Support Expanded Programming at Bell Museum

Background

• Bell Museum is Minnesota’s official natural history museum, established by the state in 1872

• In 2014, the state provided capital funding for a new Bell Museum facility and planetarium on the U of M’s Twin Cities campus

• The new facility is expected to attract 105,000 visitors annually, triple current attendance

• Bell Museum critically needs operating funds from the state in order to fully utilize the new facility, including expanding K-12 experiential learning opportunities

Proposal

Provide $7 million to leverage the new Bell Museum facility and support growing demand for K-12 experiential learning opportunities

• Support the operations of new, interactive exhibits, including a fully digital planetarium

• Hire additional faculty and staff to expand hands-on classroom instruction and curriculum development

• Maintain timely replacement and renewal of the building, planetarium, and exhibits

Benefits

• Serve 70,000 more visitors annually, including 25,000 more K-12 students

• Expand education outreach to serve Minnesotans in all 87 counties

• Maximize the experiential learning potential of the new facility

• Remove barriers to participation (e.g., disability, economic, language)

• Strengthen long-term success of Minnesota’s official natural history museum

Request

FY18: $2 million
FY19: $5 million
Total: $7 million