



Legacy proposal for FY14/15 biennium:

The Science Museum of Minnesota respectfully requests \$2.2 million from the Legacy committee for the FY14 and 15 biennium. If awarded, the museum plans to use those funds for the following projects:

- Implementing technical upgrades in the Omnitheater necessary to show digital productions, the only type of Omnitheater productions available going forward.
 - \$1.2 million over the biennium
 - Key project components include installing a new IMAX Digital Projection System for dome theaters, new nXos 8-channel audio system, LED low utility cost lighting system and a secondary digital projector for flat screen projection.
 - The Omnitheater has long been a beloved cultural resource to Minnesotans and museum staff have contributed much to the educational giant screen theater industry, including co-producing the recent film, *Tornado Alley*, partially filmed in Minnesota.
 - With the rapid decline of traditional film, the Omnitheater's future depends on this technical upgrade – without it, the future of the theater is in real jeopardy.

- Continuing to refine and improve our offerings for teachers and students both at the museum and around the state.
 - \$500,000 over the biennium
 - Key project components include reaching every Minnesota county through our work with schools; connecting our programming to research-based best practices on supporting underrepresented learners in science and technology fields and improving support for 21st century teacher needs through explicit connections to standards and better web capacity to support access to museum resources.
 - Increased expectations for students and teachers in the current education environment demand ever increasing quality from corollary education programs such as those the museum offers. We're committed to meeting these needs and being a true partner with schools providing out-of-classroom experiences for students around the state.
 - Without this work students and teachers will lose a valuable resource for engaging with science and a key piece of the pipeline leading to future employees in the science, technology, engineering and math workforce will be damaged.

- Bringing more American Indian objects and the stories they tell to more Minnesotans.
 - \$500,000 over the biennium
 - Key project components include expanding the pilot exhibition to include more objects, hands-on activities and visitor feedback opportunities; initiating community programming around the state to include a wider and more diverse group of

- Minnesotans and inventorying and digitizing the museum's American Indian ethnology collections to make them accessible to a larger audience.
- The museum is the steward of a stellar Native American collection and it is our responsibility to respectfully care for and provide access to it. This project helps us share our collections and use them to inspire and inform all Minnesotans of the cultural legacy of this land.
 - Without this project these amazing objects will remain in storage and the rich cultural stories reflected by them will remain untold.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this request. We look forward to assisting the state in advancing opportunities for more Minnesotans to experience the cultural heritage the Science Museum provides.