

Not everyone needs to be
a scientist, but everyone
needs to know **they can be.**



Being president of the Science Museum of Minnesota involves a lot of meetings.

That's okay with me, because meetings turn ideas into action plans, issues into opportunities, and converge multiple viewpoints into a stronger vision.

My proudest moment of this past year occurred during a meeting.

It was the March 28 gathering of our Board of Trustees. On the agenda was a new Equity & Inclusion Position Statement that was 18 months in the making — and followed in the museum's 111-year tradition of community-building.

That day, Equity & Inclusion joined Global Climate Change and Evolution as foundational Position Statements. These critical documents are much more than words on paper — they bring together the science and social justice that are the very scaffolding of this organization.

Because for science to be at its best, we need everyone.

That's why equity and inclusion is at the top of our priority list. We're loudly and proudly declaring that everyone — especially historically underrepresented individuals like women, people of color, and people with low income — has a voice and a seat at the table around important science conversations.

Not everyone needs to be a scientist, but everyone needs to know they can be. And we're doing our part to make sure that happens.

It means viewing our assumptions about how "it's always been done" through a critical lens and changing what needs changing. It means a different mix of technologies, events, and activities here at the museum and out in the community. It means really listening — and responding — to critiques. It means doing the hard work of looking inside ourselves and outside our comfort zones so every visitor and employee can fully and meaningfully participate in science and STEM education.

I'm proud to be part of this boldly forward-thinking team at the Science Museum of Minnesota. With your support, we're expanding and nurturing the scientific community through innovation, equity, and inclusion.

Thank you for being part of this vision,
Alison Rempel Brown

Please take a moment to read the full statement on Equity and Inclusion on the next page.



Our message
is simple:

***You matter
to us just as
you are.***

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) are valuable for communities to thrive and live in a global society. Equity, inclusion, and access to STEM are critical to the ongoing work of the museum. ➤ **The Science Museum of Minnesota is actively working to undo systems of injustice and inequity.** We will create an inclusive, equity-based institution that empowers people to change the world through STEM. Aspects of political, cultural, and economic systems maintain injustice and inequity through the control of power and resources. Most museums and scientific practices, including our own, have supported these systems. As a result, access to and engagement with STEM learning and practices has been limited for some. ➤ The museum commits to using STEM

as a tool to advocate for justice and equity. We will inspire learning by including, collaborating, and lifting up the voices of people who have been overlooked or excluded; inform policy by illuminating unfairness, inequality, and power imbalances; improve lives with productive dialogue on topics related to equity, inclusion, and public access to STEM. ➤ By prioritizing equity and inclusion, we re-imagine the scientific enterprise and continue to seek opportunities that support and encourage full participation in the vital work of connecting STEM and society through our areas of impact—our exhibitions, public programs, teaching, research, collections, operations, management, Board of Trustees, policies, and practices.

2018: The Year of the Engineer

Studies consistently predict that Minnesota's engineering pipeline is woefully lacking an abundant, tech-savvy workforce that will drive the economy of the future.

In 2018, we decided to do something about that. We boldly declared The Year of the Engineer.

We augmented our regular offerings with all things engineering: exhibits, programs, and events designed to get all young people—especially girls, youth of color, and those who are less likely to see themselves as engineers—excited about engineering and the important role it plays in our world.

As Minnesota's largest provider of informal STEM education, the Science Museum was well positioned to spotlight engineering by:

Expanding Reach: *Cardboard Engineering* gallery, *Towers of Tomorrow* exhibit, *Dream Big* Omnitheater film

Inspiring Women & Girls: Society of Women Engineers *Spark, Slime and Speed* event, Meet & Greet with geotechnical engineer Menzer Pehlivan, *Codes + Chords* event

Increasing Equity & Access: Engineering Week field trips, *Science Fusion* events, *Nobel Prize Inspiration Initiative* event

Plus lots more!

Audiences responded enthusiastically. More than 2.3 million people encountered engineering through Science Museum exhibits, events, films, programs and outreach during The Year of The Engineer. To all the dreamers and designers, tinkerers and thinkers, inventors and innovators out there—we pledge to keep the momentum going. Join us.



