Description:
Since the beginning of time, the people of Africa have used their knowledge of the sky to meet their physical needs for survival, build their societies and shape their spiritual lives. *Skywatchers of Africa* is a fascinating exploration of Africa and the cultural uses of the sky that developed over thousands of years. The show highlights the diversity of African cultural astronomy and celebrates our shared human experience.

For Generations, Africans have viewed the heavens as a vital part of the natural world. Among African traditions, the mysteries of the heavens are of the same importance as those of human existence.

Africans have long observed the stars in their search for wisdom and practical knowledge. They used the sky as a guide to bind their societies and cultures, for laying out their homes and cities, and making calendars to organize their time.

The sky also shaped their spiritual lives as the Stars, the Sun, and the Moon each played important roles in many African ceremonies, and offered answers to the deepest human questions about life and death, told in tales and myths passed down through the generations.

*Skywatchers of Africa* relates these sky stories of Africa, realizing that all humans — past, present, and future, both nearby and distant — are our brothers and sisters, sharing our needs and our skies.

*Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts*

The show includes a live customized Digistar tour of the current evening sky and basic astronomy lessons.

Basic Information:
- Age Level: General Audience (Grades 3+)
- Maximum participants per session: 210
- Location: Planetarium Theater
- Running time: 40 minutes (add 20 min. for Star Walk)
Skywatchers of Africa

Sunshine State Standards Addressed:

**Kindergarten:**

**Big Idea #5 - The Earth in Space and Time**
- K.E.5.2 Recognize the repeating patterns of day & night.
- K.E.5.3 Recognize that the Sun is only visible in the daytime.

**1st Grade:**

**Big Idea #5 - The Earth in Space and Time**
- 1.E.5.1 Explain that there are many more stars in the sky than can be counted & they're not evenly scattered in the sky.
- 1.E.5.4 Identify harmful & beneficial properties of the Sun.

**Big Idea #6 – Earth Structures**
- 1.E.6.1 Recognize that water, rocks, soil & living organisms are found on Earth’s surface.

**Big Idea #17 – Interdependence**
- 1.L.17.1 Recognize that all plants & animals need the basic necessities of air, water, food & space.

**2nd Grade:**

**Big Idea #6 – Earth Structures**
- 2.E.6.1 Recognize that Earth is made up of rocks; rocks come in many sizes and shapes.

**Big Idea #7 – Earth Systems and Patterns**
- 2.E.7.1 Compare & describe changing & repeating patterns in nature like weather, temperature, precipitation, day to day and season to season.
- 2.E.7.2 Observe & measure how the Sun’s energy directly & indirectly warms the water, land & air.

**3rd Grade:**

**Big Idea #5 - The Earth in Space and Time**
- 3.E.5.2 Explain that our Sun is a star that emits light energy.

**Big Idea #6 – Earth Structures**
- 3.E.6.1 Demonstrate that radiant solar energy heats objects and when sun is absent, heat may be lost.

**Big Idea #17 – Interdependence**
- 3.L.17.1 Describe how animals and plants respond to changing seasons.

**4th Grade:**

**Big Idea #5 - The Earth in Space and Time**
- 4.E.5.1 Constellations drift across the sky during the night. Different constellations are visible in different seasons.
- 4.E.5.2 Monthly change in the shape of the Moon.

Partially Funded by a Grant from the Florida Department of State