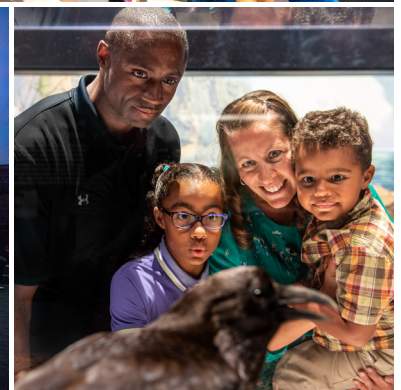


Access & Equity at the Bell Museum

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Request



Minnesota's official natural history museum and planetarium opened the doors to its new facility on July 14, 2018. We are open for all. By the end of our first full year on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus, we anticipate:

200,000

Minnesotans served. Attendance is up from 38,000 in our former location, including multi-generational groups.

90,000

Guests in the Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan Planetarium—returning a dedicated public planetarium to the state.

25,000

K-12 school field trip visits. Students engage in hands-on learning that spans the sciences, arts, and humanities.

5,800

Member households. This is up from 700 in years past, and includes new programs for families in need.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Request

The new Bell Museum ignites curiosity and inspires learning for visitors in every stage of life. As the state's official natural history museum and planetarium, it is our responsibility and honor to provide access to the museum's resources to all Minnesotans. Investment in the new facility removed significant physical access barriers, and private support is providing resources to remove financial access barriers.

An investment of \$300,000 annually in the FY19/20 biennium through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund will expand access to the Bell Museum and its resources, with special consideration of the increasingly diverse population of our state.

Equal Access

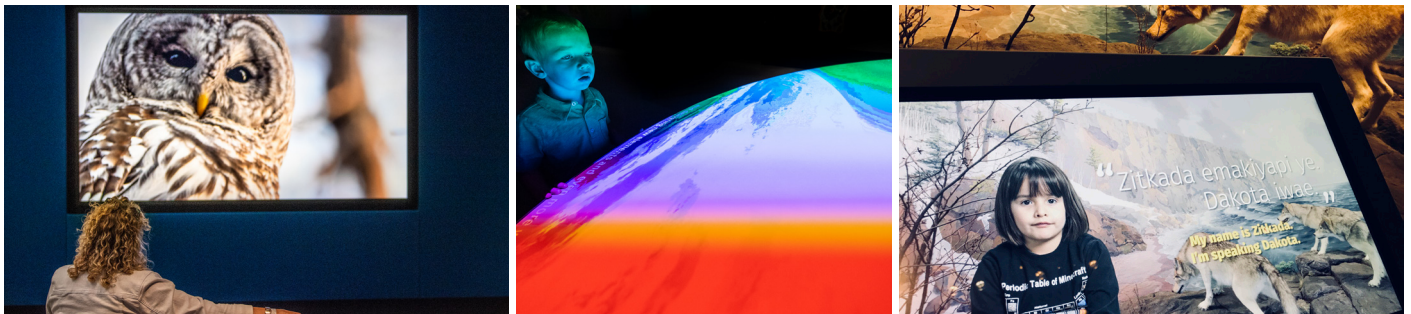
To expand awareness and opportunities, we will partner with members of the disability community, technology experts, and museum staff to create:

- Audio described tours for visitors who are blind or have low vision
- Tactile guides and models for exhibits
- Informational materials to highlight available access resources
- Innovative solutions for access challenges unique to the planetarium environment

Cultural Equity

To become a public space that is truly for all in Minnesota, we will embark on a two year community engagement initiative to develop:

- Audio tours in the languages most commonly spoken in Minnesota
- A suite of culturally relevant experiences about Minnesota's cultural heritage
- Cultural competency trainings for museum staff and volunteers
- Multicultural marketing techniques



Measurable Outcomes

Our commitment to community-driven programs, tools, and resources will allow more people to experience and learn from the museum's new exhibits, planetarium, and outdoor learning landscape. We expect:

- Increased number of people exposed to arts and cultural heritage
- Increased opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in arts and cultural heritage
- Museum attendance that more closely reflects the cultural diversity of Minnesota
- Improved public awareness about the natural world and Minnesota's cultural heritage
- Improved cultural competency skills on the part of Bell Museum staff and volunteers

Contact

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