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Science Museum of Minnesota

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<https://new.smm.org/>

AT A GLANCE

FY2021 Highlights: *Pandemic-Impacted*

- World-class science & technology center and natural history museum with over 2 million objects housed in its Center for Research and Collections
- Leading informal STEM education institution serving MN educators through field trips, outreach programming, online resources and teacher professional development.
- Nearly 78,000 visitors to the museum and outreach sites statewide
- Over 12% of visitors paid no admission fee through our suite of Access programs
- More than 65,000 teachers and students were supported by SMM's in-person and online experiences

PURPOSE

VISION: We envision a world in which all people have the power to use science to make lives better.

MISSION: "Turn on the Science: Inspire learning. Inform policy. Improve Lives."

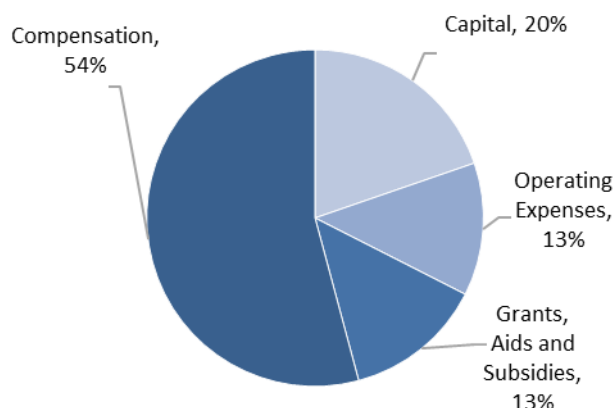
ROLE: The Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) offers informal STEM (science-technology-engineering-math) learning opportunities to a variety of people including: adult learners, families with school-age children; K-12 teachers, students, and school districts; diverse under-served urban youth; and state policy makers.

The SMM is a natural history museum with scientific collections and interpretive exhibits; and is a top tier science and technology center with innovative interactive exhibits emphasizing hands-on learning.

The SMM provides excellent in-person and online informal science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education programs to reinforce the achievement of Minnesota academic standards, background and preparation for STEM workforce development, and lifelong learning.

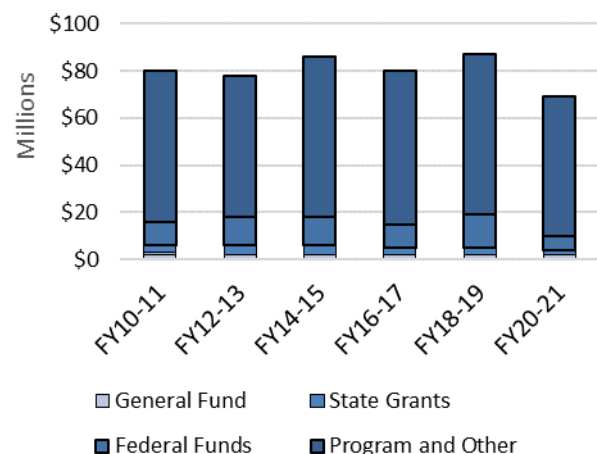
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 2021 Actual**



Note: FY 2021 spending by category includes all SMM spending regardless of funding source.

Historical Spending



Source: FY 2021 Audited financial statements
Source: Audited Financial Statements FY10-F21

The museum budget uses diversified sources of funding. The General Fund category of the budget includes the State appropriation. The Other State Funds category includes other direct state funds. The State Grants category includes funds awarded directly to the Science Museum of Minnesota from other state agencies. The Federal Funds category includes funding received directly to the Science Museum of Minnesota for grant support, such as funds received from the National Science Foundation. The Program and Other category includes all other Museum spending from all other sources.

STRATEGIES

Through museum experiences that have captured the imaginations of generations of visitors, educational programs that reach Minnesotans across the state, science research throughout Minnesota and around the world, and efforts to use STEM as a tool to advance equity and dismantle oppressive systems, the museum is deeply woven into the cultural fabric of our region, consistently delivering meaningful and memorable experiences to the audiences it serves.

Along with its significant challenges, the pandemic provided a remarkable collective opportunity to recognize the power and importance of science in our daily lives. This experience, while enormously challenging, fueled the museum's conviction to build a future where STEM is accessible to everyone—especially those who have not been historically welcomed into the conversation. Its Strategic Plan 2030 leads the museum to examine what a museum is, who it is for, and how we can meet these audiences' changing needs.

To meet the challenges and opportunities ahead, the Science Museum will move forward with aggressive goals to continue serving audiences throughout Minnesota with high-quality museum experiences; signature STEM education programs that reach students and educators in all 87 counties; transformational programs that encourage reflection and dialogue on critical topics like race, mental health, and climate change; and initiatives that engage new audiences in strategic and innovative ways.

