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For more information, contact:

Jayson Hajdu, Marketing and Communications Strategist

816.235.8009 (office)

701.740.7659 (mobile)

jahtgd@toyandminiaturemuseum.org

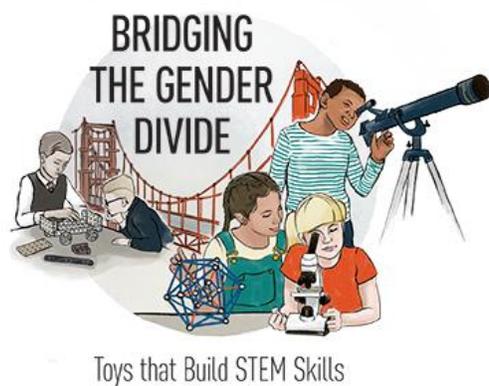
Images available upon request

Bridging the Gender Divide: Toys that Build STEM Skills

T/m re-opens with new exhibit on display

July 1, 2020 (KANSAS CITY, Mo.) – The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures (T/m) unveils a new exhibit Wednesday, July 15 to coincide with the museum’s public re-opening from the COVID-19 shutdown.

Bridging the Gender Divide: Toys that Build STEM Skills offers a historical look at how toys helped children develop the skills that contributed to success in STEM-based careers, and how the advertising of these toys has changed over time to reflect cultural values.



From chemistry to construction, toys have prepared generations of kids to pursue careers in STEM fields. Discover how these toys, once marketed primarily to boys, have evolved to encourage *all* children through play to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

“Playing with these toys helps children develop skills, such as spatial intelligence, that contribute to their success in STEM-related careers,” said T/m Curator of Collections Amy McKune.

“The exhibit includes toys made over the last 200 years, and it brings the story to the present by including STEM toys developed specifically to appeal to girls, as well as gender-neutral toys.”

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Several successful women in STEM careers were interviewed and quotes from those interviews are included in the exhibit. *Bridging the Gender Divide* also features engaging interactive elements, including an HO-scale working model train and a matching coloring book highlighting accomplishments by women in STEM over the past 200 years.

Bridging the Gender Divide includes objects from T/m's collection, as well as objects on loan from The Strong (Rochester, New York), Science History Institute (Philadelphia), Kansas Historical Society (Topeka, Kansas), and Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering, and Technology (Kansas City, Mo.). Additionally, Amy Bix, Ph.D., Professor of History and Director of the Consortium for Historical Studies of Technology and Science at Iowa State University, served as an advisor on the exhibit.

Generous support for *Bridging the Gender Divide* has been provided by [MRIGlobal](#).

Bridging the Gender Divide will be on display at T/m from July 15, 2020 through Sept. 5, 2021. Media requests can be directed to T/m Marketing and Communications Strategist Jayson Hajdu at jahtgd@todandminiaturemuseum.org. An exclusive preview window for media opportunities is scheduled for July 8-11.

T/m is a representative of *KC Culture Cares*, a group of Kansas City cultural institutions who have pledged to be proactive in fighting COVID-19 through a common standard of protocols, including: managing their spaces to create social distancing, sanitizing surfaces on a more aggressive basis, verifying the health of staff and volunteers each day, and requiring staff and volunteers to wear protective gear. Visitors are encouraged to stay home if they are ill or experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19. They are also required to wear masks, wash hands often, and stay six feet from other guests. For more information, please visit www.kcculturecares.org.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES

The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures educates, inspires and delights adults and children through the museum's collection and preservation of toys and miniatures. Located on the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus, the museum exhibits the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures and one of the nation's largest collections of historic toys. For more information, call 816.235.8000 or visit www.toyandminiaturemuseum.org.

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