

DULUTH CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

REPORT TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

AND THE

MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

FOR THE

MINNESOTA ARTS AND

CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

MARCH 2010; Prepared by Michael Garcia, President/CEO

Background

In 2009, the Minnesota Legislature approved Arts and Cultural Heritage funding for the Duluth Children's Museum. \$250,000 was appropriated for "arts, arts education, and arts access and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage." This funding was provided under Minnesota Statue Chapter 172, Article 4, Section 2, Subd. 5(i). This report to the legislature is submitted as required by Minnesota Statue 3.195.

Summary

The Duluth Children's Museum was unique poised implement an aggressive growth plan providing increased community access to the Museum; increased community based programs and an exhibit schedule to enhance the visitor experience.

Community Access

Passport to Culture is a Museum program providing families of limited financial means access, through our highest level of membership, to the Duluth Children's Museum as well as to museums and science centers throughout Minnesota and nationally. This access program is provided directly through application to the Museum, or through one of the following partnership agencies:

- ❖ Headstart Families in Transition
- ❖ Lutheran Social Services
- ❖ ECFE Family, Friends and Neighbors Childcare Project
- ❖ Headstart at Nettleton, Barnes, Fond du Lac, Stowe/MacArthur, Grant and Lincoln elementary schools
- ❖ Little Treasures Day Care Providers
- ❖ YMCA

Through these partnerships, families receive services essential to their situation. During the service provision, they are provided the opportunity to become members of the Duluth Children's Museum. Families attend a welcome and orientation session where children have a programmatic experience while parents explore the importance of family play and are provided with an understanding of the Museum as a community resource. Following the orientation **Passport to Culture** memberships are offered to participating families.

Between July 1, 2009 and the date of this report 401 families have taken advantage of this opportunity representing 884 adults and 1175 children now served by membership at the Museum.

Early Childhood Program Expansion

Children's museums overall serve a broad age range. The Duluth Children's Museum is currently limited by the physical space constraints of its location in the Historic Union Depot. While plans are underway for the development of a new facility in Clyde Park in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Duluth, efforts are ongoing to provide "off site programming experiences" to reach young people where they are.

Through a traveling trunk program, five trunks have been developed for early childhood daycare providers. These trunks are all standards based, using early childhood educational standards defined through Headstart. To date topics developed include:

- ❖ Human Body
- ❖ Light and Color
- ❖ Math Matters
- ❖ Music and Movement
- ❖ Spiders and Bugs

These trunks come with staff training, resource manuals and materials to engage early childhood providers in expanding the experiences of the children they serve. All trunks include a "user evaluation" which is informing the development of future trunks.

What we have learned to date is that providers want the trunks on location for a longer period of time than the original two-week period. Daycare providers want more staff training time to ensure the most complete use of the resource materials provided and that we have to be prepared to replenish and refresh the content to ensure every user has the highest quality experience possible. In the second half of the fiscal year, and going forward funding will ensure these needs are met.

School based exhibit program development

To address the limited space outlined above, and to improve the experience of students in schools with vacant classroom space, the Duluth Children's Museum has committed to the development of "in-school exhibits". These Museum exhibits will be developed to be age appropriate and standards based to tie to the teaching going on in the school classroom. Our first classroom project is in development and will be at Lakewood Elementary school in ISD 709.

Two additional themes are being developed in the second half of the year, with the expectation that three school-based exhibits will be offered beginning in the 2010-2011 academic year. Our goal is to

extend the museum experience beyond our walls and to make the school setting a more enriched environment for students. Once piloted locally the program will expand throughout the region. Our intent is to continue to push out throughout the state according to demand and resources to meet community interest.

Family programming for all

In order to increase the frequency that family's visit a Museum with their children the Duluth Children's Museum has aggressively programmed ongoing public programs that are drawing increased numbers based on our membership growth and marketing abilities. Funding under this program has enabled us to offer the following programs:

Program	Attendance
<i>Flamenco Duo Ulla & Carlos</i>	123
<i>Global Games & Storytelling</i>	130
<i>Amazing Artifacts</i>	42
<i>The Snake Man</i>	85
<i>Bubble Festival</i>	1200
<i>Treasure Quest/Scott Mitchen</i>	635
<i>Pirates of the Carrot Bean</i>	330

Our effort is to have an offering monthly that engages audience actively in programming with an experience that expands their knowledge. Our first annual Bubble Festival was held in the parking lot of Clyde Park, our future location, and we more than tripled our expected attendance. The next annual event is scheduled and is already anticipated and being inquired about by community members.

