

Amplifying the Power of Play in Minnesota

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 play
- Parents empower children with time and freedom to play
- Children flourish from equitable opportunities for playful learning
- All families experience belonging and joy when playing together

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 that focus on creativity and imagination
- Facilitated programming throughout the museum to amplify learning and engagement

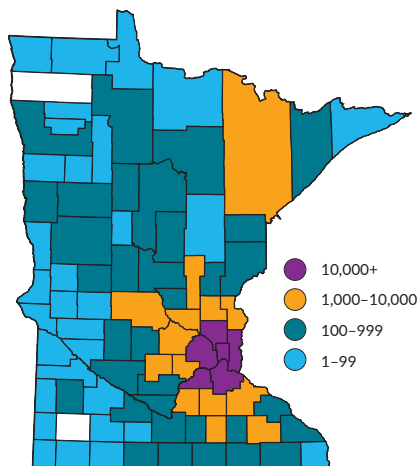
Deepening Community Engagement

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

The museum serves more than **400,000 visitors per year**, with families arriving from almost every county in Minnesota.



Attendance by county, July 2023 - June 2024



Kids and adults alike delighted in exploring the Legacy-funded *Monsters on Summer Vacation* special exhibit.

Contact Information

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Legacy Funding Powers Playful Learning

The Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund helps ensure that families from throughout the state get to explore new interactive learning experiences at Minnesota Children's Museum.

Create Dynamic Experiences

Legacy funding supports the creation of new experiences that cultivate lifelong skills and spark joy for children and adults alike.

FY24 Legacy-Funded Highlights

Monsters on Summer Vacation: A “monster takeover” featured activities to strengthen courage and coordination, explore feelings and tackle challenges.



Wags & Wiggles Pet Clinic: Budding vets admit “patients,” examine animals and groom pets in a new experience that focuses on cultivating empathy and adult-child interactions.

Deepen Community Engagement

FY24-25 Accomplishments & Plans

The museum used Legacy funds to relaunch family nights, which provide free after-hours events for partner organizations that serve families in need and under-represented communities.

Highlights from FY24:

- The museum hosted seven family nights, serving more than 1,600 children and adults
- The museum partnered with more than 30 BIPOC affinity groups to host three events, serving more than 800 visitors

In FY25, the museum is hosting additional free events for Head Start providers and other community organizations.

The Mud Zone: A mud kitchen and mud launchers provided opportunities for sensory play, experimentation and critical thinking in a quintessential childhood experience.

The Studio: A redesign made this maker space more flexible, improved visitor flow and increased the time families spend imagining and creating.

FY25 Accomplishments & Plans

Exhibit Updates: Updates are coming to the popular fire station in *Our World* and water activities in *Forces at Play*. Also in the works are new iterations of the *Imaginopolis* and *Creativity Jam* exhibits. *The Studio* will see new materials and activities change every three or four months.

Other Programs: Visitors will enjoy more staff-facilitated experiences, which enhance learning. Summer 2025 will feature experiences and programs that amplify cultural competency.

Minnesota Children's Museum Legacy Biennium Funding History