Mental Health: Mind Matters **breaks down barriers, opens up conversations**

Visitors to *Mental Health: Mind Matters* are greeted by videos of friendly faces sharing their stories of successes and setbacks in living with mental illnesses. Their voices converge, and together they say:

"It's okay to talk about mental illness."

Those seven words seamlessly set the stage for what's to come: open conversations and immersive activities designed to raise awareness, build empathy, and provide tools to better understand mental illness.

With 43.6 million adults in the U.S.—that's about 18% of the population—experiencing mental illness, this exhibition profoundly and personally impacted many visitors.

Every day, visitors of all ages, races, and backgrounds shared their deeply personal experiences with us.

After its debut here at the Science Museum, *Mental Health: Mind Matters* begins a national tour. We're proud to have partnered with Heureka, The Finnish Science Centre, to create this exhibition and help communities all across the country start important conversations that have the power to change lives.

"My name is Tina and I am 54. I have had issues with depression and anxiety since the age of 30. I have participated in various treatment programs and have really found them helpful. I know my mental illness is difficult for my family, not only me, but there is ALWAYS HOPE."



What's purple and white and travels all over?

It's the brand new, state-of-the art Science Museum-branded van that's crisscrossing Minnesota to bring science education to students in every nook and cranny of the state.

And it's all because of Netflix's *Stranger Things*.

Flash back to October 2017, and the season two premiere of this hit sci-fi series. We were just as surprised—and delighted—as everyone else to see fan-favorite character Dustin donning a vintage purple Science Museum Thunder Lizard hoodie. The, ah-hem, thunderous response was immediate as the museum was flooded with fans who just *had* to have Dustin's purple hoodie.

We scoured our archives and discovered that the design originated in the museum's Explore Store in the early 1980s. Next up was a limited run of 40,000 hoodies, which were quickly scooped up by fans from as far as Japan and Norway, coast-to-coast from California to Maine, and of course, Minnesota.

A portion of the proceeds from the hoodie sales are making a *Brontosaurus*-sized impact on Minnesota's classrooms. Thanks to a new van—affectionately monikered *Thunder Lizard*—students in all 87 counties of our state will experience hands-on science learning from Science Museum educators.



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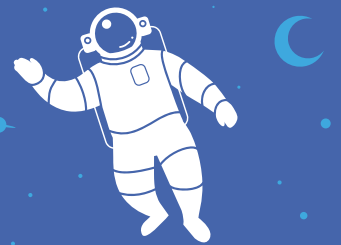
It's finally time. Buy the official
[@sciencemuseummn](#)
[@Stranger_Things](#) Thunder
Lizard hoodie tmw at 8am!
smm.org/StrangerThings





In the past year alone,
the Science Museum
of Minnesota welcomed

815,822 VISITORS



3,060,472 GUESTS

— LOCALLY, REGIONALLY, AND NATIONALLY — EXPERIENCED THE SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA THROUGH OUR VISITOR PLACE, OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMMING, AND OUR TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS AND FILMS.

102,559 STUDENTS

ATTENDED A FIELD TRIP
TO THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

2,450,903
PEOPLE

EXPERIENCED SMM
TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS
AND FILM SCREENINGS

AROUND
the WORLD

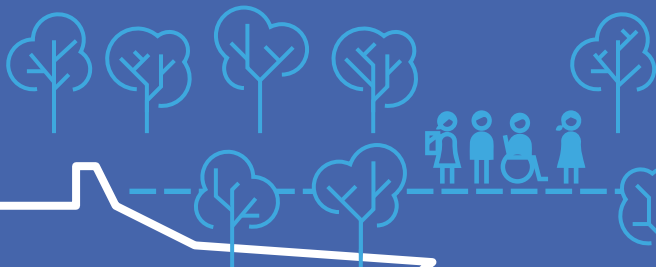


THE ST. CROIX
WATERSHED RESEARCH
STATION IS CELEBRATING
20 YEARS OF
THE PINE NEEDLES
ARTIST IN-RESIDENCY
PROGRAM,
*CONNECTING
ART & SCIENCE.*