Upcoming events include our partnership program with the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra (DSSO) on April 11. We will collaborate on a community concert with MASS (Movement, Architecture, Sound and Sculpture) at the new performance venue at Clyde Iron. Families will have an opportunity to participate in active learning stations that are music based and then will be invited to listen and participate in a brief concert with performers from MASS and the DSSO.

Rotating exhibits

The anchor of any strong children's museum is the ability to offer fresh experiences for visitors. The Duluth Children's Museum has committed to an increased changing experience for the audience through a rich schedule of rotating exhibits. Since July 2009, we have hosted two traveling exhibits, ***A View From Space*** and ***Moneyville***. Additionally we purchased ***In the Dark*** a traveling exhibition from the Cincinnati

Museum Center, currently on our first floor exhibit space. Additionally we have added "**Music Alley**" an interactive light and sound experience to our second floor gallery. Under development is a creative arts activity station. The working title for this space is **Kids Create Corner**. This space provides flexible use of space and allows us to offer creative programming throughout the day, provides an informal setting with materials and basic suggestions to allow children and their adult guides to explore their creativity while providing the flexibility to transform the space for special programming needs like children's birthday parties or our popular Books Alive program.

Conclusion

Six months of support from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund has greatly enhanced the visitor experience and has touched the lives of thousands at the Duluth Children's Museum. Timing of this funding was instrumental in allowing us to leverage a congressionally directed grant, which enhanced our ability to extend the experience of our visitor in ways we could only imagine but could ill afford without this support.

In providing effective management of these funds, providing the richest experience possible for the youngest citizens of our state has been the guiding force behind our programmatic decision-making. Through funding provided by this legislation, the Duluth Children's Museum has made inroads in addressing **access and engagement** providing more opportunities for many more children and adult caregivers than previously possible; **collaboration** through partnership programming where ever possible to ensure more efficient and effective use of funds and **sustainability** through our evaluation process ensuring are programs are relevant and valued by the citizens they serve. In years to come, we look forward to a lively and enriched cultural experience for all our visitors once we open the new facility on Helm Street.

We thank the state of Minnesota for investing in our future through this investment in the youth of Minnesota.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Garcia
President/CEO
February 24, 2010



January 6, 2010

To: Jane Benesch
Educational Program Director
Duluth Children's Museum

Dear Jane,

I am writing in support of the Traveling Trunks program and the benefit the current (and any future) trunks will be in our Head Start classrooms.

Arrowhead Head Start serves all of St. Louis (except within the city limits of Duluth), Lake and Cook Counties. I am supervising sites in Hermantown/Proctor and rural Duluth (along with sites further north).

The teaching staff are looking forward to using these trunks. They have talked about using different items that are included for both large group and small group activities and our Home Visitor teacher will be able to bring some activities into the homes as follow-up to the classroom activities done.

Because the Traveling Trunk themes/activities are linked to the Head Start Outcomes Framework, they will be very helpful in our documentation and reporting that we are required to do.

We look forward to using the current trunks available and to the possibility of future ones to be developed.

Kathy Kraus

Kathy Kraus
Arrowhead Head Start
Program Manager/Supervisor
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Hermantown, MN 55811
(218) 729-6509 - ext 108
kathryn.kraus@aeoa.org



Teacher Science Kit Needs Assessment

Please respond to each item with the number that most closely indicates your level of need for assistance and/or resources.

- (1) Little or No Need for assistance in this area
- (2) Some Need for assistance in this area
- (3) Moderate Need for assistance in this area
- (4) High Need for assistance in this area
- (5) Very High Need for assistance in this area

____ Additional resources to supplement materials in kits (books, lesson plans, media)

Example(s)

____ Professional development training for science teaching utilizing the kits.

Please state your opinion about ...

- The length of time that you are allocated to use the kits with your students
- The length of time you are able to engage children with the materials and still meet other demands of the curriculum
- Extent to which you are able to integrate suggested lesson from the kits into other lessons in other curricular areas.
- Amount of pre-teaching required in order to prepare the students for the kit activities

Please indicate science topics for which you need the additional resources at this time.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey



Dear Teachers:

The Duluth Children's Museum requests your input as we consider the feasibility and community need for a "Travelling Trunk" program to complement existing learning kits now available to Duluth and Superior Public Schools teachers.

