

Imagine!



2005 REPORT TO MUSEUM FRIENDS

Minnesota
Children's
Museum



MISSION

Sparking children's learning through play.

CORE BELIEFS

● Early learning is the foundation for lifelong learning ● Families are our children's first teachers ● All children deserve a time and place to be children ● Diverse perspectives enrich children's lives ● *Playing is learning*

Imagine!



Who could have foreseen, 24 years ago, the marvelous structure that is now Minnesota Children's Museum? What began as Warehouse in Minneapolis and moved to a space in Bandana Square has become an award-winning, colorful and inviting place in the heart of our community. By the end of our five-year campaign, *3 to Get Ready, ... 4 to Grow!*, we raised \$10 million, including a very generous \$750,000 gift from Target. This money will help us continue to build on our mission: *Sparking children's learning through play.*

During Fiscal Year 2005, 400,000 children and families from nearly every county in Minnesota came to the Museum to play and learn. People who came to the Museum as children come back as parents; recent immigrants bring their little ones, helping them to adapt and learn; teachers bring students, hoping to expand their worlds and, in the process, expand their own. Supporting it all are the dedicated volunteers and knowledgeable staff, who every day guide children toward new experiences that reinforce lifelong learning.

To everyone who has helped make the Museum's vision come true, thank you so much. Working together with a commitment to our core beliefs, we have created this place of wonder and learning. Just think where we've been. Imagine where we can go.

Sarah Caruso

Sarah Caruso, Museum President

Martha Dayton

Martha Dayton, Board Chair





During Museum visits, kids expand their knowledge as entomologists, math sleuths and city planners.

Early learning is the foundation for lifelong learning.

Imagine a place where learning is so much fun you can't wait to get there. For 75,000 students and groups that place is Minnesota Children's Museum. Seven thousand eight hundred Saint Paul school children benefit from award-winning *Weaving Resources*, the Museum's five-year partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools. The partnership began with a mutual goal of helping children meet Minnesota State education standards by incorporating these goals into our exhibits and classroom experiences. Together, Museum and school district staff developed curriculum packages for kindergarten through second grade students. The Museum supports classroom learning by providing Discovery Trunks full of intriguing teaching tools to supplement classroom learning. During Museum visits, kids expand their knowledge as entomologists, math sleuths and city planners. "Even kids who aren't yet fully literate in English will learn," says Museum Senior Director of Education Kelly Finnerty, "...because activities are hands-on." Says Dr. Patricia Harvey, Saint Paul Public Schools Superintendent, "*Weaving Resources* shows how much schools and community institutions can accomplish by working together."

Families are our children's first teachers.

Imagine that both children and parents discover and grow together. It happens every day at Minnesota Children's Museum. *Rooftop ArtPark* programs spark imaginations for children as they interact with visiting artists. Poet John Minczeski works one-on-one with kids, tweaking their thoughts with such questions as *What is the color green like?* Parents respond to their child's poetry with "...tremendous pride and a sense of awe for their innate creativity," says John. Often, he offers resources to parents, teaching them how to help children develop their literary skills. "It really is a family-affirming situation," he says.





All children deserve a time and place to be children.

Imagine a world that's open to you. Thanks to Access programs and Free 3rd Sundays sponsored by Marshall Field's Gives, children and families from every circumstance are welcomed to the Museum. Curiosity, not money, is the price of admission. Admission is free or reduced for 29%, or 116,864, visitors. It's an inclusive policy whose benefits come back to us, and to the community, many times over. An overwhelmed mother on a limited income brightens, remembering what it's like to have fun again; a family describes the joy and privilege of watching children learn something for the first time. More than 800 families supported their commitment to their children by visiting the Museum during a Head Start Family Night and becoming one of 2,000 families with Free Access Memberships. "I watched a mother and son working together at the computer, making a patterned quilt," recalls Terry Kohlmeier, literacy specialist with Parents In Community Action, Inc. Head Start. "They held it up to admire—she was so proud."

**Curiosity, not
money, is the price
of admission ●**

Diverse perspectives enrich children's lives.

Imagine a welcoming world of friends, where our differences make us ... well, really not so different at all. With the help of Saint Paul artist and Minnesota legislator Cy Thao, recent young Hmong immigrants got to know their third-grade classmates at Como Elementary School by working together to create paintings for the *Welcome Home Project*. Once a Hmong refugee, Thao asked the children to draw what they think of as home. "Interestingly," says Como



Park Elementary School principal Nancy Stachel, "all the children, including those who had just come from the Wat refugee camp, drew pretty much the same thing—houses, trees, cars." As they talked and worked together, the teams of children created eight vibrant paintings of the world they share, displayed with pride in *Our World Community Gallery*. "For the children," says teacher Laurie Torseth, "the *Welcome Home Project* was empowering—and unifying. Kids who once didn't notice one another are now old friends."



Playing *is* Learning

Imagine you're a cowboy. Not just any cowboy, but a partner and pal of Joshua Loper, a fictional African-American teenager who herded cattle along the Chisholm Trail in the 1870s. Inspired by the book *The Journal of Joshua Loper*, *Joshua's Journey* is an exhibit that lets children explore the American West that Joshua would have known. The West was a world of 35,000 cattle-driving cowboys—one-third of whom were Mexican or African American. Through Joshua's unique perspective, contemporary kids ride the range in cowboy gear, climb into the saddle and rope a dogie, and sit around the campfire by the chuck wagon singing songs of the range. They become part of Joshua's once-upon-a-time world, using their imaginations to venture into America's past, and, just like Joshua, discover its variety, richness and diversity.



