

Legacy Proposal for 22–23 Biennium

The Science Museum of Minnesota respectfully requests \$1,400,000 from the Legacy Committee for the FY22-23 biennium. If awarded, the museum will use those funds as described below.

Delivering science and education centered in equity

COVID-19 has affected all of us in profound ways, and it has disproportionately impacted communities of color - particularly Black and Latino communities. Equity, inclusion, and access to STEM are critical to the ongoing work of the Science Museum of Minnesota. The museum will meet Minnesota's teachers, students, and families where they are - in person and online - with relevant and meaningful programming that will inspire the next generation of learners and problem solvers to contribute and excel in a post-pandemic world.

Key project strategies and components include:

- We will reach students and educators in all 87 Minnesota counties - especially those most profoundly impacted by the pandemic - with post-COVID learning resources that are designed to meet the needs and goals they identify as most impactful.
- With the priorities of our K-12 school and family audiences identified, we will use the Science Museum's vast collection, rich partnerships, and expert perspectives to deepen and personalize these learning experiences.
- We will create and deliver this next generation of educational programs with equity in mind. To do this, we will:
 - develop new content centered on the diverse cultures and natural history of Minnesota;
 - engage with descendent communities to bring objects and artifacts to life through their research and perspectives;
 - build educator capacity to lead meaningful and lasting institutional change towards greater equity and inclusion through the expansion of virtual and in-person platforms;
 - expand family engagement in Science Museum learning opportunities in collaboration with local schools and communities.

Legacy funds will help the Science Museum of Minnesota serve the state by providing the next generation of programs and resources to support schools and family groups in reaching their post-pandemic STEM education goals. Through enhanced access to our science research and diverse collection of nearly 2 million objects and specimens (including Dakota, Ojibwe, Hmong and Mayan), the museum will share our state's stories to show our audiences that there's a place for them in science. In partnership with educators and families, we can increase access to high quality, equitable learning opportunities that help build our future STEM workforce.

