



Legacy Fund Experience:

The Duluth Children's Museum was awarded \$500,000 in the first biennial appropriation as a direct state grant. The subsequent biennial awards were administered by the Minnesota Humanities Center and they have totaled \$520,000. These early investments have provided the leverage necessary to expand and strengthen the service and commitment of the Duluth Children's Museum to the entire region it serves. Now located in Clyde Park, in our Phase One location we are 50 feet from our permanent home.

Background

The Duluth Children's Museum is the fifth oldest children's museum in the country, established by an arts educator, Mable Wing, in 1930. The early history of the organization was that it was a program of ISD 709. In the mid-1970's it moved into the renovated Historic Union Depot in downtown Duluth where it operated with approximately 3,200 SF of public space. In May of 2012 we moved to the new Phase One home in Clyde Park. As a part of this transition, and envisioned by the Phase Two location, the Museum will expand a commitment to science, technology, engineering and math programming. Our audience demand has provided us confidence and proof of the public demand for an expanded facility. Our Phase One relocation has allowed us to:

- ✦ Expand our public space to nearly 10,000SF serving over 40,000 visitors in the first ten months of operations
- ✦ Expand our membership base to over 12,000 individuals
- ✦ To add important new revenue centers, typical to children's museums, to our income mix
- ✦ Establish the Museum as a separate and stand-alone non-profit serving the needs of children and their adult care givers
- ✦ Expand on our partnerships with many community organizations and to reestablish old relationships that had lapsed
- ✦ Prototype our model of service to an expanded age range by mixing the visitor experience through exhibits and programs that appeal to the very young, teens and adult visitors alike, resulting in some visitors returning three times a week for visits that range from 90 minutes to three hours in duration

Special Non-recurring Request

The Duluth Children's Museum respectfully requests a special one-time appropriation of \$400,000 \$200,000 each of two years of the biennium to fund the exhibit development, environmental design elements and the program development framework for the Phase Two location. Floor plans are attached.