3,237 PEOPLE
TOURED THE
COLLECTIONS
VAULT, GETTING
A GLIMPSE AT
THE 2
MILLION
OBJECTS
IN THE
VAULT

3,591
YOUTH
PARTICIPATED
IN AND
CREATED
PROGRAMMING
AROUND
STEM JUSTICE



WARNER NATURE CENTER
COMPLETED A NEW BOARDWALK
WITH SUPPORT FROM A
GENEROUS DONOR, MAKING IT

100% ACCESSIBLE.

SCIENCE MUSEUM
EDUCATION PROGRAMS
REACHED

**all
87**

MINNESOTA
COUNTIES

70,279

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS EXPERIENCED
SCIENCE MUSEUM PROGRAMMING
OUTSIDE OF THE MUSEUM THROUGH
OUR OUTREACH EFFORTS



*The first annual
Illumination
event saw an
attendance of
4,468!*



8,524
LIFE-LONG
LEARNERS
FURTHERED
THEIR EDUCATION
AT SMM'S COMPUTER
EDUCATION CENTER

12,469 ATTENDEES
ENJOYED OUR FOUR
SCIENCE FUSION DAYS



801

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS
PROVIDED

55,319

HOURS OF SERVICE

We celebrated 110 years
of inspiring learning,
informing policy, and
improving lives.

110

Annual report data FY18

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

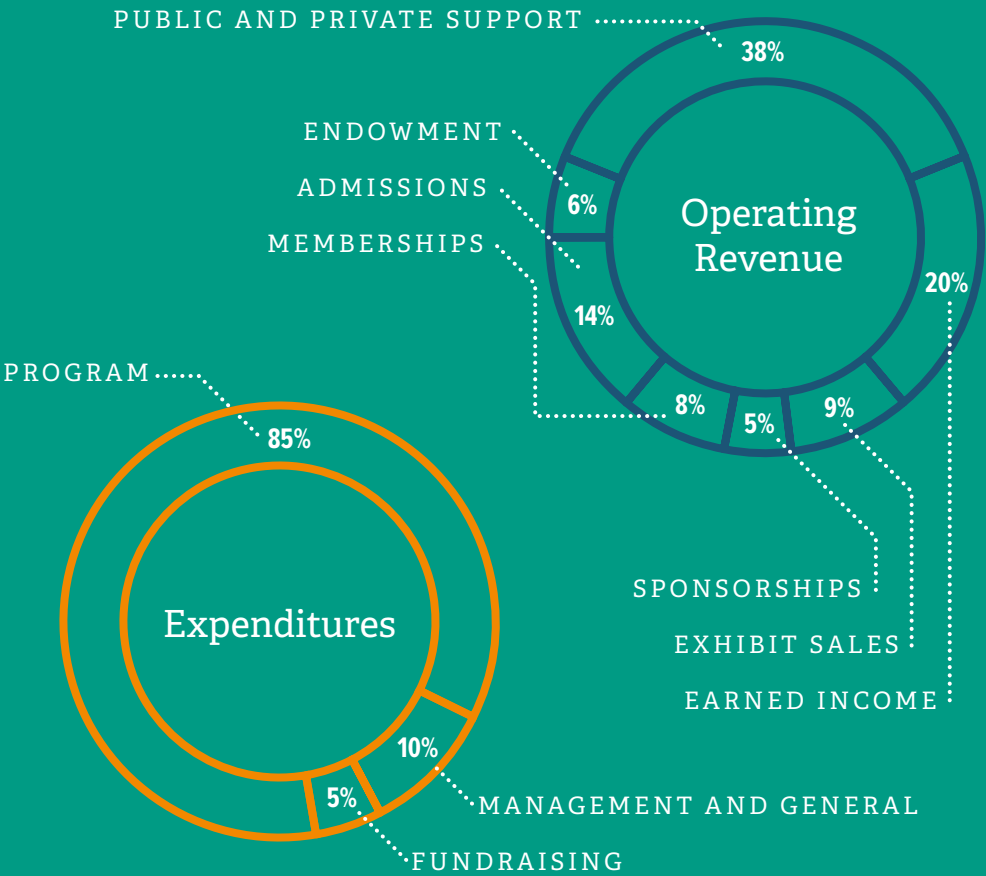
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	3,290,285
Accounts receivable, net	7,802,552
Other assets	1,037,158
Investments.....	48,768,025
Property and equipment, net.....	78,391,278
Total Assets	139,289,298