The Science Museum will:

1. Transform the Organization
 - Culture: Implement organizational changes that promote a culture of equity, inclusion, and accessibility to intentionally address inequities and injustices while preventing future ones.
 - Sustainability: Transform into a sustainable nonprofit business model by equally emphasizing contributed revenue and growing endowment to ensure the necessary resources, talent, staff, volunteers, and financial support to achieve our vision.
 - Partnerships: Secure partnerships with equitable, mission-aligned organizations to enhance the delivery of our mission impact, and to elevate existing conversations and programs that inspire transformative change in science, equity, and education.
2. Deliver Bold Experiences & Science to Inspire Change
 - Create inspiring, relevant digital and physical experiences and programs that invite broad creative input and participation, and illuminate museum processes, expertise, and assets that turn the museum inside-out for our audiences.
 - Conduct and amplify scientific research, and steward and promote the scientific collection to contribute to the broader body of knowledge.
 - Inform and activate the public, and influence policymakers about important issues facing people, communities, and the planet.
3. Advance STEM Success for BIPOC, Girls/Women, Trans and Non-binary People, and People with limited resources
 - Address Minnesota's educational disparities by delivering impactful and effective STEM education programs for students and educators, both in-person and online, with an increased emphasis on removing barriers and providing opportunities and support.

- Inspire more young people to pursue STEM careers, and support STEM career retention, through existing and new programs, partnerships, and experiences that create culturally specific and accessible ways to see themselves in science.

RESULTS

SMM measures success quantitatively and qualitatively to ensure that we meet the needs of Minnesotans now even as we transform ourselves for the future. We have tried to choose these thoughtfully, in ways that represent our core values and our ongoing commitment to change. The comparison number for each category is drawn from FY19 to show what the museum is capable of, and the FY21 number shows how the pandemic has limited the museum's reach. The museum's strategic plan indicates how the museum is working to meet and exceed these numbers in the coming years.

| <i>Type of Measure</i> | <i>Name of Measure</i> | <i>Previous Value</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Current Value</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Strategic Goal</i> |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Quantity | Number of direct public engagements ¹ | 788,000 | FY19 | 77,987 | FY21 | Goal 2 |
| Quality | Percentage of visitors who give the highest experience quality rating ² | 40% | FY19 | 46% | FY21 | Goal 2 |
| Quantity | Amount of private funding raised ³ | \$10,552,243 | FY19 | \$5,757,079 | FY21 | Goal 1 |
| Quantity | Number of MN counties reached through school engagement ⁴ | 87 | FY19 | 52 | FY21 | Goals 2, 3 |
| Quantity | Percentage of MN public school that attended SMM on field trips ⁵ | 26% | FY19 | 0% | FY21 | Goals 2,3 |
| Quantity | Free Admissions – total (including financial need, veterans, and indigenous access programs ⁶ | 81,791 | FY19 | 10,046 | FY21 | Goal 3 |

Performance Measure Notes:

1. The total number of direct engagements includes people who visit the museum, those who take part in statewide off-site programs, and those who engage in a synchronous online event with SMM staff and/or volunteers. The overwhelming majority of these are Minnesotans with the remainder representing out of state visitors who recognize SMM as a premier tourist attraction in the Twin Cities. This number is an important “bottom line” indicator of success.
2. The percentage of visitors who rated their museum experience as the highest quality rating, Outstanding, on a 5 -point scale. In alignment with industry practices, the museum uses a skewed scale (guests can rate their experience as Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent, and Outstanding), so this measure serves as a rigorous marker for a truly high-quality experience.
3. SMM's ability to raise funds from private donors, including individuals, corporations, foundations, sponsors, and museum members, is an indicator that members of the public resonate with the museum's value proposition and the delivery of the educational mission.

4. Reaching across the entire state is core to our mission. SMM tracks the Minnesota counties the museum serves through school programs, including field trips, school-based residencies and assemblies, and teacher professional development.
 5. The museum also strives to reach as many schools as possible; while not every Minnesota school can make the trip to St Paul, we want as many as possible to be able to come and tracking the overall percentage of schools that come is a way to make sure that we are returning to our pre-pandemic levels of support for Minnesota schools.
 6. The museum provides free access to programming through various programs, which currently include low income, veteran, and indigenous access programs.
-

(Dollars in Thousands)

| | Actual | Actual | Actual | Estimate | Forecast Base | | Enacted Budget | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | FY24 | FY25 |
| <u>Expenditures by Fund</u> | | | | | | | | |
| 1000 - General | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 8,700 | 1,510 |
| 2050 - Environment & Natural Resources | 186 | 101 | 169 | 2,085 | | | 1,022 | |
| Total | 1,265 | 1,180 | 1,248 | 3,164 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 9,722 | 1,510 |
| Biennial Change | | | | 1,966 | | (2,254) | | 6,820 |
| Biennial % Change | | | | 80 | | (51) | | 155 |
| Enacted Budget Change from Base | | | | | | | | 9,074 |
| Enacted Budget % Change from Base | | | | | | | | 420 |

