

MINNESOTA MUSEUMS MONTH



MINNESOTA MUSEUM FACTS

Museums are essential contributors to the vibrancy of communities throughout Minnesota. They are vital institutions that entertain, educate, and preserve.

MANY MUSEUMS, STATEWIDE REACH

There are more than 600 museums in Minnesota, twice the national average. That is 1 for every 8,000 residents. In fact, every county in Minnesota has at least one museum. The Twin Cities alone have more than 50!

MANY VISITORS

Minnesota museums attracted an estimated 14 million visitors in 2011 compared to 5.9 million visitors to Twins, Lynx, Timberwolves, and Wild events combined that same year.

HERITAGE KEEPERS

Over 60% of all museums in the state are foremost history museums, and historic houses comprised another 10%. Nearly a quarter of all museums listed “Library/Archive” as an important secondary function.

TOURISM

About 12% of all museum visitors were tourists, traveling from more than 50 miles to visit museums. Tourists visiting museums contributed \$53 million to the state’s economy.

ECONOMIC FORCE

In 2011, Minnesota’s museums directly infused \$337 million in spending into Minnesota’s economy. The indirect impact resulting from museum wages and spending contributed to \$690 million to the state’s economy.

MUSEUMS EMPLOY MINNESOTANS

Museums in our state directly employ an estimated 1,700 full- and part-time workers, paying \$80 million in wages. Yet museums do more with less; the average museum in Minnesota has just two paid staff.

VOLUNTEERISM

Nearly a third of museums in Minnesota are operated by volunteers alone. In total, volunteers in Minnesota’s museums contribute an estimated 1.1 million hours of work to our state’s cultural life.