

## Agency Purpose

The Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) generates and displays knowledge for the purpose of creating an informed public and inspiring the next generation of scientists. SMM is a private, non-profit statewide educational resource, operating the state's largest and only broad based organization devoted to helping the public understand the complex, critical issues of science and how they affect our lives.

SMM is best known as a major visitor destination in downtown St. Paul serving audiences from every county in the state. SMM is also a critical partner with the state's schools, using hands on activities and exhibits to excite student interest in science and math, and provide tools for teachers to enhance their skills and meet state standards. Finally, SMM conducts original science research, especially in the environment, that Minnesota and other agencies use to support key management and policy decisions critical for state purposes.

## Core Functions

- ⇒ To stimulate public interest and understanding about science and technology by creating and displaying compelling and educational exhibits, films, and programs.
- ⇒ To support Minnesota schools in maintaining and improving teacher and student understanding of and performance in science and math.
- ⇒ To conduct original research that has practical applications for making science-based decisions about use of critical natural resources.
- ⇒ To protect and interpret the 1.75 million objects and artifacts in our permanent collections.
- ⇒ To develop new models for the field of science museums nationally.

## Operations

- ⇒ SMM operates the only museum in the state devoted to the broad array of science and technology issues. SMM opened its new 400,000 square foot building in December 1999. The museum experience includes a wide array of learning opportunities, from giant screen films in the popular Omnitheater and 3D cinema to exhibits about physics and technology, environmental science, ancient life on earth, human culture and the human body.
- ⇒ SMM attracts and serves Minnesota citizens from all corners of the state:
  - ◆ 54% of visitors live in the suburbs, 24% live in Minneapolis/St. Paul and 22% live in Greater Minnesota
  - ◆ 60% of visitors are families with children 20% are school groups, and 20% adults without children
- ⇒ SMM serves students and teachers from across the state in programs at the museum or in their local schools:
  - ◆ 150,000 students visit the museum on field trips. The museum provides resources to teachers to tie their visits to classroom activities. Specialized tours are also available for booking.
  - ◆ SMM instructors reach another 150,000 students in classrooms across the state. Programs include hour-long assemblies, 5-day residencies (in depth exploration of special topics), trunks (with artifacts and activities) and teacher materials.

## At A Glance

### Highlights:

- ◆ 1.2 million people served annually, including 300,000 school children served in their schools or on field trips
- ◆ 1.75 million objects in the collections

**FY 2004-05 Operating Budget:** \$25 M for general operations

- ◆ General Fund: \$750,000 grant
- ◆ Earned income: \$20.2 million
- ◆ Contributions/income: \$4 million

### Impact:

- ◆ **Schools:** reaches 3,500 teachers in special institutes.
- ◆ **Science policy:** conducts research with a public benefit (e.g., water quality on the St. Croix, methyl mercury studies). Cares for collections that support ongoing research for state institutions.
- ◆ **Economic:** generates \$90M in total economic activity, attracting \$6-8M in new funds each year from outside the state.
- ◆ **Tourism:** attracts the largest audience among the state's museums/zoo's, drawing from every county in Minnesota and the 5-state region.
- ◆ **Community partners:** shares resources with 60 community based science organizations, 100 social service agencies, and dozens of civic groups to support their educational and service goals.

- ◆ 3,500 teachers participate in our professional development programs (average of 75 per year) during the summer and school year. Such programs provide content expertise for those who lack strong backgrounds in math and science and new methods that engage student interest through hands on activities. Teachers take their new skills back to the classroom and impact more than 160,000 students.
- ⇒ SMM conducts scientific research in service to the public:
  - ◆ SMM operates the St. Croix Watershed Research Station (SCWRS) in Marine-on-St. Croix in Washington County. Scientists work to find solutions to critical environmental problems such as the loss of biodiversity and degradation of surface and groundwater.
  - ◆ The SMM paleontology program provides both laboratory and field research across the state and around the world. Scientists advance our understanding of the past while creating a foundation for studies that inform the future, advancing such fields as histology and diatom-palynology (Paleolimnology).
- ⇒ SMM is a national leader in the science museum field:
  - ◆ SMM has been a leader in the production of IMAX films, hands-on exhibits and experiment benches, and youth development programs.
  - ◆ New initiatives include a focus on bringing current science and research into museum exhibits, serving as an official outreach partner for scientists at the University of Minnesota, and exploring new models for increasing student success, especially for children who are not succeeding in the current system

### Key Measures

- ⇒ Visitor research studies
- ⇒ Formal evaluations of major exhibits, films and educational programs
- ⇒ Publications in peer reviewed journals, books and monographs
- ⇒ Performance against annual budget and program goals

### Budget

FY 05 Budget: \$30,275,000 (\$24,973,000 general operating budget and \$5,302,000 one time projects).

#### Sources of \$24,973,000 in unrestricted revenue:

- ◆ \$20.2 million earned revenue (81%)
- ◆ \$3.055 million contributions and grants (12%). Includes \$750,000 from the state
- ◆ \$1.7 million investment income (7%).

**Sources of \$5,302,000 in restricted revenue.** Note: restricted funds support costs outside of the ongoing operating budget for special projects, such as the development of new exhibits, films, and educational programs.

- ◆ Federal grants: \$3.2 million
- ◆ Private contributions and grants: \$1.8 million
- ◆ State sources: \$112,000

### Contact

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*Dollars in Thousands*

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2006-07
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	
<b><u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u></b>					
<b>General</b>					
Current Appropriation	750	750	750	750	1,500
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>1,500</b>
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2004-05					0%
 <b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>					
<b>Direct Appropriations</b>					
General	750	750	750	750	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>1,500</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Category</u></b>					
Local Assistance	750	750	750	750	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>1,500</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Program</u></b>					
Science Museum Of Minn	750	750	750	750	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>1,500</b>