

# THE SOMALI MUSEUM

## OVERVIEW

- HF1072/SF1527
- Total cost \$35.4 million  
Funding for design, pre design, and construction \$6.9 million ask from the state
- The only museum of its kind in the world
- Minnesota is home to the biggest Somali population outside of Somalia

## BACKGROUND

Mr. Osman Ali, after patriating to Minnesota, realized early on that the war threatened to erase Somali history and culture, and began the long and careful process of returning to Somalia to collect precious artifacts showing the ways of life, work and play among the Somali communities. Over the past 10-15 years, he has amassed the largest collection of such artifacts in the world (note - the Somali museums in Somalia were destroyed in the war).

This collection resides in storage and in the basement of a building on Lake Street currently serving as the Somali Museum. This facility does not allow the full collection - or even a significant portion of artifacts - to be displayed. The facility is not designed to preserve such a precious collection long term.

The City has agreed to serve as the public entity for purposes of state bonding to allow this capital request to go forward. The total request is \$6.9 million for state bonding for the estimated \$35.4 million project.

