

# Our museums are where Minnesotans look, learn, and affirm who and where we are.

## MINNESOTA MUSEUM FACTS

- 360 museums in the state - 6.8 for every 100,000 residents (national average 5.9)
- 313 towns and cities have at least one museum - 51 in Minneapolis and St. Paul alone (compared to 38 in Chicago)
- Large to small - the Science Museum of Minnesota has 800 employees; important historic sites are operated by dedicated volunteers.
- Old to new - the Minnesota Historical Society was established in 1849 by the Minnesota Territorial Legislature and now manages 26 sites. The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota in Mankato started in 2006 and will soon serve the regions' families.

*In 16 weeks, 106,340 tickets were sold for the "Vatican Splendors" exhibit at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. Attendees came from 44 states and Puerto Rico, and from 270 different schools. For this exhibit alone, 206 volunteers recorded 6,264 hours of volunteer service!*

Jean Nierenhausen, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN

## MINNESOTA MUSEUMS IMPROVE THE ECONOMY

- **Museums generate income:** the total direct economic impact of Minnesota museums is over \$298 million annually. The six largest museums alone have a combined operating budget of over \$135 million.
- **Museums attract visitors:** in 2007, just three museums - the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Children's Museum - had 2,217,691 visitors in a state where tourism is a \$10.2 billion dollar business. (Minnesota's 2007 population was 5,263,000.)
- **Museums inspire pride:** the award-winning architectural landmarks of the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Walker Art Center, and Mill City Museum have brought international attention to Minnesota museum design.

*The Carlton County Historical Society hosted an exhibit and celebration in summer 2008 to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Frank Lloyd Wright Gas Station. Our guest book held names from Arizona, California, Missouri, and New York to name just a few. All had come specifically for the exhibit, and they stayed overnight in Cloquet hotels, ate at Cloquet restaurants, and shopped at Cloquet stores. We are very proud about the role we played in fueling the tourism industry of our town.*

Anne Dugan, Director, Carlton County Historical Society, Cloquet, MN

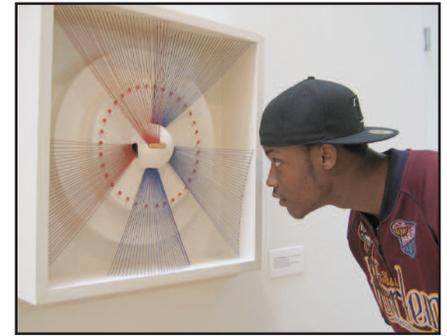
## MUSEUMS ARE MINNESOTA'S "WHOLE BODY"

- They are our **bones** - repositories for our communities' treasures.
- They are our **brain** - storehouses of memories and centers for learning for students from pre-K to golden age.
- They are our **heart** - vital gathering places for seniors, college students, home school families, and whole communities to celebrate and commemorate our shared stories.



MINNESOTA  
ASSOCIATION  
OF MUSEUMS  
minnesotamuseums.org

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Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum



Hennepin History Museum



Goldstein Museum of Design



The American Swedish Institute