



Annual Report Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Legacy Amendment Science Museum of Minnesota



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The Science Museum of Minnesota is pleased to submit an annual report for the work we are doing with the generous appropriation of \$1.2 million for fiscal years 2018-2019 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Minnesota Legacy Amendment. This report details accomplishments in **FY18: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**. These reports related to the following statutes: M.S. 3.303, Subd. 10 and M.S. 129D.17, Subd.2 (d). We are grateful for your support of our programs.

FY18 Report, 3.96 FTE

With previous Legacy support, we undertook a museum-wide evaluation of our offerings to schools to determine the best way to serve student and educator audiences to increase value, access and ease. We also invested in new programs and resources that directly address Minnesota academic standards and ensure high-quality educational experiences. With your support, we have been able to increase our capacity to serve all 87 Minnesota counties each year. We have also been able to improve and upgrade our communications infrastructure to better connect with the educators we serve.

Progress made towards project goals includes:

1. Increase access to museum programming and resources for schools throughout Minnesota.

We fulfilled our commitment to reach all 87 Minnesota counties in FY18 through our work with schools. We served over 162,000 Minnesota participants through field trips, school-based outreach, or teacher professional development programs. To ensure greater access, generous private donors provided scholarships and reimbursements for schools and youth in need which supported the participation of over 19,000 students.

2. Support students, teachers, schools and districts to provide high quality STEM learning experiences.

We have continued to revise existing and develop new learning experiences for school audiences aligned to Minnesota Academic Standards. Program development incorporates best practices for science education instruction, culturally relevant teaching strategies and informal science methods. With your support, this year we expanded resources for our school audiences. For example, we developed a school-family event titled *Marvelous Motion*; piloted a new assembly video, *Water is Life*; expanded offerings of our program *Storms on Stage*; and presented a *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* Omnifilm Teacher Preview on January 27, 2018. A total of 203 teachers attended this preview and learned about relevant educational resources that supported themes in the film. We update our standards database at <https://www.smm.org/educators/standards> on an ongoing basis to provide value to our school audience visitors. In addition, pre/post field trip surveys and post outreach experience surveys are sent to schools and we are very pleased with our results: 94% of educators reported that Science Museum field trips met their goals and 94% were satisfied with outreach student engagement.

"The entire group was involved in the activities and were challenged. They used critical thinking skills throughout the assembly. I loved how each child walked away knowing what STEM is and how it is a continual process."

– Teacher Feedback

3. Engage students, teachers and schools in dialogue about race and identity.

The Science Museum's *RACE: Are We So Different?* exhibition is available for school field trip visitors. We operate several programs for school audiences that leverage the exhibit. Highlights from this year include:

- A *Race Exhibit & Program Package* for schools was offered with the support of Legacy funding. The package started in the auditorium with a presentation of *"Race to the Finish Line,"* a 15 minute, two actor performance highlighting the difficulty of talking about race and identity even between

friends. Following the performance, the actors engaged students through reflective discussion. Students then experienced the *RACE* exhibit. We served 2,941 students from 32 schools through this package.

- In partnership with the Penumbra Theatre, 1,163 students from eight schools participated in the *Race Program Package* followed by a Penumbra Theatre Race Workshop at their school. The workshops led by Penumbra teaching artists used theater techniques and group activities to discuss race and identity.
- A RACE Institute was held between June 25-29, 2018 at the museum. This highly regarded institute is designed for school-based teams of Minnesota educators who are committed to making their schools and classrooms more just and equitable places to learn. Using the *RACE: Are We So Different?* exhibition as a starting place, the RACE Institute explores the complexities of race within school communities. We engaged 22 participants from the communities of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Rochester, St. James, and Winona.

4. *Communicate effectively with Minnesota teachers, schools, and districts about museum programs, resources and professional development opportunities.*

We focus on meaningful communication and engagement with Minnesota teachers through print, email, web, personal contacts, conferences, museum events and other meetings. Highlights of these efforts include:

- Distributing 20,000 copies of the *SciEd* guide to educators across Minnesota, detailing ways to get involved in Science Museum programs.
- Reaching out to 13,000 teachers every week with emails that include classroom tips, inspiration, and museum information.
- Our School Liaison, Kalia Vue, attended seven conferences related to STEM and education in Minnesota. Attending the MN Council of Social Studies conference helped us to reach educators who expressed interest in the Race Program Package. The School Liaison also met with educators, and heard feedback that reinforces the need for STEM and alignment to standards.

The Statewide School Initiative team measures outcomes through the following methods:

- Pre/post field trip surveys and post outreach surveys are sent to schools.
- We track field trip and outreach attendance. A standardized field trip dashboard and outreach attendance report is reviewed quarterly. Field trip and outreach attendance numbers are reviewed at team meetings.
- We track *SciEd* web analytics, traffic, and open rates of emails sent to a distribution list of 13,000 educators bi-weekly.
- Other program evaluation data is collected, e.g. the validated KPA Survey for quantitative data.

