

ABSTRACT ONLY**THE MANUEL FOSTER OBSERVATORY -
HISTORY, SCIENCE AND NEW LIFE OF THE
FIRST PROFESSIONAL OBSERVATORY IN
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The history of the Manuel Foster Astronomical Observatory, affiliated with the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and situated in the heart of Santiago’s Metropolitan Park on top of San Cristóbal Hill, presents a prime opportunity to promote astronomy and natural sciences to the general public. Established in 1903, the observatory stands as one of the oldest in the Southern hemisphere. At the forefront of cutting-edge research in the early 20th century, it was designated a Historical Monument in 2010, and since then, it has garnered increasing attention from the public. Given the few million visitors and tourists who annually visit San Cristóbal Hill in Santiago, the Foster Observatory has undoubtedly become an essential stop on their journey. We highlight the scientific achievements, infrastructure and the recent transformation and repurposing of the Foster Observatory into an astronomical museum and outreach center. Our goal is to preserve and educate using its unique and original historical assets. We offer weekly diurnal and nocturnal observations that pave the way for a regular visitor program, primarily targeting students from educational institutions across the region, country and the continent.

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