



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

**Museum of Science and Industry
HISTORY AT A GLANCE**

On June 19, 2008, the Museum of Science and Industry celebrated 75 years of “inspiring the inventive genius” in our more than 175 million guests. We look forward many more years of creating memories and fostering a love of science for those who come through our doors.

Highlights from the Museum’s history include:

- 1893** The Palace of Fine Arts, the Museum’s current building, is constructed for the World’s Columbian Exposition, which opened the same year.
- 1911** Julius Rosenwald, a philanthropist and chairman of Sears, Roebuck and Company, visits Munich’s Deutsches Museum with his young son. The boy is captivated by the science museum where exhibits move, and visitors are encouraged to push buttons and work levers. The experience sparks the elder Rosenwald’s determination to bring such an institution to his hometown of Chicago.
- 1926** Rosenwald pledges \$3 million toward the creation of an industrial museum in Chicago and galvanizes the city’s industrial elite in support of the project. Rosenwald dreams that the new museum will inspire the inventive genius in its guests, encouraging the next generation of engineers, scientists and doctors.
- Rosenwald identifies the old Palace of Fine Arts building in Jackson Park as a home for the planned Museum. The years have reduced the Palace to crumbling plaster, but Rosenwald vows to return the building to its former glory. The South Park District passes a \$5 million bond issue for its restoration.
- 1933** On June 19, the Museum opens its great doors for the first time. It is the first museum in North America to feature interactive exhibits.
- One of the Museum’s first hands-on displays is *The Coal Mine*. The reproduction of an Illinois coal mine takes visitors 50 feet in a real hoist to the bottom of a mineshaft.
- 1942** The Museum opens its first *Christmas Around the World* celebration as a salute to the Allied nations in World War II.
- 1943** The 3,500-square-foot Sante Fe Model Railroad layout opens to explain the integration of the railroad with the country’s industry and agriculture. The exhibit is so popular, it remains at the Museum for the next 60 years, when *The Great Train Story* opens.
- Yesterday’s Main Street*, an exhibit that showcases what would have been like circa 1910, opens.
- 1949** *Colleen Moore’s Fairy Castle* becomes part of the Museum’s permanent collection.



- 1950** The Museum's giant *Heart* opens to guests.
- 1954** The U-505 Submarine arrives at the Museum. Guests are able to board the legendary German U-boat whose capture by the United States Navy helped the Allies win World War II. Today, this prized artifact is one of only five U-boats still in existence and the only one in the United States.
- 1956** The first baby chick is hatched at the Museum. Now located in the *Genetics: Decoding Life* exhibit, the *Baby Chick Hatchery* still excites and amazes guests.
- 1961** *Mathematica: A World of Numbers* opens. Charles and Ray Eames, two designers who constantly discovered new ways to fascinate the public, created the exhibit, which was filled with colorful, mesmerizing demonstrations.
- 1971** The Apollo 8 capsule arrives and becomes the centerpiece of a growing space exhibit at the Museum.
- 1986** The Henry Crown Space Center opens.
- 1994** The Museum lands a United Boeing 727 aircraft at Chicago's Meigs Field. The jet is the largest plane ever to land at the airport. From Meigs Field, the 727 is towed across Lake Michigan and over Lake Shore Drive to the Museum, where it is cantilevered to the east balcony as part of the permanent *Take Flight* exhibit. *Take Flight* explains commercial flight and allows guest to experience a simulated take off and landing.
- 1998** The Museum opens an underground parking garage. The construction allows the Museum to restore its magnificent front lawn, which had previously been a parking lot. The newly conserved *Pioneer Zephyr* also opens and is showcased in its new exhibit area next to the garage.
- 2000** The Museum opens the blockbuster *Titanic* exhibition and is the first institution to display artifacts from a recent dive to the legendary ship.
- 2002** *The Great Train Story*, a 3,500-square-foot model train exhibit that explores rail operations in America, opens. The permanent display replaces the beloved model railroad exhibit and features more than 30 trains racing along 1,400 feet of track on a cross-country trip between Chicago and Seattle.
- 2003** The Museum celebrates its 70th birthday. Today the institution is the largest science center in the Western Hemisphere, boasting 14 acres of hands-on fun and learning. More than 160 million guests have experienced cutting-edge Museum exhibits including *The Great Train Story*, *Genetics: Decoding Life* and *Networld*.
- The permanent exhibit and technological wonder *ToyMaker 3000* debuts, featuring an automated assembly line of 12 robots that make 300 toy tops an hour.
- Live...From the Heart debuts and gives Chicago students the chance to imagine themselves as cardiologists in training by participating in an open-heart surgery via video conference with Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Ill. The program provides students and teachers in grades 8-12 a dramatic exploration of the human heart.
- ASIMO (Advanced Step in Innovative MObility), the world's most advanced humanoid robot, was demonstrated for the first time in Chicago at the Museum.
- To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first flight, the Museum, Wright Redux Association (volunteer craftsmen from Chicago's suburbs) and Packer Engineering rebuilt the 1903 Wright Flyer - a 40-foot-wide biplane - and attempted to fly the plane on the Museum's front lawn. On September 20, more than 3,000 guests witnessed the first public attempt to fly the replica in the United

States. Lack of wind kept the plane from flying that day but the team successfully flew the plane on October 14 at Clow International Airport in Bolingbrook, IL. The replica is now part of the Museum's permanent collection.

2004 Chicago native and Nobel Laureate Dr. James Watson dedicated a DNA double-helix structure to the Museum's *Genetics: Decoding Life* exhibit on January 20. Watson frequently visited the Museum as a youth and would later change the world of science and medicine when he discovered DNA's double-helix structure in 1953.

In April, as part of the largest restoration effort in the Museum's history, the U-505 German submarine is moved almost 1,000 feet and lowered into its new home on the northeast side of the Museum.

Action! An Adventure in Moviemaking, a temporary exhibit developed by the Museum, opens in May. *Action!* takes visitors to behind the scenes of Hollywood to explore the process of filmmaking. Exhibit is the first venture for the Museum to rent/tour as a temporary show.

2005 In June, the new *U-505 Submarine* exhibit opens to the public. The Museum's prized vessel is now part of an indoor, 35,000-square-foot interactive exhibit that tells the story of its dramatic capture.

Gunther von Hagens' BODY WORLDS: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies, an exhibit that had awed more than 16 million people around the world with the complexity of the human body, makes its Midwest debut at the Museum in February.

2006 The Museum develops and opens *Leonardo da Vinci: Man, Inventor Genius* in April, 2006. This exhibit is the most comprehensive exhibit on Leonardo da Vinci to be presented in the United States.

2007 The Museum opens a renovated Transportation Gallery, which interprets the history of flight in a new, spectacular overhead display. *The Farm*, becomes *Farm Tech*, a modernized exhibit addressing current farming technologies and improvements, and the Henry Crown Space Center is renovated to include new exhibits, interactive units and displays on the history and future of space travel.

2008 The Museum's 75th Anniversary is celebrated throughout the year, with a special six-day celebration held in June. The landmark year is also heralded with original, world-premiere temporary exhibits including *The Glass Experience*, an exploration of the science and art behind glass and glassmaking; and *Smart Home: Green and Wired*, a three-story, eco-friendly exhibit home built on the Museum's property. In April, the Museum announces its \$205-million capital campaign, the largest since its inception, which will help create four iconic new exhibits and a wealth of education programs for its new Center for the Advancement of Science Education.

2009 The Museum hosts the world premiere of *Harry Potter: The Exhibition* from April through September. And *You! The Experience*, a 15,000-square-foot iconic permanent exhibit about human health and wellness, opens in October.

###