

Acropolis Center at Athens, Ohio

Athens, Ohio was named after its Greek predecessor because it was hoped that, just like Ancient Athens, the city would become a haven for thought, knowledge, and progress. In many ways, this hope came to fruition not only in the form of the nearby university, but also through Radar Hill: an active research facility operated by the Avionics Engineering Center during the 1960's and 1970's. During these years, Radar Hill was partnered with the US Air Force, U.S. Army, and contributed to the Apollo Missions.

Athens though, has fallen upon hard times since its founding, as has the facility at Radar Hill. Athens is the poorest county in the state of Ohio, and the vast majority of business in the area comes from the university. Radar Hill, now abandoned and in disrepair, serves mostly as a point of interest for hikers and sightseers. The Acropolis Center will give new life to this space while honoring its roots by providing young people with a reason to get excited about the creative potential of the sciences.

Team Member	Major/ Minor	Contribution
Participant#1	Media Production	Team Leader, 3D Models, Concept Design
Participant#2	Visual Arts/Photojournalism	Concept Art, Graphic Design, Layout
Participant#3	Game Design/Development	Writing, Editing, Story
Participant#4	Engineering	Technology Research, Historical Research, Attraction Design

Story behind the design

Consider for a moment the symbolic power of light. If we consider darkness to be a metaphor for a lack of knowledge, then light is exactly the opposite. Light is knowledge, creativity, and progress. It is a visual representation of the power that innovative minds have to both literally and metaphorically shape our future. This is the idea at the core of The Acropolis Center.

The Acropolis Center is named after the highest point in Athens, Greece, upon which the Parthenon sits. Radar Hill is, similarly, the highest point in Athens, Ohio. Much as the Parthenon was a great source of pride for ancient Athenians, so too will the Acropolis Center be for the community of Athens, Ohio. This center will serve, symbolically, as a lighthouse; shining an ever visible beam through the darkness, leading people towards a brighter future.

User/ Guest Experience

At the Acropolis Center, community members, university students, and inquisitive young minds have the opportunity to learn the inspirational power of the sciences by interacting with light in many forms.

Guests are welcome to take a relaxing stroll around the Radiant Rooftop Garden, see the world from a new perspective in the Lighter than Air Balloon, and experience creativity brought to life in the Cosmic Illustrations Light Show.

For particularly curious guests, the Light Writers, and Laser Linkers workshops offer opportunities for interactive learning and inspiration, with everything guests create being displayed in the Bright Ideas Gallery and Museum. Guests participating in the Cosmic Creations workshop will see the realization of their creative potential quite literally projected into the night sky, among the stars, as part of the Cosmic Illustrations Light Show.

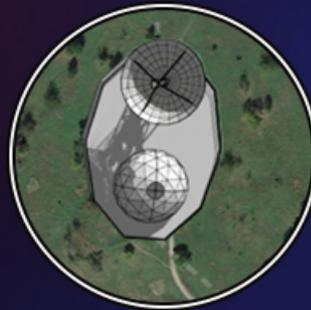


Photograph of Original Radar Hill Center provided by web.archive.org

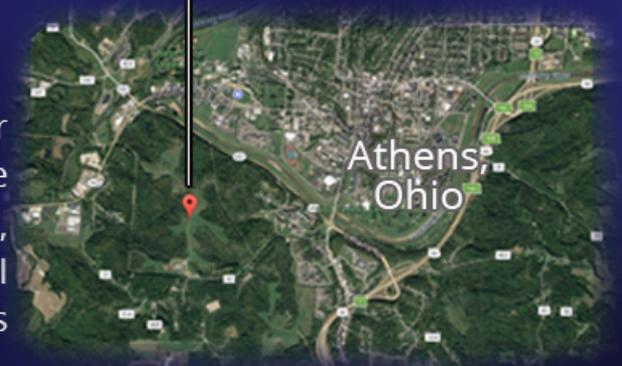
“Dedicated, talented students have the opportunity to experiment and research into space. There we try to stimulate the creative research that is demanded today”

