



The Bakken Museum

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Smithsonian Affiliations Press Contact

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The Bakken Museum Announces Smithsonian Affiliation

The Bakken Museum in Minneapolis, Minnesota has been accepted as a Smithsonian Affiliate. This affiliation establishes a long-term partnership between the museum and the Smithsonian Institution. There are currently over 200 Smithsonian Affiliates in 45 states, Puerto Rico and Panama. The Bakken Museum is Minnesota's only current Smithsonian affiliate.

“The Bakken Museum is extremely proud to be an affiliate of one of the most prestigious institutions in the country. Being the only affiliate in the state of Minnesota is an honor for our organization and speaks highly of the quality of work we do. We are excited for the possibilities of collaborating with the Smithsonian on future projects and programs,” says The Bakken’s Executive Director, Michael Sanders. “Collaborative projects such as this affiliation are key to The Bakken Museum’s strategic direction. The Smithsonian is a tremendous institution and we share their commitment to heritage, preservation, and education.”

The partnership will provide The Bakken Museum access to the Smithsonian Institution’s many resources, including its 136 million object collections, scholarships and educational opportunities for staff, traveling exhibits and membership benefits. Additionally, The Bakken and the Smithsonian will begin to pursue collaborations with one another, spreading the work of both cultural institutions.

Harold A. Closter, director of Smithsonian Affiliations made the following comment: “We are delighted to announce the Smithsonian’s new Affiliation with The Bakken Museum. Both of our organizations share a deep interest in science, technology, and the generation of breakthrough ideas. We look forward to bringing our collections and educational strategies together in ways that will inspire innovative and creative thinking, and foster a deeper appreciation for the skills that led to our greatest inventions and offer the greater hope for our future.”

Collaboration with the Smithsonian is something with which The Bakken Museum already has some experience. Research by Bakken staff helped inspire and inform a display on Medical Alley that opened as a part of the Smithsonian’s “Places of Invention” in July 2015 at the National Museum of American History. The Bakken hopes to mount its own related exhibit, “Inventing for Health: Minnesota’s Biomedical Revolution”, in 2017.

Smithsonian Affiliations, established in 1996, is a national outreach program that develops collaborative partnerships with museums and educational and cultural organizations to share Smithsonian Institution resources with citizens in their own communities. The program works with Affiliates to enrich communities with Smithsonian scholars, public programs, and professional development opportunities. Affiliate partner organizations demonstrate excellence in their work and commitment to the Smithsonian emphasis on heritage, preservation and education.

The Bakken Museum

Located in intriguing beautiful mansion on Lake Calhoun, The Bakken Museum inspires a passion for science and its potential for social good by helping people explore the history and nature of electricity and magnetism. The Bakken was founded in 1975 by Earl E. Bakken, who invented the first wearable, battery-powered, transistorized cardiac pacemaker. The Bakken features a world-renowned collection of books and artifacts, multiple galleries focusing on the wonders of electricity and The Florence Bakken Medicinal Garden. The Bakken Museum is at the corner of West Calhoun Parkway and 36th Street on the west shore of Lake Calhoun. Free parking is available in The Bakken’s lot. For more information, visit www.TheBakken.org or call 612-926-3878.

In conjunction with the Smithsonian affiliation, The Bakken Museum will be expanding its hours and changing its pricing structure to ensure greater accessibility to the community.

New Museum Hours (effective June 1)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Closed to visitors on Monday & major holidays

Museum Admission (effective June 1)

Adults:	\$10
Seniors:	\$8
Teens & Young Adults (ages 13-25):	\$8
Children 5 through 12:	\$5
Children 4 and under:	FREE
Members:	FREE

Media availability: Bakken staff members and Smithsonian staff members are available for interviews. Please contact John Pawloski (pawloski@thebakken.org) to schedule interviews or for high resolution photos.