



Minnesota Children's Museum FY22-23 Legacy Budget Request

\$750,000 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund will create opportunities for arts, arts access and arts education projects at Minnesota Children's Museum and in communities throughout Minnesota.

1. Dynamic Experiences at Minnesota Children's Museum

- Transform our *Super Awesome Adventures* gallery into *Shipwreck Adventures*, an immersive space for explorers and storytellers inspired by an actual shipwreck on Lake Superior in 1884
- Create a new experience in *Imaginopolis* where the natural world is given a whimsical twist, inspiring visitors to explore, transform the space and create stories
- Special experiences for summer, which could include themed exhibits, guest artists and community partnerships

2. Engaging Minnesota Communities in Playful Learning

Minnesota Children's Museum will bring playful learning experiences and supportive resources to a geographically diverse set of communities.

- Execute a summer tour of Big Orange Dance Machine play trailer making community appearances
- 40th Anniversary events and activities celebrating play for all
- Expand play kit program, getting play into the hands of those who need it most



Adapting to the Pandemic

- Turned website into resource hub for parents and caregivers
- Created virtual programming, including play-at-home ideas, parenting seminars and play sessions
- Provided free play kits for curbside pickup
- Modified exhibits to remove air blowing and harder-to-clean materials
- Upgraded HVAC and cleaning protocols; added more self-sanitation stations
- Reopened with timed entry, limited capacity and cues for social distancing



Kids power their own play at Minnesota Children's Museum. They move, think and make choices — developing the critical skills they need to thrive in school and everywhere else.



Legacy of Impact

Thanks to the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund

Minnesota Children's Museum uses support from the Legacy Amendment to give more families across Minnesota access to hands-on, early learning experiences.

New experiences at St. Paul museum promoting creative and critical thinking

- Individual and collaborative maker projects using real materials and tools
- Experiences promoting creative thinking in *Creativity Jam*, *The Studio* and *Imaginopolis*
- Typically serve about 450,000 visitors annually

Play Builds Brains

How important is play in early childhood? The American Academy of Pediatrics urges doctors to write a “prescription for play” to ensure that kids get enough time, space and freedom to develop the skills and relationships that drive a happier, healthier life.

“Play is not frivolous; it is brain building”

— American Academy of Pediatrics, 2018

Pop-Up Museum at the Mall of America

- Open October 2015 through April 2017, while St. Paul museum was under construction
- More than 100,000 visitors

History of Legacy Funding

2009.....	\$500,000
2011.....	\$1,000,000
2013.....	\$1,000,000
2015.....	\$1,000,000
2017.....	\$1,000,000
2019.....	\$1,150,000



Minnesota Children's Museum of Rochester

- Created a new community asset, welcoming more than 250,000 visitors in its history as a satellite museum

Smart Play Spots in 13 locations throughout Minnesota

- Permanent installations in libraries from Grand Rapids to Owatonna
- Free access to 450,000 visitors

Storyland exhibit traveled around Greater Minnesota

- Visited 13 cities from Thief River Falls to Worthington
- More than 80,000 visitors

Statewide Reach

The museum served families from all 87 counties in Minnesota during the 2019-20 biennium

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