

Legacy Fund Opportunity

The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota is poised to build 11,000 square feet of high-quality WOW exhibitions that reflect diverse aspects of Minnesota's art, culture, and heritage.

Background

The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota is opening a new, permanent Children's Museum facility in 2014. The building and land are being donated by the City of Mankato, and Children's Museum leadership has raised more than \$2,500,000 in contributions for the building renovations scheduled to begin summer 2013.

All Legacy funding will be used for exhibits, environments and art studios (not for building expense). Two successive Legacy Grants administered by the Minnesota Humanities Center have allowed us to develop fabrication plans through an innovative community engagement project. Funding the fabrication of "Legacy Exhibits" is the next step:

- Exhibits are developed and designed by esteemed museum consultants from Minneapolis and Saint Paul, along with local developers and community partners.
- With the motto of "Local, Found, and Natural" all exhibits make the most of local resources and connect families to Minnesota's natural and reclaimed materials.
- The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota is dedicated to doing all we can to help every child and every family to be enriched by exploring art, culture, and heritage regardless of participation barriers.
- Thanks to the Legacy Fund, exhibition fabrication plans will be ready by July 1, 2013. We are now poised for Legacy Funding to fabricate, install, and remediate exhibitions for the permanent Children's Museum facility.

We are requesting \$2,400,000 to Fund construction of 11,000 square feet of WOW exhibits, environments, and studios:

Building Central: Minnesotan's build! This portable exhibit builds upon itself with expanding materials and ideas.

Dakota Culture: Enjoy the beauty of Minnesota's original language, recognize that Dakota are Minnesota's first people, and experience Dakota culture as shared by Dakota today.

Farm Park: This isn't old Mac Donald's farm. Get hands-on with modern agriculture with an indoor gallery and spectacular outdoor Farm Park.

Market Square: Cooperatives and independent businesses are staples in communities all across Minnesota. Play with the possibilities of community through gathering, helping, and transacting.

Play Prairie: Explore the possibilities of nature play at the prairie inspired outdoor gallery.

Play Porch: Introducing babies and toddlers to natural elements of an inviting and expanding world.

Quarry Zone: Quarries are in many areas of Minnesota and naturally provoke questions from young and old. Step into a southern Minnesota quarry to transform and transport natural materials.

MN Water Ways: Water is universal to Minnesotans. Make a splash sensing, moving, and creating worlds around water.

Whiz Bang STEAM Studios: Science, technology, engineering, art, and math all collide in ever-changing "Make It" studios; developing creativity and innovation for all ages, in particular older children and their care-givers.