



 Science Museum of Minnesota

FIBONACCI SOCIETY



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Fibonacci Society

In the world around us, the Fibonacci sequence emerges in breathtaking spirals: from flower petals to seashells and from storm clouds to galaxies. The famous mathematical phenomenon reveals itself in naturally occurring patterns that represent enduring, meaningful impact.

At the Science Museum of Minnesota, donors who support the museum with a legacy gift are members of the Fibonacci Society, a community of like-minded donors who wish to see their generosity reflected in future generations. This generosity is key to the Science Museum's goal of helping *all Minnesotans* recognize and develop their own capacity to use STEM skills to become the innovators we need in the years to come.

Members have unique opportunities to get an inside look into the museum's work here in Minnesota and around the world. But the most important benefit is the satisfaction that comes with making a lasting contribution — one that will help the museum deliver science and education that centers equity well into the future.





The inspiration to give

Fibonacci Society members give to the Science Museum for many different reasons. For Sid Munson, Tim and Chris Etter, and Sara Graffunder, the power and potential of lifelong learning and informal science education that is accessible to everyone is what inspires their generosity. *What inspires you?*

Sid Munson: A gift with the future of Minnesota in mind

Sid Munson is a lifelong learner, and the roots of his belief in the value of education run deep.

Sid's brother's gift to St. Olaf College created an endowed scholarship that makes a liberal arts education possible for students who might otherwise not have the opportunity. Sid, too, wants to make learning possible for those who face barriers to participating. He has included the Science Museum in his estate plan so that students in greater Minnesota will continue to have access to the museum's signature brand of hands-on STEM learning through its outreach programs.



"Because of my rural background, I was drawn to the program that provides transportation for statewide students," he says. "This program makes it possible for kids outside the Twin Cities to experience SMM."

A contributor since 2000, Sid has been lifted up by the energy of the museum, especially since his wife's passing. His legacy gift celebrates the spark of science learning and the possibilities that come with sharing it across Minnesota.



Tim and Chris Etter: Building up tomorrow's innovators

Tim and Chris Etter have been contributing to the Science Museum for decades, as well, and they share Sid Munson's passion for education and the ways the Science Museum can fulfill an important educational need in a less conventional way.

Through all of its work, the Science Museum strives to help its audiences see themselves in science. During a behind-the-scenes tour, the Etters witnessed that mission in action in a powerful way. "We saw students learning high-level science in such a fun way, and it really struck a chord with us," Chris remembers.

The Etters were impressed by the museum's efforts to break down barriers to success in science learning, and they share the museum's belief that meaningful science exploration today will build and support the innovators of tomorrow — the ones who will help us tackle important issues of our time like climate change and future of food, water, and energy. "We need to inspire kids to be critical thinkers and problem solvers and encourage them to keep moving forward in science," says Tim.

Their legacy gift will help the Science Museum provide the inspiration that will fuel science achievement for years to come.



Sara Graffunder: Decades of support as a team member and beyond

During Sara's long tenure at the Science Museum, first as director of the Adult Computer Education Center and then in various technology and education administration roles, she was deeply committed to her work and to the Science Museum's mission. She played a pivotal role in building successful partnerships, generating vital revenue, and streamlining systems to maximize the impact of the museum's work.

Her role as mentor was also of great importance to Sara. In addition to being a devoted grandmother, a talented artist who loved to embroider, and an avid gardener who was known for her homemade plum jam, Sara recognized the value of sharing her experience, expertise, and guidance. She was known for encouraging her teams to continue building skills to serve themselves and their community for years to come.

It is this belief in the power of lifelong learning that inspired Sara's legacy gift to the Science Museum. Her generous support positions the Science Museum to deliver programming that will help create the next generation of confident, critical thinkers who are equipped with the curiosity, knowledge, and skills to lead Minnesota boldly forward.

Including the Science Museum of Minnesota in your estate plan will ensure that our programs continue for future generations. Visit [smm.org/legacy-giving](https://www.smm.org/legacy-giving) to learn more about your giving options.

Ways to give

- **Gift in your will or living trust**
Include the Science Museum in your will or living trust. The donation is exempt from federal estate tax.
- **Retirement Assets**
Name the Science Museum as a beneficiary on an existing policy. The donation is exempt from federal estate tax and income tax and your heir will avoid income tax.
- **Life Insurance**
Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need. The donation is exempt from federal estate tax and current income deductions.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust**
Create a trust and enjoy payments now, while the balance eventually goes to the Science Museum. Immediate income tax deduction and removes taxable assets from estate.
- **Gift types reviewed by finance**
 - Bequest/blended gift
 - Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust
 - Lead Annuity Trust
 - Remainder Unitrust
 - Lead Unitrust
 - Pooled Income Fund
 - Retirement assets
 - Life Insurance Benefits
 - Publicly Traded Stock*Any other types are subject to review by SMM's finance team and operations based on gift type, amount, and use.*

**The Science Museum cannot render tax or legal advice. This information is subject to change.*

Your gift makes a lasting impact

Members of the Fibonacci Society:

- Provide long-term support that helps unlock the full potential of the Science Museum and the people it serves.
- Make an enduring impact that secures the museum's financial stability for generations to come.
- Leave a legacy that reflects their values by building up the next generations of scientists who will tackle the most pressing issues of our time.





Your legacy begins here

Including the Science Museum of Minnesota in your estate plan will ensure that our programs continue for future generations.

Visit smm.org/legacy-giving to learn more about your giving options.

☐ I have already included the Science Museum in my estate plans

☐ Please contact me to discuss how I can make a difference at the Science Museum with my estate plan

☐ Please send me additional information about making a planned gift to the Science Museum



Name_____

Telephone_____ Email_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____