We are inspired by these successes, especially the milestone of reaching all 87 counties in Minnesota through field trips and school programs. The impact of this work will continue with Legacy funding received to support work in FY19. As of June 30, 2018, the direct expenses for this project are \$311,923.37. The administrative costs are \$31,192.34. Additional funding for the Statewide School Initiative project includes gifts from private donors totaling \$636,925. The support provided by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund has given us the ability to invest in new program development and create new resources that directly address academic standards and ensure teachers and students have high-quality educational experiences with Science Museum of Minnesota programs.

Small Community-based RACE exhibits July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019

FY18 Report, 0.3 FTE

The Science Museum of Minnesota will create three community-based exhibits as an extension of the *RACE: Are We So Different?* exhibition in St. Paul. These exhibits will be approximately 500 square feet and will be installed at partner organizations, per their request, in Greater Minnesota. The exhibits will encourage visitors to explore the science, history, and everyday impact of race and racism. A powerful combination of historic and contemporary photography, multimedia components, or interactive activities will give visitors the opportunity to think and talk about a topic that touches our lives daily. A federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was awarded in October 2017, leveraging Legacy fund resources.

Progress made towards project goals includes:

1. Full participation by visitors in accompanying programming.

We anticipate that visitors will be able to participate fully with community engagement programming once the exhibits have been installed. In order to set the foundation for this work, our Community Engagement team has been working to develop thoughtful relationships with exhibit partners and site-based teams from the three communities in Greater Minnesota: Worthington, Moorhead and Rochester. We are installing the exhibits at the Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Worthington, the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County in Moorhead, and the Apache Mall and Rochester Public Library in Rochester.

A key factor in the selection of the exhibit host site was the ability to provide broad public access to the exhibits and educational resources. As the site selection process proceeded, the Community Engagement team focused on:

- Connecting with local leaders doing anti-racism work;
- Using the exhibit as a resource, catalyst or platform to reach more people;
- Seeking out communities and leaders who have articulated an interest and need for the exhibit; and
- Convening advisory councils of local leaders advancing equity work and using their input to shape programming as needed.

2. Increased knowledge of the social construct of race.

The concept of race as a social construct is a key theme of the *RACE: Are We So Different?* exhibition in St. Paul and this theme will be represented in the smaller community-based RACE exhibits as well. In 2018, we made progress on the exhibit development phase and the fine-tuning of the content. We worked with advisors from the American Anthropological Association (AAA) to have the material reviewed by content experts. The exhibits were installed starting in the fall of 2018. Progress benchmarks achieved include:

- Condensing exhibit content into material appropriate for 500 square feet footprints;
- Updating data, refreshing the visual appearance, and setting aside space for community-specific information;
- Having project advisors vet the exhibit content;

- Identifying Spanish language translators (the exhibits are presented bilingually in English and Spanish);
- Moving from exhibit planning into production by late spring – early summer 2018;
- Fabricating exhibit components in-house; and
- Refining and testing exhibit prototypes.

3. Increased awareness of the legacy of living within the construct of race.

With the three sites of Worthington, Moorhead and Rochester chosen, we believe that we will achieve our goal of increasing awareness of the legacy of living within the construct of race in these communities. An internal team is working cross-functionally to develop the exhibit and coordinate resources in support of learning experiences that support the exhibits. Staff are developing a robust community engagement framework that amplifies and supports the voices and perspectives in our three host communities. In FY19, the Science Museum will facilitate trainings, discussions, professional development, and/or community meetings in which awareness will be raised of the legacy of living within the construct of race.

4. Community leaders' understanding of racial equity issues will be enhanced.

We are convening community advisory councils in our three host sites. These will be small groups of 4-6 members each. The councils will help us to coordinate this project with other racial justice efforts in the host communities. Working with local leaders will highlight the racial equity work already happening in these communities. It also helps us to build the capacity of these leaders and organizations to support meaningful conversations about race and racism. Members will participate in listening and planning workshops. Participation in our community advisory councils and in our structured community engagement programming will enhance community leaders' understanding of racial equity issues.

5. Increase in community leaders' skills in facilitation to talk about issues of racial equity and difference.

This will be a goal to accomplish in FY19 as we launch community engagement programming, including RACE Institutes and trainings, to support and enhance the learnings of the exhibits after these are installed onsite. We look forward to providing updates on the progress of this goal as the project moves forward in FY19.

The Small Community-based RACE exhibits team measures outcomes through the following methods:

- We will capture audience observations and qualitative data when exhibits are displayed.
- Focus group input is gathered from community leaders (PAGE).

As of June 30, 2018, the direct expenses for this project are \$53,828.87. The administrative costs are \$5,382.89. Funds for the project from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the amount of \$51,758.44 were expended for leverage for year one of the project. We are grateful for the support from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to realize this project.

Information

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019

The Science Museum of Minnesota is pleased to submit this report on support from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Legacy Amendment. We are proud of our work on these projects and look forward to continuing the important work that these funds make possible. The museum would be thrilled to provide a tour of the museum, our school services or the RACE exhibit and we would be happy to answer any additional questions. Please contact Jon Severson for additional information: jseverson@smm.org or 651-221-9499.

Legacy project information is accessible online at:

<http://www.smm.org/legacy>

<https://www.legacy.mn.gov/funds/arts-cultural-heritage-fund/reports/science-museum-minnesota>

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