

# HISTORY OF THE BAKKEN

One Saturday afternoon in the early 1930s, young Earl Bakken saw the film *Frankenstein*. Dr. Frankenstein's electricity not only sparked the creature to life, it sparked Bakken's interest in combining electricity and medicine. Bakken's passion for science, inspired by the story of *Frankenstein* and tempered by his pastor's admonition to use science to help others, led to Bakken's life work using electricity to benefit humanity.

Bakken grew up in Minneapolis and received his electrical engineering degree from the University of Minnesota. He cofounded Medtronic in 1949. In 1957, Bakken developed the first wearable, battery-powered, transistorized cardiac pacemaker. In 1969, Bakken began collecting "old electrical machines" and five years later created the world's only library and museum devoted to electricity and magnetism in the life sciences and medicine. The collection was housed at Medtronic until 1976 when it moved to its current home at the beautiful West Winds mansion on the west shore of Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Today, The Bakken Museum's world-renowned collection consists of 11,000 books and 2,000 scientific instruments. The collection includes a 13th-century encyclopedia, Ben Franklin's glass armonica and a first edition of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.



Electrifying Minnesota Exhibit sponsored by:



Great River Energy

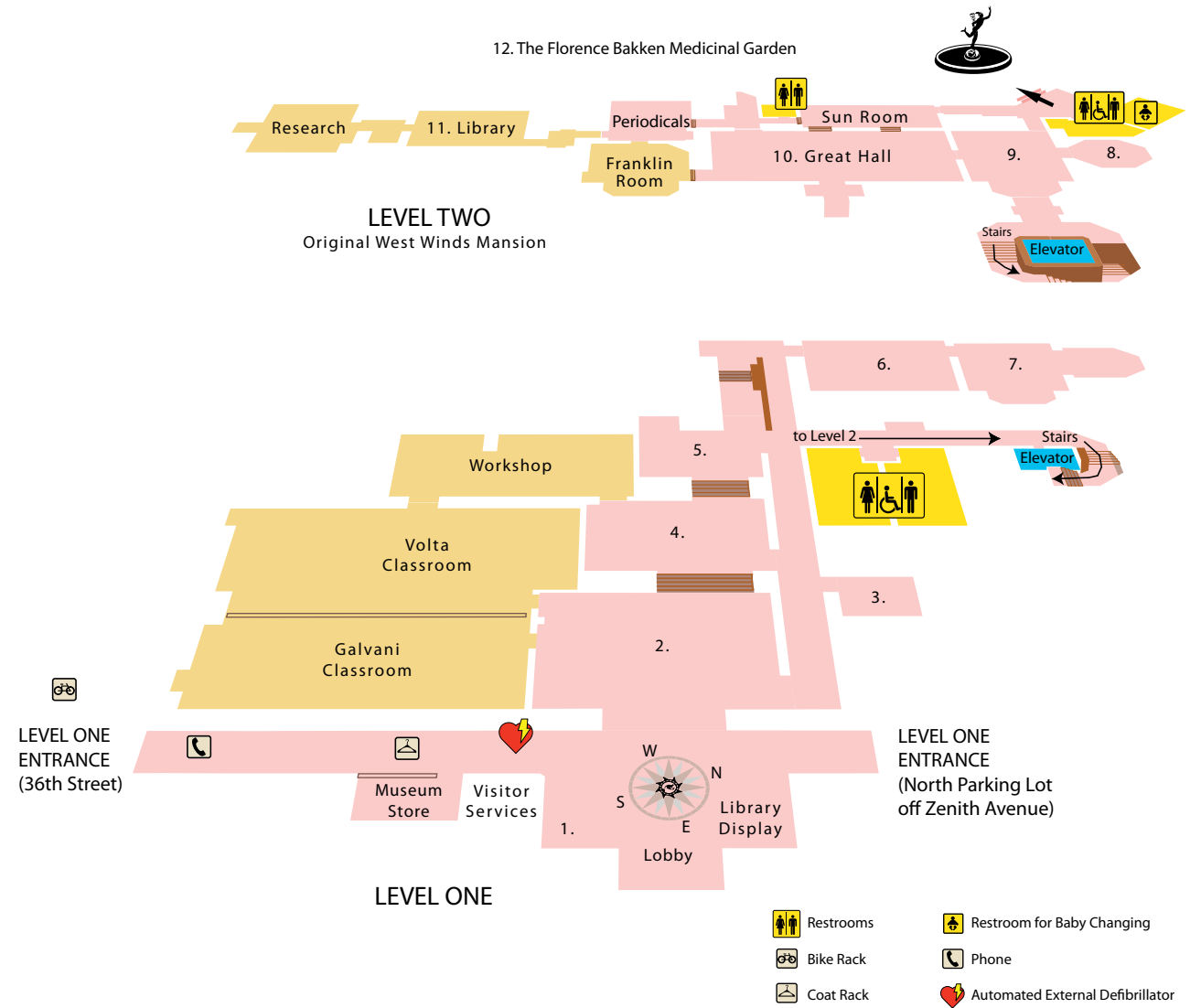
with support from the City of Minneapolis

