

Science Museum of Minnesota
FY 12-13 Legacy Fund – ACHF financial narrative report
August 31, 2012
Submitted by Brenda Raney, Director of Government Relations
braney@smm.org, 651-221-9499



The Science Museum of Minnesota is pleased for the opportunity to share information about the work we have done with the generous allocation of \$500,000 for fiscal year 2012 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Minnesota Legacy Amendment. These funds provide the ability to create and nourish deeper ties throughout Minnesota communities, cultivating an awareness and enthusiasm for science and its cultural heritage and roots. The projects are:

Completing the purchase of American Indian artifacts and creating new American Indian object-based programming:

In May 2012, the museum completed payment on the American Indian collections purchase initiated with Legacy funds from the fiscal year 2010 and fiscal year 2011 biennia. The 191 piece collection, gathered by Bishop Henry Whipple and his family in 1859, is made of local and regional artifacts from Minnesota's Dakota and Ojibwe tribes. The purchase of the Bishop Whipple intact collection sustains the collection's integrity by keeping these rare objects together and in Minnesota. Moving forward, we plan to create an exhibition featuring these objects, along with other contemporary American Indian artifacts from our own and other collections, with which visitors can develop a deeper understanding of American Indian experiences in Minnesota. Planning for this exhibition has already begun by leveraging privately donated funds to lay the groundwork for full exhibition and programming development, beginning in fiscal year 2013 with Legacy funds. In tandem with museum staff, descendants from native communities in Minnesota will be involved with developing programs to bring these historic American Indian artifacts to a larger audience. We anticipate a small showcase of objects and associated interpretation to be installed in the museum in early 2013.

Continuing the *Suitcase Science* program:

Begun as a Legacy project in 2010, *Suitcase Science* continues to reach Minnesotans across the state and connects the science and cultural heritage of objects in meaningful ways. This live theater show is a result of statewide workshops where community members brought in significant objects from their lives and worked with museum staff to develop a theater performance exploring the cultural heritage and scientific background of the objects. In fiscal year 2012, we continued our *Suitcase Science* outreach performances across the state and at the Science Museum. *Suitcase Science* was performed at local libraries, county and children's museums, universities, and other community sites in Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, Rochester, St. Cloud and the Twin Cities. More than 15,000 people saw *Suitcase Science*, including over 500 at outreach performances across the state. Since we developed the show in the last biennium, we needed fewer supplies for the show than anticipated, and traveled more to bring the show to Greater Minnesota audiences. From audience evaluation conducted at the Science Museum and the Rochester Children's Museum, 60% of audience members found the show enjoyable and interesting. Over 85% of the audience felt *Suitcase Science* made the science and stories behind objects more understandable and enjoyable. In fiscal year 2013, we plan on continuing *Suitcase Science*, reaching new Minnesota communities like Red Wing and the Iron Range well as continuing performances at the museum.

Expanding school services and outreach:

Our final project is to increase the relevance and reach of our service to schools. Many of our visitors, adults and children alike, first visited the Science Museum through a field trip experience. Our objective for this project is to evolve our field trip programs in order to provide more value to teachers, which we are doing through three means: drawing explicit connections to state education standards, making field trips easy to plan and easy to execute, and helping defray the costs of field trips to low-income schools or schools over 100 miles from the Science Museum. The overall goal for increased teacher value and greater museum access is to reach more children and provide excellent science learning experiences to more curious, young minds.

As a result of conversations with teachers about their field trip needs, we have created *The Big Weather Experience*. Beginning in September 2012, *The Big Weather Experience* is a field trip package that combines our hands-on weather exhibits, a new science theater production called *Storms on Stage* (pictured to the right), and the Science Museum-produced Omnitheater film *Tornado Alley*. Many aspects of *The Big Weather Experience* are informed by teacher feedback; we have streamlined our field trip booking method and created materials on planning a field trip, making it a one-call or one-email process for busy teachers. As transportation costs rise, we have also made it easier to apply for our bus subsidy program, with a focus on low-income schools and Minnesota schools further than 100 miles from the museum. One of the most significant pieces of feedback from teachers was the importance of linking the field trip experience with classroom content. With new Minnesota science and math standards, we took the opportunity to update and expand our materials to draw explicit connections between science concepts and our exhibits, programs and films. By packaging weather content together, we are able to provide students a content-rich, multi-sensory learning environment while teachers know that it directly relates to their weather curriculum in the classroom. All of these materials will be available online at smm.org/weather.