The results from this survey will enable us to evaluate how the museum might support the efforts of teachers to integrate not just science, but the arts and social studies lessons into planned lessons utilizing resources from the children's museum. The resources and support would be aligned with State and national standards.

The survey is strictly confidential.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Davis or Jane Benesch at the Duluth Children's Museum. 218-733-7518 or programs@duluthchildrensmuseum.org.

The program's development and implementation is based on the logic model below:

<p>Inputs – Resources needed to achieve outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Time • Volunteer Time • Partnerships – Head Start Centers, YWCA, Happy Times Child Care 	<p>Input processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review surveys completed by site administrators • Develop six theme-based trunks based on stated areas of need • Order trunks and materials • Transport trunks • Maintain inventory and schedule
<p>Outputs - What are the primary activities conducted to achieve the outcome and the results?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Activities - What we do • Results - Who we Reach 	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trunks available for a two-week period at each early childhood education site <p>Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers and children have access to age-appropriate curriculum materials that can be easily integrated into existing programs.
<p>Impact - Desired long-term impact of the program</p>	<p>Enhancement of collaboration between the Duluth Children's Museum and the Greater Duluth early childhood community</p>
<p>Indicators - What are the indicators of progress towards meeting the outcome and how will indicators be measured?</p>	<p>Number of participating sites Results of teacher evaluations Reported satisfaction with program by community partners</p>
<p>Performance Goal(s): What level of performance do you anticipate this program year?</p>	<p>6 trunks utilized in pilot year 6 sites participating during pilot year</p>

Anticipated Outcomes

Museum on the Move — Early Explorations offers young children at Head Start Centers and other early childhood education programs an enriching service that sparks curiosity and extends learning experiences. Outcomes include:

- Six thematic, standards-based traveling trunks are created.
- At least 6 early childhood education programs will participate in pilot activities.
- Children ages 3 – 5 learn about math, science, social studies, music, art and literacy through fun and engaging trunk activities.

Impact & Evaluation

Lifelong learning begins with positive, early childhood experiences. This initiative will result in expanded education programming that will give thousands of young children enriching sensory-filled learning experiences and support parents and teachers in their work to nurture the healthy development of children.

STATE OF MINNESOTA LEGACY AMENDMENT GRANT
 FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT DUE BY FEBRUARY 1, 2010
 FY 2010

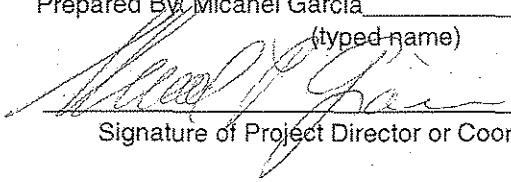
Grantee: _____ Duluth Children's Museum

Agreement Number: _____ B35049

BUDGET LINE ITEMS	BUDGET AMOUNT FY 2010	PAYMENT #1 EXPENDITURES	PAYMENT #2 EXPENDITURES	TOTAL EXPENDED YEAR TO DATE
Personnel & Benefits	\$69,250.00	\$22,534.25	\$22,534.25	\$45,068.50
Passport Access	\$50,050.00	\$7,348.00	\$11,021.00	\$18,369.00
Exhibits	\$65,000.00	\$21,050.00	\$10,000.00	\$34,750.00
Program supplies	\$10,000.00	\$2,433.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,433.00
Presenter fees	\$6,000.00	\$2,150.00	\$3,850.00	\$2,300.00
Vehicle & mileage	\$15,000.00	\$875.00	\$1,161.50	\$2,036.50
Printing, post mkt	\$16,000.00	\$3,650.00	\$5,310.00	\$8,960.00
Collections program	\$5,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,418.00	\$2,918.00
Staff dev. Travel, fees	\$4,450.00	\$2,790.00	\$0.00	\$2,790.00
Project overhead	\$6,250.00	\$1,562.50	\$1,562.50	\$3,125.00
TOTALS:	\$247,500.00	\$65,892.75	\$57,857.25	\$123,750.00

Prepared By: Micahel Garcia _____ 218-733-7546
 (typed name) (phone #)

This report reflects expenditures:
 From: 07/01/2009 To: 12/31/09



 Signature of Project Director or Coordinator