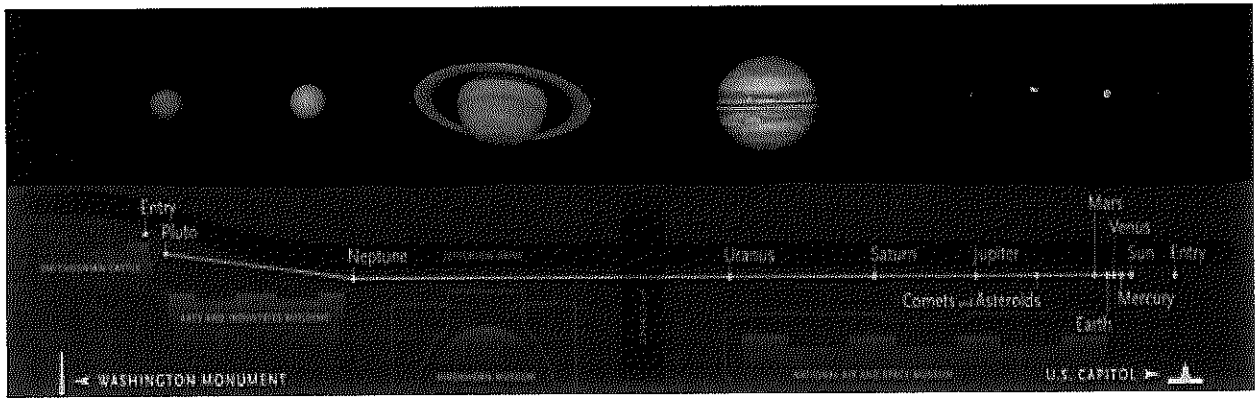
THE EXPERIENCE

A portion of the *Voyage* scale model of the Solar System on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. is shown in the photograph at the bottom of the page. The real Solar System is exactly 10 billion times larger than the model. *Voyage* stretches from the east side of the National Air and Space Museum to the Smithsonian Castle, as seen on the map below. The planets depicted above the map are on the same scale as *Voyage*'s model worlds.



Zoom

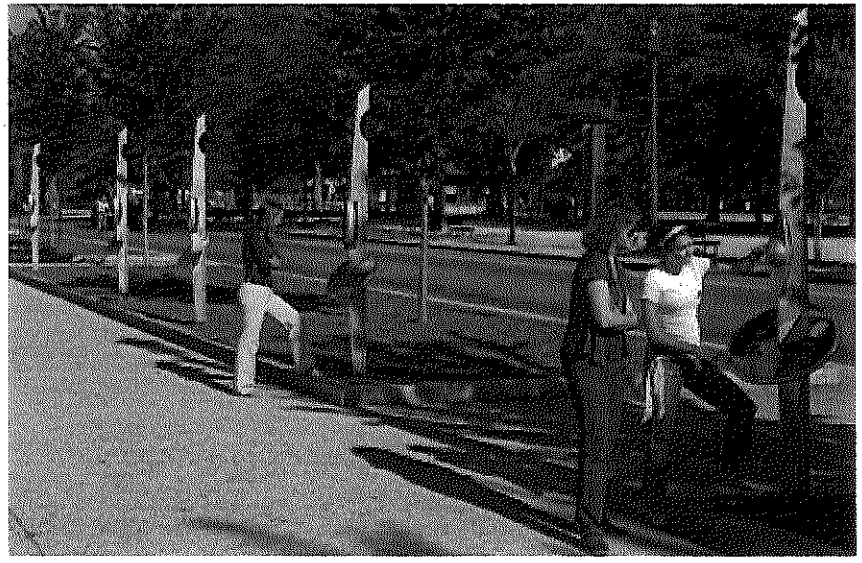
MEDIA

GALLERY

RALLYING SUPPORT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

VOYAGE AND PLUTO

Imagine leaving the grapefruit-sized Sun walking westward toward the Washington Monument. After walking just 50 feet (15 m) you encounter Earth, home of the human race, and smaller than the head of a pin. The entire orbit of the Moon fits comfortably in the palm of your hand. The 50-foot distance between the Earth and Sun represents 17 years of travel at the speed of a commercial jet.



After a comfortable 20-minute walk, stopping along the way to visit a number of other worlds, you arrive at the Smithsonian Castle Building, 6.5 football fields west of the model Sun (2000 ft or 600 m). Here, just visible, is tiny Pluto—far smaller than the head of a pin. Looking back at the model Sun, across over 6 football fields of empty space, you realize that Earth is no more than a small speck of dust orbiting close to the Sun. How does the human race even know Pluto exists?

If you could continue your walk westward, you wouldn't find the nearest star to our Sun—Proxima Centauri—until you had reached the California coast. The Sun and Proxima Centauri are just two stars in our home 'city of stars'—the Milky Way galaxy. The Milky Way, an insignificant plot of real estate in the greater universe, contains enough stars to give 50 to every human being on Earth. How insignificant is the Milky Way? It is only one of over 100,000,000,000 galaxies in the observable universe.

Light, the fastest thing in the universe, can circle the Earth 7.5 times in one second, traveling 40,000 times faster than the space shuttle. The speed of light on the scale of *Voyage* is 1 inch per second (2.5 cm/sec), about the speed of a fast ant. Leaving the model Sun an ant would arrive at the model Earth in eight minutes, Pluto in 6 hours, and a model Proxima Centauri in California after 4.5 years. Put another way—exploring just the space between the Sun and nearest star to the Sun at the fantastic speed of light, would be like exploring the continental United States as a colony of ants.

This is the story of our existence--a race of explorers, 6 billion tiny souls strong. It is a story that ignites wonder about

the universe, and a sense of pride in our ability to reveal its nature through both human imagination and ingenuity. It is a story that humbles us, and brings a sense of humility to our lives.

It is a *Voyage* that will forever change your perspective of home.

Enclosure 1: Two maps identifying a proposed location of the *Voyage* Scale Model Solar System in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Map 1: Locations of the *Voyage* Scale Model Solar System stanchions from the Sun to Jupiter, with the Sun stanchion (marked with a yellow dot) closest to the Maryland Science Center. (M-Mercury, V-Venus, E-Earth, M-Mars, A-Asteroid main belt, J-Jupiter).

Map 2: Locations of the *Voyage* Scale Model Solar System stanchions from the Sun to Pluto, with the Sun stanchion (marked with a yellow dot) closest to the Maryland Science Center. The Center is identified with a blue dot. (A-Asteroid main belt, J-Jupiter, S-Saturn, U-Uranus, N-Neptune, P-Pluto).