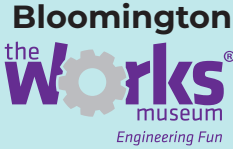




Benson



Breckenridge



Fergus Falls



Grand Rapids



Hutchinson



Mankato



St. Cloud



Rochester



Willmar



Greater MN Children's Museum Coalition

Serving **all of Minnesota's children** & their caring adults:

Greater Minnesota Children's Museum coalition members serve 400,000 guests annually, capturing visitors from nearly all of Minnesota's 87 counties. Many of Minnesota's children and families do not have another opportunity to experience a children's museum, or other quality space for informal learning through play, beyond our respective organizations.

Help us continue to provide education and exploration by investing \$3,050,000M in Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds to children's museums across MN. We request that funding be tiered based on the size and impact of each museum, ensuring resources are allocated equitably.

This investment towards children's museums across Minnesota will:

- *Maximize the impact we have on early childhood development*
- *Improve social cohesion by strengthening the bonds between families and communities*
- *Increase cross-cultural competency, social emotional development, and mental health outcomes*
- *Strengthen economic development across Greater MN by increasing liveability and driving tourism*

Sample of projects supported by Legacy funding

Mini Sota Agricultural Children's Museum, Benson

Legacy funding has supported exhibit design and accessibility improvements, ensuring our building offers inclusive play for all. A key priority is developing a robust programming plan through partnerships with local 4H, FFA, schools, and daycare providers. These partnerships will create engaging experiences that enhance the museum's offerings and deepen community involvement.

The Works Museum, Bloomington

Legacy funding is supporting the co-design and development of our new exhibit, *Interwoven*. Created in collaboration with children and adults from diverse backgrounds, *Interwoven* explores how culture is *Interwoven* into engineering and design. From the solutions we engineer to improve our daily lives to the ways we beautify our surroundings, and the activities we create for play, culture plays a critical role. To reduce barriers and increase access, a portion of the funding will provide free field trips to school groups.

Spark, Rochester

Legacy funding has allowed SPARK to provide free access and expanded engagement opportunities for over 6,000 individuals of all ages and abilities. The funding supports free field trips for high-need schools, after-hours family events for historically marginalized communities, and Museum-to-Go outreach bringing SPARK experiences to schools and hospitals. Additionally, Passport to Play passes have enabled children to visit the museum with their families at no cost. These initiatives have increased access to hands-on learning, cultural enrichment, and community connection, ensuring more children and families experienced the power of play and discovery.