# EXHIBITS

At The Bakken Museum you can explore dozens of exhibits and learn how electricity and magnetism have influenced history, and benefit how we live today!

- Earl Bakken:** Learn about Earl Bakken, inventor of the first battery-powered transistorized cardiac pacemaker, co-founder of Medtronic and founder of The Bakken Museum.
- The Spark of Life:** Play the theremin, the first electronic musical instrument, and make a 60,000-volt spark with the Wimshurst generator.
- The Bakken Aquarium:** See an Electric Eel, an Elephant Nose fish and more, and hear the natural electricity generated by fish.
- The Mystery of Magnetism:** Experiment with magnets and discover the relationship between electricity and magnetism.
- Electric Heart:** See, hear and feel the natural electricity that powers the human heart.
- Electrifying Minnesota:** See how everyday life has been shaped by electrification since one of the nation's first hydroelectric plants whirred into action 125 years ago on the Mississippi River.
- Frankenstein's Laboratory:** Enjoy a 12-minute multi-media show that brings Frankenstein's creature to life.
- Electricity Party Room:** Experience electrifying fun just like Ben Franklin did.
- The Story of Defibrillation:** Discover how lives are saved using electricity to jumpstart the heart.
- Fairy, Goddess, Wizard, Genie? Imagining Electricity:** See how electricity was promoted in the late 19th century through images used in advertising to give it a friendly and familiar human form.
- Library & Collections:** The Bakken's world-renowned collection consists of 11,000 books and 2,000 scientific instruments.
- Florence Bakken Medicinal Garden:** See herbs, shrubs and trees used as medicine.

# MUSEUM MAP



## History of the West Winds Mansion:

Explore West Winds, a Tudor style mansion on beautiful Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis, Minnesota that houses The Bakken Museum's collections. The house was built in the 1930s by Twin Cities' businessman William E. Goodfellow in collaboration with local architect Carl A. Gage. As you walk through the mansion you will enjoy West Winds' combination of architectural styles—the dark interior paneling and carved details indicative of the Tudor style, and pointed arches, stained glass and decorative elements that reflect the local flora and fauna, typical of the Gothic Revival style. The mansion was acquired by The Bakken Museum in 1976 and doubled its size to 25,000 square feet with a 1999 expansion in response to the growing demand for the museum's educational programs. Classrooms were added as well as a workshop inspired by the garage workshop of Earl Bakken's childhood home where he created many of his inventions. West Winds is surrounded by beautiful landscaping, highlighted by the Florence Bakken Medicinal Garden. To learn more about West Winds, please visit [TheBakken.org](http://TheBakken.org).

## GET INVOLVED

### Become a Member:

Become a member today and receive great benefits. Please contact the membership office at **612-926-3878 ext. 219**.

- Unlimited admission for 12 months
- Free general admission to 250 participating Association of Science-Technology Centers in the U.S. and abroad
- Orientation for new members
- Invitations to lectures and exhibit openings
- Two free admission passes to share
- 10% discount on individual program and camp registrations
- 10% discount on museum store purchases
- 100% tax deductible

### Membership Levels:

\$30 Individual

\$35 Senior (dual membership plus up to two grandchildren)

\$40 Dual

\$65 Family (unlimited family members within a household)

\$5 Add a nanny to family membership

*Benefits extend one year from join date. Prices subject to change. Some admission surcharges may apply.*

### Volunteer at The Bakken:

The Bakken Museum is a testament to founder Earl Bakken's dreams and serves thousands of people each year. This could not be achieved without the support of numerous volunteers who are an integral part of The Bakken's success and give their time and resources to mentor future generations. If you enjoy inspiring creativity in children and have a life-long desire for learning, consider volunteering at The Bakken Museum.

