



**Contact:**

Lisa Miner, Museum of Science and Industry, (773) 947-6005  
Beth Boston, Museum of Science and Industry, (773) 947-6003  
Brian Packer, Museum of Science and Industry, (773) 947-3133

**DID YOU KNOW ... ?**

- The Museum of Science and Industry is the largest science center in the Western Hemisphere and has nearly 400,000 square feet of exhibit space—making it larger than the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum! It was the first museum in North America to allow guests to touch and interact with exhibits.
- The Museum, which opened in 1933, is housed in the only remaining building from the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition. Designed as a temporary structure, the Museum was originally the Exposition’s Palace of Fine Arts and displayed works of art from around the world.
- The building’s dome is 120 feet high and is supported by four anchors weighing more than 500 tons.
- Among the Museum’s most popular exhibits and experiences are the *U-505 Submarine*, the only a German U-boat captured during World War II; *The Great Train Story*, a dynamic model train display that illustrates modern rail operation; *Coal Mine*, a reproduction of an Illinois coal mine that takes visitors 50 feet in a real hoist to the bottom of a mineshaft; *ToyMaker 3000*, a toy factory that uses real robots in the manufacturing process; *Take Flight*, which uses a real United Boeing 727 jet plane to explain commercial flight; and the Omnimax® Theater— Chicago’s only five-story, domed, wrap-around movie screen.
- The Museum was named one of the top 15 museums in the world in the millennium edition of *Life* magazine and was listed among the top 15 most visited museums in America according to ForbesTraveler.com. It is the only museum in Chicago and the only science center in the United States to earn this distinction.
- Hollywood movies *Flatliners* and *Chain Reaction* were filmed at the Museum.
- There are many famous guests among the more than 175 million people who have visited the Museum since 1933.
  - Queen Elizabeth of England visited the Museum in 1959 and saw herself on color TV for the first time in the RCA exhibit.
  - Walt Disney visited during the 1948-49 Chicago Railroad Fair to study the Museum’s exhibits in preparation for the construction of Disneyland.
  - Other notable visitors include President George W. Bush, then Senator Barack Obama, then first lady Hillary Clinton, acclaimed singer Josh Groban, director John Landis, actors Jennifer Aniston, Halle Berry, Harrison Ford, John Travolta, Michael J. Fox, Mel Gibson, Wesley Snipes, Kevin Kline and Dan Aykroyd; author Tom Clancy; talk-show host David Letterman; and even royalty—King Juan Carlos of Spain and Prince Charles.

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