

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Amazing Atoms and the Shape of Speed

Enormous NASA exhibit displayed at Georgetown Library

A giant, eye-dazzling exhibit from NASA called "Here, There, and Everywhere" is definitely fulfilling the first part of its title – "Here!" The exhibit is on display at the Georgetown Library on Cleland Street until January 25th.

Boldly colored eight foot panels illustrate how familiar phenomena on Earth and across the Universe are connected by basic physical laws.

"You won't even recognize the library when you walk in," promised director Dwight McInvaill. "The books are side by side with amazing visuals about deep space, atomic energy, bent light and solar wind. This exhibit is being displayed across the nation, and in fact arrived from Colorado, and will go next to Arkansas."

The main feature behind this project, known by the acronym of HTE, is a series of spectacular visual comparisons that span from the human scale on Earth to some of the largest structures in the cosmos. The panels in each of the exhibit topics give examples, with explanatory text, of the same physical process occurring on vastly different scales.

"We want to help people explore how interconnected everything in science is," said Kimberly Arcand of the Chandra X-ray Center who leads the HTE project. "By studying the Universe, we are also often learning about important physics here on Earth—and vice versa."

There are six subjects in the HTE exhibit. The topics covered in the exhibit include shadows, wind, electric discharge, bow waves, lensing, and the collisional excitation of atoms.

"Our daily experiences reveal much about how our world works and thinking about everyday examples helps form our basic understanding of physics," said Patrick Slane, an astrophysicist involved with the project. "This exhibit will help show that these laws of physics have universal relevance."

HTE has been conceived, designed, and generated by a team at the Chandra X-ray Center, which is part of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass. The Chandra X-ray Observatory is NASA's flagship mission for X-ray astronomy and one of the "Great Observatories" along with the Hubble Space Telescope, the Spitzer Space Telescope, and the now de-orbited Compton Gamma Ray Observatory.