

# Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Proposal for FY 24-25 Biennium



The Science Museum of Minnesota respectfully requests \$1,739,381 from the Legacy Committee for the FY 24-25 biennium. If awarded, the museum will use these funds as described below:

## Delivering science and education centered in equity

Over the past three years, the COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for families and schools like never before – especially in traditionally under-served communities. SMM has and will remain committed to meeting the changing needs of Minnesota’s schools, communities, and families through the pandemic and into a post-COVID world.

Guided by the *Science Museum of Minnesota 2030 Strategic Plan*, we will increase our focus and commitment to be a statewide resource for science and education that centers equity.

## Key project strategies and components include:

- We will reach students and educators in all 87 Minnesota counties with STEM resources and experiences designed to meet the changing needs and goals identified by our school and community audiences.
- With the priorities of our K-12 school and community audiences identified, we will use the Science Museum’s vast collection, rich partnerships, education experience 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 that is centered on the culture 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 help the Science Museum of Minnesota serve the state by underwriting the next generation of programs and resources to support schools and family groups in reaching their emerging STEM education goals. Through enhanced access to our science research and diverse collection of nearly 2 million objects and specimens (specifically Dakota, Ojibwe, Hmong, Mayan, etc.), 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 invite all Minnesotans to see themselves in STEM and STEM careers.