- No science background necessary
- Volunteer opportunities for all ages
- Flexible scheduling (days, evenings, weekends)
- Friendly staff, great working environment
- Complimentary Bakken membership
- 20% museum gift shop discount

For information about volunteer opportunities, please contact the volunteer office at **612-926-3878 ext. 220**.

### Make a Donation:

Your financial support creates the spark that allows The Bakken to continue providing hands-on science education and valuable research opportunities that engage curious minds of all ages. If you are interested in giving a gift to The Bakken Museum, please contact the development office at **612-926-3878 ext. 252**.

## GENERAL INFORMATION



### Location:

3537 Zenith Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416-4623

*The Bakken Museum is located at the west shore of Lake Calhoun, at the corner of West Calhoun Parkway & 36th Street in Minneapolis.*

### Admission:

Adults \$7

Students & Seniors \$5

Children younger than 4 & members are FREE

*Free parking is available in the museum's lot. The Bakken Museum is handicapped accessible. Admission subject to change.*

### Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Closed Sunday, Monday & major holidays

*Hours subject to change.*

### Library Hours:

Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

*Please call ahead to ensure the best service. Hours subject to change.*

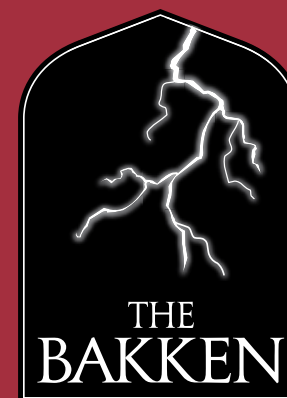
Visit The Bakken Museum gift shop for games, books, toys and jewelry related to electricity and magnetism!

*During your visit to The Bakken Museum you may be filmed, videotaped or photographed by a Bakken employee or contract service professional. Your admission serves as permission to use your image. The Bakken Museum is not responsible for lost, damaged or unclaimed items.*

## THE BAKKEN MUSEUM



*A one-of-a-kind museum exploring the mysteries of our electrical world*



THE  
BAKKEN  
MUSEUM

AN ELECTRIFYING EXPERIENCE

## PROGRAMS

The Bakken Museum offers a variety of programs that support its mission to inspire youth to pursue a life in science for the benefit of humanity. For information on The Bakken's science programs contact **612-926-3878 ext. 219**.

**Family Science Saturdays:** Every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Bakken Museum hosts drop-in, hands-on science activities for visitors of all ages that are free with museum admission.

**Inventor's Club:** Youth ages 9-18 turn their big ideas into reality during weekly invention sessions. Participants learn about The Bakken's invention process and build their own take-home creation in the museum's student workshop with mentors from the science and engineering fields. Pre-registration is required.

**Summer Science Day Camps:** Youth ages 7-14 investigate science through creative dramatics, get charged up during group games and building challenges, learn science-based magic tricks and build their own take-home invention in the museum's student workshop. Pre-registration is required.

**Field Trips:** Elementary school students grades 1-6 learn about science during hands-on static electricity, batteries or magnetism workshops and guided tours of the museum. All students create a take-home experiment. Pre-registration is required.

**Guided Tours:** For the price of regular admission, visitors experience The Bakken Museum with a tour guide who shares their in-depth knowledge of the exhibits and the history of the museum. Tours are available to groups of 10-75 people. Pre-registration is required.

**Science Theatre: *Finding Frankenstein*:** An entertaining 45-minute performance portraying Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, teenaged author of *Frankenstein*, that demonstrates the inspiration for her story and surprises viewers with its humor and contemporary relevance. Participants also experience three stations in the museum, including a multi-media *Frankenstein* exhibit, hosted by docents who explain the understanding of science and electricity in Mary Shelley's time. Pre-registration is required.

**Rentals:** Hold your next event, meeting or birthday party at the beautiful Bakken Museum. For information, please contact the group services office at **612-926-3878 ext. 200**.