



## 2023 Museum Fact Sheet

### LOCATION

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

### HOURS

Open Wednesday through Monday, 10 am-4 pm.  
Closed Tuesdays  
Closed New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day

### ADMISSION

General Adult Admission (Ages 18-65) /	\$10
Age 65+ /	\$8
Active Duty and Retired Military with ID /	\$5
Ages 6-17 and College Students with ID /	\$5
Age 5 and Under /	Free
Museum for All (EBT Card Holders) /	Free
Members /	Free
UMKC Faculty, Staff, and Students with ID /	Free

### ONLINE PRESENCE

**Website:** [toyandminiaturemuseum.org](http://toyandminiaturemuseum.org)  
**Small Talk Blog:** [toyandminiaturemuseum.org/blog](http://toyandminiaturemuseum.org/blog)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/toyandminiaturemuseum](http://facebook.com/toyandminiaturemuseum)

**Pinterest:** [pinterest.com/toyminiature](http://pinterest.com/toyminiature)  
**Twitter:** [twitter.com/toyminiature](http://twitter.com/toyminiature)  
**Instagram:** [instagram.com/toyandminiaturemuseum](http://instagram.com/toyandminiaturemuseum)

### DESCRIPTION

Located on the campus of UMKC, the museum preserves and exhibits one of the nation's largest collections of antique toys and the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures. Explore interactive and temporary exhibits alongside old museum favorites, such as the nine-foot-tall Coleman Dollhouse.

### 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's 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.

## ONLINE REVIEWS

HIGHLY RECOMMEND. Exquisite and truly magical experience. Plan for at least 3+ hours, we wished we had more time to really see everything. The pictures/videos don't do it justice AT ALL. There is something for everyone here, it breathes nostalgia.

--- Kesley, Google Reviews, February 2023

Really cool experience, the whole thing was very well done and reminded me of the Smithsonian exhibits. I especially like the miniatures and doll houses, but the toy exhibits were better than I expected. They have a fun scavenger hunt activity. And an introductory film. The admission prices were already reasonable, but then we got a fantastic military discount. Parking was easy and there were numerous clean bathrooms. Great place.

--- A.M., Google Reviews, 2022

The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures is a must-see for any age group. I believe a visit will bring some long-forgotten joy to anyone for at least a day. There are toys dating back to the 1800s and beyond to delight the elderly. Toy displays from the 50s through the 70s can make the middle-aged feel young again. There are toys from the '80s, 90s, and up to the present, which are fun for younger generations. The dollhouse area is not just for little girls, although they are a dream come true for many little girls. My husband was even in awe of these displays. My favorite dollhouse was the giant one. They are just beautiful! What I liked most about this entire museum was the displays of miniatures. I cannot begin to tell you how impressive, exquisite, beautiful, and unbelievable these miniature displays are! I couldn't get enough of them! The tiniest pieces are the most incredible! It was a wonderful experience, and I would go back again just to spend more time in the "miniatures" section.

--- Brenda, Google Reviews, October 2022

The museum is bright and modern, with excellent displays that really let the patrons learn and experience the collections. I really like the toys, seen on the upper floor, presented by era and by themes. The miniatures were overwhelming, tiny works of art of and history. The barbies and Hot Wheels were fun. The small collection of primitive video game consoles was a sweet touch.

--- Carfull, Trip Advisor, September 2022

This museum was so much more than I expected. I was in awe of the miniature furniture, paintings, instruments, people, and costumes. Incredible! The paintings on a pinhead, pair of fleas dressed in clothes, and carved toothpick, that are viewed through a microscope were amazing. And to top it all off, I found my favorite sleuth, Miss Maple, standing in front of her miniature thatched cottage. Fabulous!! Don't miss this if you are in K.C. The young ladies at the desk were very pleasant and helpful.

--- Becky, Trip Advisor, April 2022

## EXHIBITS

### *Miniature Galleries / Current Long-term Exhibit*

Name any type of full-size object and you are likely to find a miniature version in our galleries. The main miniature gallery has almost 4,000 individual fine-scale miniatures on display and an exhibit on the history of miniatures. In Summer 2023, come see a new addition: a rare first series c. 1933 Thorne Room, English Cotswold Cottage that the

museum acquired in 2022. The room, thought to have been dismantled in the 1960s, surprisingly showed up at an estate auction in 2019.

#### *Iconic Toys / Current Long-term Exhibit*

Whether you were born in 1945 or 1995, or any time in between, you'll find the toys of your childhood in Iconic Toys. This is a lively hallway as multigenerational groups enjoy sharing their personal histories with each other through memories of their toys.

#### *Miniature Maze / Current Long-term Exhibit*

Wind your way through a maze of miniature rooms and be a-mazed at what you find. Starting with a c. 1900 architect's classroom, you'll discover many miniature rooms including an Art Deco Jewelry Store, a Tudor Bedroom, and even two bathrooms! In Summer 2023, T/m will add a miniature art museum with central atrium and five galleries, hung with miniature art shows.

#### *America's Monsters, Superheroes, and Villains: Our Culture at Play*

May 21, 2022 - October 3, 2022

Monsters, superheroes, and villains have always been part of America's cultural fabric: they scare us, thrill us, and help guide us through the most terrifying and exhilarating moments of our lives. More than simple "pop culture," characters such as Wolfman, Dracula, Wonder Woman, Luke Skywalker, the Joker, and others create a lens to examine complex subject matter in twentieth-century American history including the Cold War, rapidly accelerating possibilities of science and technology, and America's portrayal of women and people of color in our popular media. Comprised of more than 350 exceptional objects from the private collection of David Barnhill, the exhibition includes vintage toys, posters, packaging, TV commercials, and movie trailers. Visitors of all ages are sure to enjoy the nostalgic visual survey of American Identity in the 20th century.

#### *The Doll Gallery*

February 2, 2019 - February 2, 2022

Thirty-five new dolls are on exhibit, including a Queen Anne-style doll (1750-1800); Baby Moss, a 10" baby doll (c. 1895) by African American artist Leo Moss; Miss Fukushima, a Japanese Friendship doll (1927); and a set of mid-20th century Liberty of London dolls (c. 1955).

#### *Parlor Performances: Theatrical Toys for Home Play*

October 19, 2019 - January 2, 2021

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.

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.

## **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/get-involved/donate/](http://toyandminiaturemuseum.org/get-involved/donate/)

Greater Kansas City Community Foundation Profile:

<https://gkccf.guidestar.org/NonprofitProfile.aspx?OrgId=1075>

## **2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lori Beam (Past Chair)  
Wolfe Brack  
Antonio Byrd  
Bill Hall (Treasurer)  
Saralyn Reece Hardy  
Troy Lillebo  
Anne Manning  
Teresa Martinez  
Margaret McGuiness  
Rachel Sterbenz (Secretary)  
Susan Stanton  
Jean-Paul Wong  
Corey Ziegler (Chair)

## **HONORARY DIRECTOR EMERITI**

David Francis  
J. Scott Francis  
Margaret Silva

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Julia Gargallo  
Julia Jackson  
Robert Simmons  
Carla Smocks

## **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.

## **MUSEUM SAFETY**

The health and safety of our guests, staff and volunteers is T/m's top priority. In addition to the museum's daily cleaning and sanitizing practices, T/m has taken a pledge of safety with the following entities: KC Clean Commitment, KC Culture Cares, Missouri ArtSafe and Show Me Strong