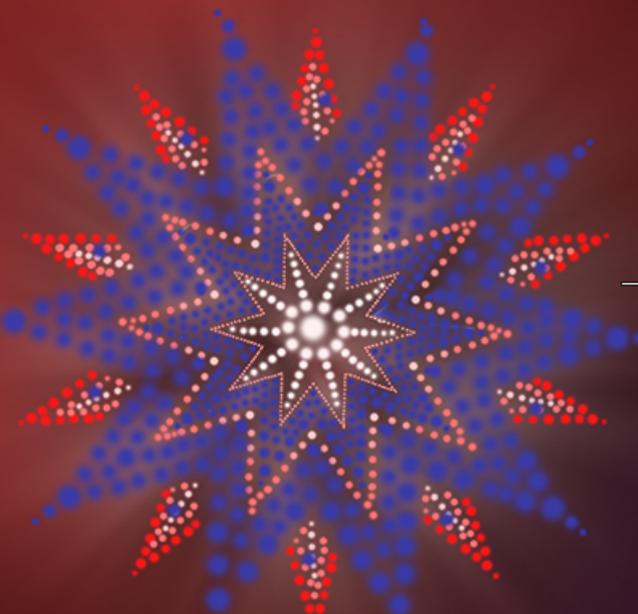
-Dr. Richard McFarland, Founder of the Avionics Engineering Center, Radar Hill

Radar Hill was owned by the Avionics Engineering Center in the 1960's-1970's, and was at various times throughout its history an active part of the the US Air Force, U.S. Army, and Apollo Missions



The new Acropolis Center on Radar Hill will allow people in the surrounding area to have fun, learn, and discover the inspirational power of the sciences





Cosmic Creations

We will give students the opportunity to program sequences of the nightly light show, allowing them not only to learn the basics of programming, but also the potential which that skill represents. With a bit of simple work, their ideas will quite literally be seen among the stars



Cosmic Illustrations

The brilliant nightly Cosmic Illustrations Light Show, created fresh nightly by guests, will emanate out of a newly constructed radar dish, which will also act as a wienie for the entire space

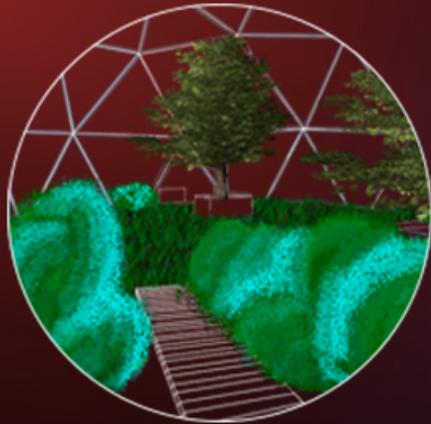


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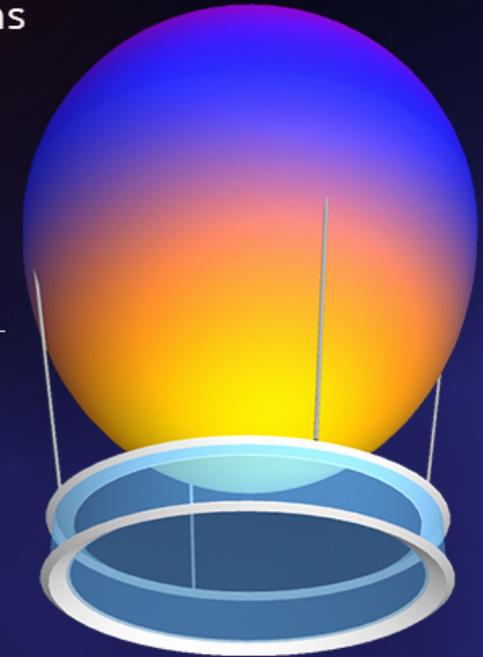


The **Bright Ideas Gallery and Museum** will showcase creations done by guests in workshops and illustrate the rich history of the original facilities on Radar Hill, displayed on full wall LED screens

Historical photos (left) provided by webarchive.org
Light photos provided by group members



The **Radiant Rooftop Garden** will give guests a place to relax and unwind, while giving a totally unique experience after the sun sets



The **Lighter than Air Balloon** will offer guests a stunning perspective of the surrounding nature as well as the gorgeous view of the nearby city of Athens - both day and night



