



## POWERHOUSE PRESENTS SYDNEY SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2024

In a pivotal moment aboard the *Apollo 8* space mission in 1968, astronaut William Anders captured the iconic *Earthrise* photograph, a stunning image revealing our planet as a fragile blue marble set amid the vast blackness of space.

The historic snapshot marked humanity's first glimpse of Earth in colour from space, forever altering our collective perspective.

Now, more than half a century later, **Sydney Science Festival 2024** brings together leading creatives and scientists from around the world who are radically rethinking our understanding of sky, Country and each other.

Returning to Sydney for its tenth year from **10–17 August** and coinciding with **National Science Week**, this year's Sydney Science Festival program unites local and international speakers who are pushing the boundaries of our understanding of the skies above, our diverse landscapes and the intricate connections between us all.

Sydney Science Festival will feature a series of free and ticketed events that include talks, workshops and interactive programs throughout the week across Sydney including at Powerhouse Castle Hill, Sydney Observatory, Parramatta Town Hall, Parramatta Square and the University of Technology Sydney.

Renowned festival speakers include pioneering spaceship designer and space entrepreneur **Dr Susmita Mohanty** who will discuss the challenges of building sustainable habitats beyond Earth and the technologies driving space missions with Columbia University's Physics and Astronomy **Professor Janna Levin**.

Space environmentalist **Associate Professor Moriba Jah** and artist **Trevor Paglen** will discuss our crowded skies.

Australia's first female astronaut and Director of Space Technology at the Australian Space Agency, **Katherine Bennell-Pegg**, will be in conversation with artist **Xin Liu** about what zero gravity means for creative practice and space travel.

A festival highlight will be **Sydney Science Festival Family Day** at Parramatta Square on Saturday 17 August. Presented by **Powerhouse** in partnership with the **City of Parramatta**, it promises an action-packed day of hands-on experiments, demonstrations, coding and Minecraft workshops.

High-school students from Greater Sydney will be invited to participate in special programming featuring Bennell-Pegg, Jah and remote sensing scientist **Dr Maya Nasr** as part of the **Lang Walker Family Academy** program.

Sydney Science Festival 2024 is proudly supported by the **NSW Government**, affirming its commitment to connecting communities with science and innovation across Australia and internationally. The Festival's Foundational University Partners include **Western Sydney University** and the **University of Technology Sydney**.

**NSW Minister for Arts and Tourism John Graham** said, 'The Sydney Science Festival plays a

pivotal role in showcasing creativity and innovation in New South Wales. By bringing together leading minds in science and the arts, the festival inspires curiosity, fosters new discoveries, and celebrates our state's commitment to scientific advancement.'

**Powerhouse Chief Executive Lisa Havilah** said, 'The Powerhouse holds Australia's most significant collections of science, technology and design. The Festival represents our dedication to connecting industry and community to profile the extraordinary work and achievements of our science leaders.'

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Image: Xin Liu. Photography by Robert Chron.

## PRESS INFORMATION

High resolution images are available [here](#).

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

### **Sydney Science Festival 2024**

10–17 August 2024

#### **FULL PROGRAM**

#### **Castle Hill Science Day**

Hands-on science fun for all ages exploring space transmission.

Saturday 10 August 2024

10am

Powerhouse Castle Hill

Free, bookings essential

#### **Space for Earth | Susmita Mohanty**

Space entrepreneur, Dr Susmita Mohanty on the challenges of building sustainable habitats beyond Earth, and the technologies driving the next generation of future space missions.

Tuesday 13 August 2024

7.30pm

University of Technology Sydney

Free, bookings essential

#### **Celestial Emu | Sydney Observatory Late**

Join us at Sydney Observatory to celebrate First Nations Sky and Country.

Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 August 2024

5.30pm and 7pm

Sydney Observatory

**Book tickets here**

#### **Our Crowded Skies | Moriba Jah and Trevor Paglen**

Space environmentalist Associate Professor Moriba Jah and artist Trevor Paglen, in conversation with Dagogo Altraide, reveal the challenges of a crowded sky, from space junk to 'invisible' surveillance satellites to advocate for a dark sky future.

Wednesday 14 August 2024

6pm

Parramatta Town Hall

Free, bookings essential

#### **Passport to Space | Susmita Mohanty and Maya Nasr**

Space entrepreneur and habitat designer Dr Susmita Mohanty joins Dr Maya Nasr in conversation to discuss their shared vision for space exploration that is accessible to all.

Thursday 15 August 2024

6pm

Parramatta Town Hall

Free, bookings essential

#### **Bodies in Space | Katherine Bennell-Pegg and Xin Liu**

Australian astronaut Katherine Bennell-Pegg joins engineer and artist Xin Liu to explore how they have harnessed and overcome the extreme conditions of space.

Friday 16 August 2024

6pm

University of Technology Sydney

Free, bookings essential

#### **Sydney Science Festival Family Day**

Hands-on science fun for all ages. Presented by Powerhouse Parramatta and City of Parramatta.

Saturday 17 August 2024

10am

Parramatta Square  
Free, bookings essential

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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## ABOUT POWERHOUSE

Powerhouse sits at the intersection of arts, design, science and technology and plays a critical role in engaging communities with contemporary ideas and issues. We are undertaking a landmark \$1.3 billion infrastructure renewal program, spearheaded by the creation of the new museum, Powerhouse Parramatta; expanded research and public facilities at Powerhouse Castle Hill; the renewal of the iconic Powerhouse Ultimo; and the ongoing operation of Sydney Observatory. The museum is custodian to over half a million objects of national and international significance and is considered one of the finest and most diverse collections in Australia. We are also undertaking an expansive digitisation project that will provide new levels of access to the Powerhouse Collection.

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