(Dollars in Thousands)

| | Actual | Actual | Actual | Estimate | Forecast Base | | Enacted Budget | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|---------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | FY24 | FY25 |
| 1000 - General | | | | | | | | |
| Direct Appropriation | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 8,700 | 1,510 |
| Expenditures | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 8,700 | 1,510 |
| Biennial Change in Expenditures | | | | 0 | | 0 | | 8,052 |
| Biennial % Change in Expenditures | | | | 0 | | 0 | | 373 |
| Enacted Budget Change from Base | | | | | | | | 8,052 |
| Enacted Budget % Change from Base | | | | | | | | 373 |

2050 - Environment & Natural Resources

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|---|---------|--------------|---------|
| Balance Forward In | 345 | 259 | 837 | 665 | | | | |
| Direct Appropriation | 100 | | | 1,420 | 0 | 0 | 1,022 | 0 |
| Transfers In | | 482 | | | | | | |
| Cancellations | | 640 | 3 | | | | | |
| Balance Forward Out | 259 | | 665 | | | | | |
| Expenditures | 186 | 101 | 169 | 2,085 | | | 1,022 | |
| Biennial Change in Expenditures | | | | 1,966 | | (2,254) | | (1,232) |
| Biennial % Change in Expenditures | | | | 684 | | (100) | | (55) |
| Enacted Budget Change from Base | | | | | | | | 1,022 |
| Enacted Budget % Change from Base | | | | | | | | |

(Dollars in Thousands)

| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | Biennium 2024-25 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Direct | | | | |
| Fund: 1000 - General | | | | |
| FY2023 Appropriations | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 2,158 |
| Forecast Base | 1,079 | 1,079 | 1,079 | 2,158 |
| Change Items | | | | |
| Maintain Current Service Levels | | 121 | 181 | 302 |
| Debt Relief, Employee Retention, Temporary Admission Reduction | | 7,000 | | 7,000 |
| Revenue Recovery | | 500 | 250 | 750 |
| Total Enacted Budget | 1,079 | 8,700 | 1,510 | 10,210 |
| Fund: 2050 - Environment & Natural Resources | | | | |
| FY2023 Appropriations | 1,420 | 1,420 | 1,420 | 2,840 |
| Base Adjustments | | | | |
| All Other One-Time Appropriations | | (1,420) | (1,420) | (2,840) |
| Forecast Base | 1,420 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Change Items | | | | |
| Didymo II The North Shore Threat Continues | | 394 | | 394 |
| Sharing Minnesota's Biggest Environmental Investment | | 628 | | 628 |
| Total Enacted Budget | 1,420 | 1,022 | 0 | 1,022 |

(Dollars in Thousands)

| | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | Biennium 2024-25 | FY26 | FY27 | Biennium 2026-27 |
|--|------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|---------------------|
|--|------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|---------------------|

Maintain Current Service Levels

This provision provides additional operating funds to maintain the current level of service delivery at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings) | 0 | 121 | 181 | 302 | 181 | 181 | 362 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 121 | 181 | 302 | 181 | 181 | 362 |

Debt Relief, Employee Retention, Temporary Admission Reduction

This provision provides additional funds for debt reduction, rehiring and retaining employees, supporting employee contracts, and diversity and inclusion training and outreach at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings) | 0 | 7,000 | 0 | 7,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 7,000 | 0 | 7,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Didymo II The North Shore Threat Continues

This provision is for funding to the Science Museum of Minnesota for the St. Croix Watershed Research Station to identify North Shore streams with didymo, determine the risk of invasion to other streams, document didymo impacts to stream functioning, and develop strategies to prevent further spread of didymo.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2050 - Environment & Natural Resources Fund Cost (Savings) | 0 | 394 | 0 | 394 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 394 | 0 | 394 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Sharing Minnesota's Biggest Environmental Investment

This provision is for funding to the Science Museum of Minnesota, in coordination with the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), to increase public access to the results of LCCMR-recommended research, including through a free online interactive map, in-depth videos, and public events.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2050 - Environment & Natural Resources Fund Cost (Savings) | 0 | 628 | 0 | 628 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 628 | 0 | 628 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Revenue Recovery

This provision provides one-time funding support for Science Museum programs.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1000 - General Fund Cost (Savings) | 0 | 500 | 250 | 750 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 500 | 250 | 750 | 0 | 0 | 0 |