



# BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

2018-19

## 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**