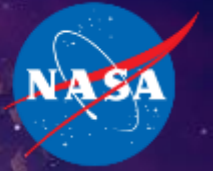


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



EXPLORE SCIENCE

Hispanic Heritage Month: Marte (Mars)

Andy Shaner

Public Engagement Lead, Lunar and Planetary Institute

September 27, 2019

Hispanic Heritage Month: Marte (Mars)

September 24, 2019, Pasadena (TX) Public Library



LPI scientists and public engagement staff engaged patrons of the Pasadena (TX) Public Library in Mars science and exploration and discussed Latinx influences in the U.S. scientific community. The city of Pasadena has a high proportion of Latinx residents.

The bilingual event featured:

- Virtual Reality views of Mars using Google Expeditions
- (Portable) planetarium shows highlighting the night sky and visiting Mars, specifically Gale crater, Jezero crater, Valles Marineris and Olympus Mons
- Remote operation of Spheros through a “Mars” landscape obstacle course
- Hands-on explorations modeling how spacecraft search for signs of life on Mars
- Activities/discussions were facilitated in English and Spanish by Latinx LPI scientists **Ms. Beth Hernandez**, **Dr. Germán Martínez**, and **Dr. Edgard Rivera-Valentín**



Participants explore Mars with virtual reality (upper-left) while Dr. Edgard Rivera-Valentín (right) discusses what they see. Participants model in-situ spacecraft sample analysis (lower-left) to determine if life is present in three “Mars samples.”