Making a Difference

Imagine that you were given \$2,000 to donate anywhere you wanted. That's what happened to Brian and Melissa House, thanks to the generosity of Brian's company, Chesapeake Companies, Minnetonka. "We had a good year," says Brian. "Rather than make one corporate donation, the owners let us make individual gifts to organizations we support." Where to give was an easy decision for the couple. Their girls are two and four, and as a family, they spend a lot of time at the Museum. They've been members for over a year. "The girls like to meet their cousins and friends there," says Melissa. "There's something for children of every age to enjoy." Two-year-old Kathryn loves dropping ping-pong balls in the water. Carolyn, four, often heads for the bus, where she makes new friends en route to imaginary places. Their favorite spot? The Anthill, where young worker ants explore and learn, together.

“I was impressed, my daughter was impressed... It was wonderful to see her so excited by a new discovery.”

Making Memories

Imagine that you can pass it on. Kristin and David Carr decided to make that happen for their 15-month-old daughter. “I have such fond childhood memories of visiting the Museum with my mom and sister,” says Kristin. “I wanted to create such memories for my own daughter.” The Carrs are Museum members and donors, and Kristin is also a volunteer. Their support stems not only from past experiences, but from a basic belief in the value of imagination and hands-on learning. She smiles at the memory of watching her child in the *World Works* gallery, figuring out how to put the rings on pins. “I was impressed, my daughter was impressed,” says Kristin. “It was wonderful to see her so excited by a new discovery.”



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We thank all of our individual donors for their personal commitment and generosity to our 2005 Annual Fund. Your support is essential as we work to reach more children and families with our mission of sparking children's learning through play.

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We are especially grateful to the following individuals who form our 2005 Children's Circle by giving a gift of \$1,000 or more to the 2005 Annual Fund.

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For the children, the
Welcome Home Project was
empowering—and unifying.

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3 to Get Ready...4 to Grow!

Minnesota Children's Museum
gratefully acknowledges the
generosity of the following donors to
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gallery improvements, the *Rooftop
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Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2005

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,311,593
Accounts Receivable	184,986
Pledges and Grants Receivable	725,595
Prepaid Expenses	69,987
Investments	4,253,964
Land, Building and Equipment, Net	8,460,518
Total Assets	\$15,006,643

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$212,961
Deferred Revenue	693,638
Total Liabilities	906,599

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted - Undesignated	683,263
Unrestricted - Designated	1,216,569
Temporarily Restricted	8,019,384
Permanently Restricted	4,180,828
Total Net Assets	14,100,044

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$15,006,643

Statement of Activities Year ended June 30, 2005

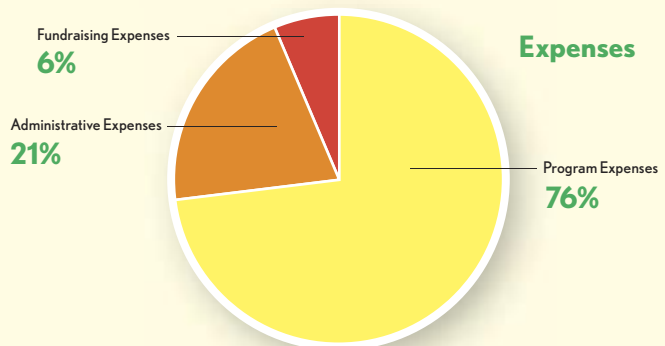
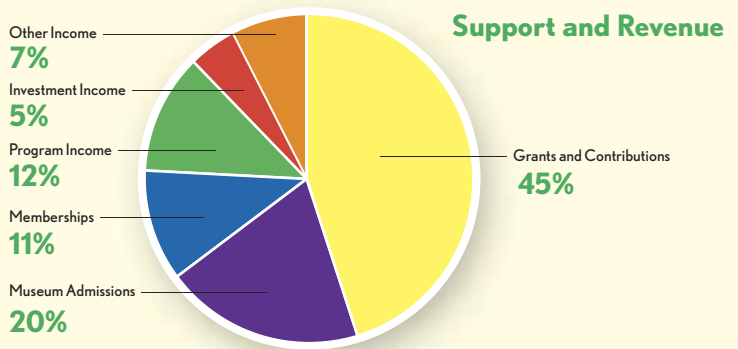
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Grants and Contributions	\$1,228,227	\$1,180,464	\$239,000	\$2,647,691
Museum Admissions	1,149,363			1,149,363
Memberships	657,251			657,251
Program Income	707,757			707,757
Investment Income	272,898			272,898
Other Income	430,521			430,521
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	1,686,636	-3,147,069	1,460,433	0
Total Support and Revenue	\$6,132,653	\$-1,966,605	\$1,699,433	\$5,865,481

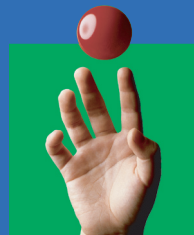
EXPENSES

Program	\$4,027,728			\$4,027,728
Administrative	1,136,790			1,136,790
Fundraising	347,371			347,371
Total Expenses	\$5,511,889			\$5,511,889

Change in Net Assets	620,764	-1,966,605	1,699,433	353,592
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	1,279,068	9,985,989	2,481,395	13,746,452

NETS ASSETS, END OF YEAR \$1,899,832 8,019,384 \$4,180,828 \$14,100,044





Minnesota
Children's
Museum

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