Legacy funding for this project has allowed us to leverage private and federal money to explore other aspects of our service to schools. Through a generous private donation and an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, we will build on our Legacy work and explore field trip connections with other area organizations as well as strengthen our internal ability to provide seamless and valuable services to teachers.

It is our pleasure to submit these financial and narrative reports. We are proud of the work we have completed so far with the Legacy amendment funds and are looking forward to continuing it. The museum is happy to answer any additional questions you have about this work and would be thrilled to show you in person what is discussed in this report. Please contact Brenda Raney directly for any additional information.

STATE OF MINNESOTA LEGACY AMENDMENT GRANT
 FINANCIAL REIMBURSEMENT REPORT
 FY 2012

Grantee: _____ Science Museum of Minnesota Agreement Number: _____ B35032

BUDGET LINE ITEMS	BUDGET AMOUNT FY 2012	07/01/11 - 09/30/11 EXPENDITURE S	10/1/11 - 10/31/11 EXPENDITURES	11/1/11 - 11/30/11 EXPENDITURES	12/1/11 - 12/31/11 EXPENDITURES	1/1/12 - 1/31/12 EXPENDITURE S	2/1/12 - 2/29/12 EXPENDITURE S	3/1/12 - 3/31/12 EXPENDITURE S	4/1/12 - 4/30/12 EXPENDITURE S	5/1/12 - 5/31/12 EXPENDITURE S	6/1/12 - 6/30/12 EXPENDITURE S	TOTAL EXPENDED YEAR TO DATE
Public Outreach/ Staff salaries and benefits	\$56,143	\$2,398	\$9,507	\$7,935	\$9,645	\$5,675	\$6,997	\$4,595	\$2,689	\$1,638	\$2,873	\$53,953
Public Outreach/ Supplies	\$857		\$10	\$5	\$2	\$174		\$2	\$6	\$19		\$219
Public Outreach/Staff Domestic Travel	\$3,000	\$813	-\$813	\$10	\$96		\$124	\$1,065	-\$111	\$771	\$1,200	\$3,155
Collections/ Acquisition Costs	\$208,350				\$166,103					\$42,247		\$208,350
Collections/Travel Costs							\$7					\$7
School Services/ Staff salaries and benefits	137,466				\$359	\$5,591	\$9,616	\$14,433	\$23,659	\$36,801	\$60,572	\$151,031
School Services/ Contracted Services	35,250								\$1,507	\$4,326	\$20,671	\$26,504
School Services/ Program Materials	\$53,934						\$7	\$15	\$1,349	\$1,298	\$46,453	\$49,123
School Services/Travel								\$7		-\$14.00		-\$7.00
TOTALS:	\$495,000	\$3,210	\$8,704	\$7,950	\$176,205	\$11,440	\$16,752	\$20,117	\$29,100	\$87,086	\$131,769	\$492,334

Prepared By: _____ Brenda Raney 651-221-9499 This report reflects expenditures:
 (typed name) (phone #) From: _____ To: _____
 7/1/2011 6/30/2012

 Signature of Project Director or Coordinator

PLEASE INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT OR DETAILS ABOUT SPECIFIC EXPENDITURES IN THIS SPACE OR ATTACH A SEPARATE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

The Public Outreach project did not spend its FY12 allocation due to pausing the project for the state shutdown and a large supply purchase being on back order and not charged until FY13. SMM does not anticipate there to be any problem spending those funds for work in FY13.

The School Services/Contracted Services line had a greater than 10% variance from budget. This is because a portion of the planned projects originally intended to be completed by contractors was completed by museum staff.

In 2/12 and 3/12, two charges were inadvertently charged to travel budget lines for Collections and School Services. These charges were corrected and reversed in 5/12 in the School Services line.