

Amplifying the Power of Play in Minnesota

Summary

Minnesota Children's Museum is a statewide cultural asset that has been sparking children's learning through play for more than 40 years.

Funding from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund will create new opportunities for hands-on learning and expanded outreach into communities throughout Minnesota.

Impact

- Children develop lifelong skills through open-ended, self-directed play
- Parents value and enhance their children's playful learning in the museum and beyond
- Our community grows more inclusive as families play together and learn from each other

Funding Request

\$650,000 annually

Program Details: Expanding Playful Learning

Creating New Hands-On Learning Experiences

The museum's open-ended, self-directed learning experiences give kids the space and freedom to explore their interests, solve problems and build life skills.

- New exhibits that nurture social emotional and early STEM skills
- New activities in spaces that focus on creativity and imagination
- Facilitated programming throughout the museum to amplify learning and engagement

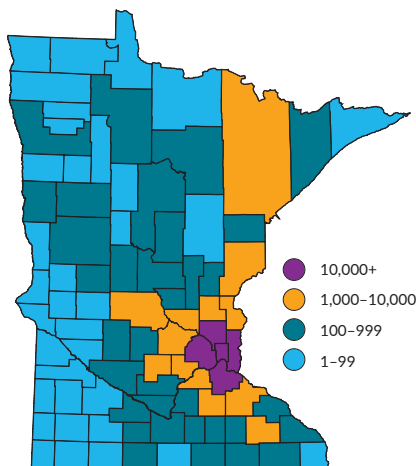
Engaging Families and Family-Serving Organizations

The museum will more fully leverage onsite experiences and extend learning beyond museum walls.

- Increase outreach to under-resourced and under-represented groups
- Host special events for partner organizations serving families in need
- Expand parent education strategies to help caregivers support playful learning
- Deepen partnerships to spark more learning through play
- Create a community liaison network to ensure diverse input into experiences and programming

Statewide Reach

Currently serving more than **350,000 visitors per year**, as museum attendance grows back from the pandemic to 450,000 annual visitors.



Attendance by county, July 2021 - June 2022



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