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ABOUT THE BAKKEN MUSEUM

The Bakken Museum inspires a passion for innovation by exploring the potential for science, technology, and the humanities to make the world a better place. Located in Minneapolis, the museum features a world-renowned collection of artifacts, exceptional education programs, exhibits exploring the wonders of invention, plant medicine, technology, and science, and the Florence Bakken Medicinal Garden. For more information, visit thebakken.org. Find @thebakkenmuseum on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

MISSION

The Bakken Museum inspires a passion for innovation by exploring the potential for science, technology, and the humanities to make the world a better place.

VISION

We will build a community at the intersection of science, technology, health, and wellness, leveraging the past to inspire the next generation of innovators to transform the future.

HISTORY

Inspired by the interests and accomplishments of our founder, bio-medical pioneer Earl Bakken, The Bakken Museum began as a collection of rare books and scientific instruments housed at the headquarters of Medtronic, serving the needs of its employees and customers. This collection quickly outgrew its space at Medtronic, and in 1975 the decision was made to create an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The following year, this new nonprofit purchased the historic West Winds mansion on the western shore of Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis, and The Bakken Museum was born.

In these early years, the primary mission of the organization was to become an international research center with a focus on "Electricity in Life." The rare book and instrument collection attracted researchers from around the world with a variety of interests in history and science. During this time, the library and artifact collection continued to grow, and the vision of the organization was further augmented to include limited collections-focused exhibitions.

By the 1990s, the museum embraced a new vision as a resource for the public to explore the history and nature of electricity and magnetism. During this time, the museum undertook a \$6 million expansion and renovation of the West Winds mansion and property. The capital project doubled the size of the building, adding exhibit and classroom space to accommodate an increased range of visitors, including elementary, middle, and high school students, multi-generational families, and corporate groups. Since the expansion, the organization's budget, staff size, and numbers-served have roughly quadrupled while the exhibits and education programs have maintained their interdisciplinary perspective, integrating science, history, and the humanities.



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In June 2016, the board of directors approved a new mission and vision for The Bakken Museum that emphasizes the innovation process, specifically in the health and wellness space. This expanded mission and vision express themselves across the museum through new exhibits, an expanded STEM education curriculum, and public event series for adults, youth, and families.

In July 2020, The Bakken Museum updated its largest exhibition gallery, remodeled the lobby for improved accessibility, and updated its classrooms to deliver in-person and virtual programming better, further increasing our ability to deliver our mission to even more locations.

ORGANIZATIONAL ATTRIBUTES:

- » President & CEO: Michael Sanders
- » Number of Staff: 30
- » Number of Volunteers: 67
- » Facility Size: 27,000 square feet
- » Exhibition Space: 4,000 square feet
- » Property Size: 2.9 acres
- » Total Number of People Served per Year: 65,000
- » School and Community Partners: 350

KEY PROGRAMS:

- **Onsite Education** – The Bakken Museum has been hosting summer camps for over 20 years and was one of the first locations in the Twin Cities to introduce a hands-on makerspace. During summer camps, school break camps, and workshops throughout the year, students are invited to explore the innovation process by using real tools and technology.
- **Outreach Programs** – the museum’s outreach team leads onsite field trips and travels to schools and community centers throughout Minnesota to teach workshops and perform at assemblies. Programs for grades k-12 use humor and exciting demonstrations to explore the connections between science, engineering, inspiration, and innovation. In 2020, the museum began developing digital outreach programs to improve accessibility and remove barriers to access.
- **Events** - From 21+ parties to thoughtful lectures and hands-on family days, The Bakken Museum’s special events provide dynamic opportunities for visitors to experience the museum throughout the year. In addition to events hosted by the museum, The Bakken Museum serves as a polling place and offers private rentals, which support our mission-driven programs.
- **Collections** - The Bakken Museum’s collections are a rich resource for exploring efforts to understand the human body, health, and wellness throughout history. The museum’s collections include 11,000 books, 2,500 artifacts, and 1,000 pieces of art and ephemera on topics from electricity in literature to fascinating fringe science.