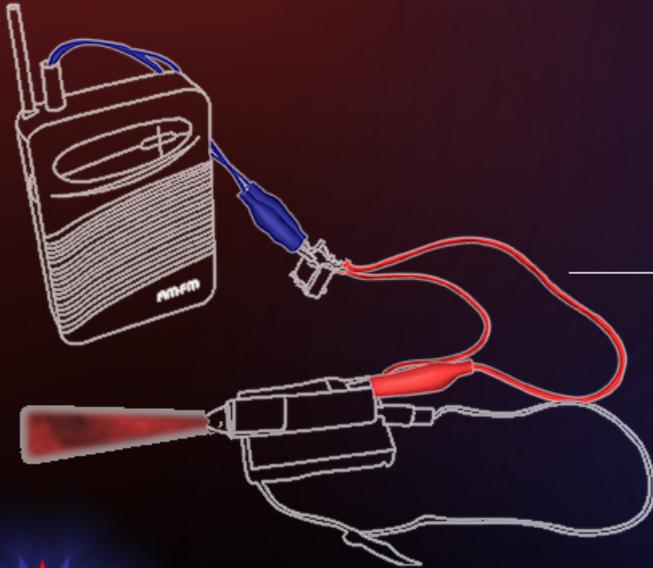
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Light Writers

Photography, literally translated, means "to write with light." We will teach students the artistic potential of light, and show them what can be achieved when you use science - and light - creatively

Guests enrolled in this workshop will have the opportunity to display their works in the Bright Ideas Gallery and Museum, so everybody can appreciate their creativity



Laser Linkers

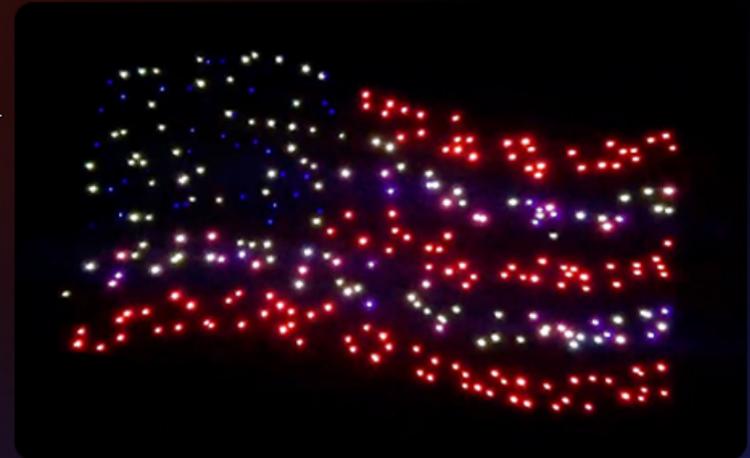
Light is also a vital part of communication, and building a laser light communicator will give them a direct understanding of that, while still being able to jam out to their favorite tunes



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Cosmic Illustrations, the nightly light show, will be a combination of multiple existing technologies, including laser graphics, programmable drone swarms, and traditional laser lights

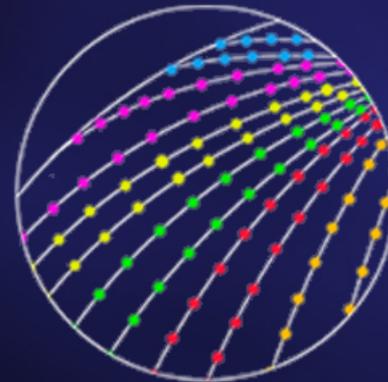
The night sky will come to life around guests, with the drones creating 3D shapes in mid-air, images being projected onto the hills and trees, and the very air filled with brilliant light



Reference photo taken by Caleb Harper at Amazon's MARS Conference



The Lighter than Air Balloon's interior will be lined with programmable LED lights so that it can illuminate the sky above south-eastern Ohio at night, and act as a beacon for those with curious minds





Athens is the poorest county in Ohio, and has little opportunity or business outside of the nearby university

All attractions and workshops are offered at no cost to accommodate any guests regardless of income

The Acropolis Center will provide families with a place to spend a day free of charge, introduce children to ideas that they can use to create a brighter future, and be a beacon for all people with inquisitive minds

