Planetarium Sound System

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The iconic Hardin Planetarium on WKU’s campus is starting the new year with a new sound system.

Amy Bingham has more in this week’s View from the Hill.

All ages are invited to attend the acclaimed program “Musica”, a montage of life as seen through the heart of a musician. It’s a special tribute to the WKU Sisterhood for providing a new sound system inside the historic Hardin Planetarium.

It’s been a fixture on WKU’s Campus for more than fifty years.

 “It was state of the art in 1967, it was fantastic, as good as it could be back then.”

And except for some exterior touch ups a few years ago, nothing has changed.

 “This really is a classic icon of what the 60’s were like, the shape of the building, the old style seats.”

That is until now….

The show “Musica” is an opportunity to showcase a brand new sound system that had become almost non-existant inside the dome.

 “When we did need the sound system we sort of winced and held our breath and hoped people didn’t complain too much.”

The new system was made possible from a 2016 grant for 30 thousand dollars from the WKU Sisterhood.

 “Having an upgrade to that seemed like the first bite you could take that would be really substantial and satisfying and wouldn’t cost an arm and a leg.”

The planetarium has seen an increase in visitors over the last few years, especially last summer with all the interest surrounding the solar eclipse.

 “The eclipse was wonderful in bringing so much of the community in. It was so geographically specific to Bowling Green.”

Interactive exhibits have been added throughout the planetarium to enhance the educational experience.

 “They pick up a window that has a question on it and look for the answer underneath, they try something with the infra red camera. “

While they hope to have funds to refurbish the dome at some point in the future, for now the new sound is out of this world.

 “just a wonderful gift.”

 “Musica” will be presented on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday through February 13th. Admission is free. If you’d like to schedule a group tour of the planetarium, log onto wku.edu\planetarium.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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