

“Celebration of SOFIA” Conference 2023

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SOFIA SUG Fall Meeting
2022

“Celebration of SOFIA” Conference

- USRA has held three successful conferences on general SOFIA science (in addition to Ringberg meetings)
 - “Scientific Opportunities for new Instrumentation”
 - 2011 at the Asilomar Conference grounds
 - “The Local Truth: Star Formation and Feedback in the SOFIA Era”
 - 2016 at the Asilomar Conference grounds
 - “Our Galactic Ecosystem: Opportunities and Diagnostics in the Infrared and Beyond”
 - 2022 at the UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference center (“LAH”)
- Several suggestions have been raised for a final SOFIA-centric conference
 - We have outlined such a meeting, with the working title:
 - “Passing the SOFIA-batons – Whereto from here?”

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- Such a conference is not included in the NASA-USRA ramp-down contract
- Because a conference takes, at least, a year to organize it's planning and execution cannot rely on USRA/SOFIA staff (even if not funded through the contract)
- USRA [past SOFIA close-out] does not have funds to sponsor any deficits/support of early career scientists, invited speakers etc.

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- To support this meeting, we have prepared a proposal for the “ROSES/Topical Workshops, Symposia, and Conferences” call, that will be submitted by USRA HQ
- USRA staff at e.g. LPI will be available and additional staff proposed for (LPI ran the registration site for the LAH meeting) - **If TWSC proposal accepted**
- Our proposed format is one of sessions focusing on selected areas of SOFIA accomplishments and results, and specifically addressing which observations and observatories are needed to achieve continued progress on these topics

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- Items to finalize include
 - Time and venue of conference
 - SOC/LOC organization
 - Staffing and cost
- Questions to the SUG:
- Is this of high enough importance to pursue?
- Given that the SOFIA Science Center will be closing:
 - Who should run – and be on - the SOC?
 - Volunteers from the SUG sought for SOC Chair (especially) and members

Summary

- Conference is not part of the close-out contract
- Funding planned to be requested through ROSES/TWSC
- Submitted and implemented through USRA HQ
- Timing and venue dependent on proposal acceptance by SMD
- -> Should we proceed?