

## Statewide School and Community Initiative

Support from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Minnesota Legacy Amendment has generously enabled the Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) to develop a range of exhibits and programs designed to engage family and school audiences. This includes the development of an exhibition, *We Move and We Stay*, which tells Dakota and Ojibwe stories and displays many of the museum's cultural objects. With generous Legacy support, these objects and the stories they tell are now accessible to visitors from across Minnesota. Annually the museum serves over 800,000 people through all museum programs. Last year, over 162,000 participants from all 87 Minnesota counties experienced an engaging, standards-aligned school field trip or outreach program. In addition to increasing accessibility to authentic learning experiences, Science, Education, and Equity are at the core of the museum's mission, values, and programs. We engage with audiences, stakeholders, and partners in respectful, relevant, collaborative ways to support science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning that improves lives. The Statewide School and Community Initiative will continue to drive innovation in learning experiences, build the capacity for high quality instruction, develop and refine educational and science resources, and increase access to objects telling the story of Minnesota's cultural heritage

**With proposed FY20-21 Legacy funding, the Science Museum of Minnesota will accomplish the following:**

### **Serving All 87 Counties**

Legacy funds will expand access and participation for schools and families in communities across Minnesota serving all 87 Minnesota counties again in the FY20-21 biennium. SMM will continue to foster new and grow existing relationships with schools. We engage with our school partners to support their educational goals through programs ranging from a focused field trip, a weeklong teacher-in-residence, or access to instructional resources. We will leverage past work with schools to expand opportunities for family based learning and professional development to support high quality, high impact STEM learning. Our programs are data-driven; informed by collaborative dialogue with partners, surveys, evaluation studies, and research-based best practices.

### **Increasing Capacity Towards Equitable, Inclusive Schools**

Museum staff will conduct intensive institutes for teachers and district leaders to explore educational equity and inclusion. This professional development training builds on the impactful work achieved with Legacy support of our Summer RACE Institutes in previous bienniums. The training addresses systems of oppression and educational inequities.

### **Expanding Family Engagement**

The Science Museum will use Legacy funds to further develop, strengthen and expand our facilitated learning experiences designed for families. This work will be data-driven and research supported to ensure that programs offered align with expressed community needs and interests. We will build on lessons learned through Science Museum Family Nights, summer camps, and other family-centered programs and engagements to inform this work.



### Developing Innovative STEM Programming

Legacy funds will support the development of the high quality, engaging STEM programming that is our hallmark. Program planning and development are driven by the goals and needs of our audiences. SMM will develop innovative, standards-aligned programs and resources for students, teachers, and schools. Areas of focus will include computational thinking, environmental science, and STEM career awareness.

Program development will connect to and provide scaffolded experiences with family based events. Legacy funds will advance the development of experiential, facilitated learning experiences for students and families across the state. Past Legacy funding has supported the development of the Investigative Science Residency, Engineering Assembly, Storms on Stage and other programming at the Science Museum.



### Implementing Statewide Communication Strategies

Legacy funds enable staff to focus on meaningful communication with Minnesota teachers through print, email, web, personal contacts, conferences, museum events and other meetings. Highlights of these efforts include distributing copies of the *SciEd* guide to educators across Minnesota detailing ways to get involved; offering opportunities to engage with museum collections; reaching 13,000 teachers every week with emails that include museum information; and attending conferences related to STEM and education in Minnesota. We track web analytics, traffic, and open rates of digital communications and will be able to leverage targeted messaging.

### Increasing Access to the museum's Minnesota Anthropology Collection

Legacy funds will make the Science Museum's collection more accessible by bringing objects from our collection of nearly 2 million objects to the people of Minnesota through a new digital portal. Through this effort, the collection and the stories the objects tell, will be more accessible to students, communities, researchers and other stakeholders. We will create an engaging, user-friendly interface so that people can connect to the museum's Anthropology Collection online. With Legacy support, we will digitize Minnesota cultural objects. This includes nearly 1,000 objects, video recordings of community elders in our Hmong collection, and hundreds of thousands of Minnesota archaeology objects found in counties across the state. This project will add to the Dakota and Ojibwe objects already digitized as part of previously funded Legacy projects. We will share stories of the objects through descendent, community driven storytelling and museum research. Community members and museum scientists and staff will work together to create engaging learning experiences.

### Impact

Legacy funding in the FY20-21 biennium will support vital efforts to serve program participants from all 87 Minnesota counties while fostering relationships with school partners and communities statewide. Legacy funds will support innovative Science Museum of Minnesota learning experiences that advance equitable, inclusive school communities. Your support will ensure the development of standards-aligned programs for students, teachers, and families statewide. Legacy support will also increase accessibility to Minnesota's cultural heritage by broadening the reach of objects in the Science Museum of Minnesota's anthropology collections through digitization and community engagement. Previous Legacy support has been instrumental in the digitization of cultural objects in the museum's Native American collections, including objects from the Bishop Henry Whipple Collection and objects featured in the *We Move and We Stay* exhibition. Continued support in the FY20-21 biennium will make an incredible impact in broadening the reach of these objects and the stories they tell to Minnesotans statewide.