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	
Accrued expenses	5,461,138
Deferred revenue	1,758,664
Debt.....	14,395,726
Total Liabilities	21,615,528

Net Assets	
Unrestricted	
Undesignated	2,999,880
Designated-board designated	
Endowment	15,264,410
Designated-other	5,763,180
Property and equipment	58,249,356
Total unrestricted	82,276,826
Temporarily restricted	14,905,605
Permanently restricted.....	20,491,339
Total Net Assets	117,673,770

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS..... 139,289,298



A deeper dig into Minnesota's past

Every day we traverse the streets and sidewalks or forests and fields of Minnesota, usually with little thought to what lies right under our feet. But that's where the Science Museum's archaeology team, led by Dr. Ed Fleming, uncovers stories of Minnesota's earliest Native American residents.

On any given field season, the museum crisscrosses the state with three to five active archaeology projects. This year's explorations included a survey of the largely uncharted Wadena County, located in central Minnesota.

In just one field season, the team discovered 34 sites, mainly centered around the county's riverways. They found early tools, pottery, as well as a particularly interesting find—the remains of a hearth containing pieces of pottery and charcoal.

“Evidence of Minnesota's history is a non-renewable resource. This work expands our knowledge of the past — and we can't preserve the evidence until we know where it is.”

This spring the team resumes work in Wadena County with a deeper dig—literally—to excavate the hearth to determine how old it is, unearth additional artifacts, and perhaps even clues about what was cooked in it.

And in a really fun coincidence, the hearth was discovered on land owned by Science Museum biologist Dick Oehlenschlaeger. Even a state of 5.6 million can feel awfully small sometimes.



“Almost everywhere we look, we're finding something.”

DR. ED FLEMING, SCIENCE MUSEUM
DIRECTOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY

DR. ED FLEMING, SCIENCE MUSEUM DIRECTOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY

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Government grants received FY17/18

The list below includes new grants received by the museum between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Cultural STAR Program: for *Illumination* pilot

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Minnesota Art & Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society: three grants for archaeological research projects

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

National Science Foundation – Advancing Informal STEM Learning program:

to examine how theatrical games can be valuable, viable experiences in museum environments to examine complex topics, such as evolution, that may change visitors’ conceptual thinking.

Institute for Museum and Library Services – Museums for America program:

to develop, produce, and distribute a condensed version of the museum’s *RACE* exhibition to three communities in Greater Minnesota—Rochester, Moorhead, and Worthington—and extensive programming in the host regions including reflective dialogues, teacher institutes, educator guide, etc;

National Parks Foundation: for a partnership with the local branch of the National Park Service to work with middle school teachers to use the Mississippi River as the basis for a citizen science learning experience for their students.

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The Fibonacci Society proudly recognizes donors who have chosen the Science Museum of Minnesota as a part of their legacy.

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Thank you, Bill Jonason

Thank you, Bill Jonason, for your outstanding service to the Science Museum’s Board of Trustees. A trustee since 2014, Bill served on both the Governance and Nominating Committee and the Executive Committee, and he led the Building Preservation Committee.

As chair this past year, he guided the museum through the first year of implementation of the strategic plan. Bill also led the board through the review and approval of the Science Museum’s new statement on equity and inclusion, the expression of an institutional value that will guide our work in new program development to help all the learners we serve find a place in science.

Thank you, Bill, for your dedication and insightful leadership.



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in a museum and in the classroom.”***

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Science Museum of Minnesota
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