

Museum Fact Sheet

LOCATION

5235 Oak Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64112
Free museum parking available off of 52nd Street.

HOURS

Open Wednesday through Monday, 10am-4pm. Closed Tuesdays and major holidays.

ADMISSION

General Adult Admission (Ages 18-65) / \$8
Age 65+ / \$7
Ages 6-17 and College Students with ID / \$5
Age 5 and Under / Free
Museum for All (EBT Card Holders) / \$3
Members / Free
UMKC Faculty, Staff, and Students with ID / Free
Active Duty and Retired Military with ID / Free

ONLINE PRESENCE

Website: toyandminiaturemuseum.org
Blog: toyandminiaturemuseum.org/blog
Facebook: facebook.com/toyandminiaturemuseum

Twitter: twitter.com/toyminiature
Instagram: instagram.com/toyandminiaturemuseum

HISTORY

The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures opened in 1982 as the Toy and Miniature Museum of Kansas City featuring the collections of two Kansas City women. Operating in a building on the corner of 52nd and Oak on the University of Missouri - Kansas City campus, the 7,000-square-foot museum had two full-time staff members.

Over the next thirty years with expansions in 1989 and 2004, the museum grew to 33,000 square feet. During the same period, the collection increased to over 72,000 objects. In 2012, the museum embarked on its first public capital campaign to raise \$10.2 million to support building and exhibit improvements. The campaign raised \$10.73 million and the museum reopened on August 1, 2015 with new exhibits and interactives featuring the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures and one of the nation's largest collections of historic toys.

COLLECTION

The museum collection of toys and miniatures numbers more than 84,000 objects. The museum's miniature works represent all of the major contemporary miniature artists. Room settings, architectural structures, and decorative arts are stunningly rendered in 1:12 (one inch equals 12 inches) or smaller scale. Peek in on Louis XV's study at the Palace at Versailles, an Italian Renaissance studio, or a Boston Beacon Hill mansion, all without leaving Kansas City. The museum's collection of toys documents humanity's ingenuity, creativity, and imagination. They serve as evidence of society's cultural beliefs, technological advancements, and hopes and dreams from the 18th century to the present. Explore generations of childhood through dolls, dollhouses, trains, soldiers, teddy bears, and more.

CURRENT TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

Parlor Performances: Theatrical Toys for Home Play
Saturday, October 19 – Monday, August 17, 2020

This special exhibit features a variety of toys, dating primarily from 1880 to 1980, that were designed to facilitate home shows. Since this specific type of home entertainment is no longer part of our culture, visitors will learn how these toys historically enabled performance play in the home. Visitors will also enjoy staging their own plays using an interactive toy theater within the gallery space.

UPCOMING TEMPORARY EXHIBIT

Bridging the Gender Divide: Toys That Build STEM Skills
Saturday, July 15, 2020 — Sunday, September 5, 2021

This new exhibit takes a historical look at how toys helped children develop skills that contributed to success in careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. The exhibit examines the way STEM toys were marketed primarily to boys from the late 19th century through the mid-20th century and the impact that had on career choices. Just as toys have historically helped build skills and inspire young men to pursue STEM careers, today's toys can help young women and men develop the skills necessary to succeed.

PAST TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

A Space of Our Own: Dollhouses of the 20th Century
Saturday, April 20 – Monday, January 6, 2020

Over the last 200 years, dollhouses have evolved alongside the children who played with them. In a world designed for adults, the dollhouse has provided kids with a space of their own to dream and imagine. This special exhibit explores T/m's extensive collection and displays some never-before-seen examples, from glittering mansions to humble bungalows.

Going Places: The Toy Collection of Jerry Smith
Sunday, October 6, 2018 — Sunday, August 25, 2019

On Christmas Day in 1923, a young Kansas boy named Jerry Smith received a single toy tractor under his family's tree. Smith would grow up to become a successful Kansas City automotive dealer and philanthropist, but he never forgot that humble toy tractor. As an adult, it inspired him to amass a world-class toy collection that included planes, trains, and automobiles. He displayed his collection to spread joy and to raise money for local charities. From cast iron trains to fanciful airplanes, *Going Places* explores the history of transportation toys and examines how one person with a generous heart and a fantastic toy collection made a lasting impact on his community.

Playing for Keeps: The VFW Marble Tournaments, 1947-1962
November 11, 2017 – January 6, 2019

Marble playing ruled playgrounds for much of the twentieth century. Requiring only a handful of marbles and a patch of dirt, the game crossed all economic and social barriers. In 1947, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) created a national marble tournament to positively influence young boys and re-engage WWII and Korean War veterans in civilian life. The tournament, an annual event for 14 years, was a life-changing experience for the thousands of kids who participated. *Playing for Keeps* tells the firsthand stories of the players alongside their souvenirs, trophies, and marble memorabilia. Learn their stories and then knuckle down to experience the thrill of the game in a regulation-size marble ring.

RESEARCH LIBRARY

The museum's research library of books, periodicals, and vertical files on fine-scale miniatures and antique toys is open to the public by appointment.

FUNDING

T/m is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution that relies on the donations of individuals, corporations, and foundations to preserve and exhibit the museum's world-class collection. Individuals interested in supporting exhibitions and educational programs can make a tax-deductible contribution at toyandminiaturemuseum.org/donate.

Greater Kansas City Community Foundation Profile:
<https://gkccf.guidestar.org/NonprofitProfile.aspx?OrgId=1075>

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ACCESSIBILITY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In order to increase accessibility for our community, T/m became a member of Museums for All in 2019, a national program created by Institute of Museum and Library Services in which participating museums provide a discounted admission rate for families receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits). T/m is also a Blue Star Museum, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense in which member museums offer free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families. In March 2019, T/m also began extending free admission to veterans.

T/m is a proud partner of KC Urban Advantage. The purpose of KC Urban Advantage (KCUA) is to help break the cycle of poverty in Kansas City by increasing confidence and ability in academic achievement for underserved children. The KCUA mission is to provide access to holistic STEAM education and unlock opportunities for higher learning and future STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) careers. Starting in the spring of 2020, T/m will welcome its first classes of KCUA Students for hands-on workshops and gallery tours, with lunch and transportation provided.