Our Mission
The Bakken Museum inspires a passion for innovation by exploring the potential for science, technology and the humanities to make the world a better place.

Our Vision
We will build a community at the intersection of science, technology, health and wellness, leveraging the past to inspire the next generation of innovators to transform the future.

Our Core Values
**Fun:** We nurture a creative and engaging atmosphere of curiosity, discovery and playfulness.

**Learn:** We promote the humanistic understanding of scientific experimentation and innovation.

**Inspire:** We foster a spirit of wonder, spark creative thinking and problem solving and galvanize support for the museum.

**Connect:** We unite science, history, and the arts, and link ideas, inventions and their implications, by bringing together diverse communities, organizations and individuals.

Through a unique partnership with the National Science Foundation and Arizona State University, and with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, The Bakken Museum had the opportunity to immerse visitors in the world of Mary Shelley. The exhibit development process included opportunities for high school students from The Blake School and Laura Jaffrey Academy to help inform exhibit content and the technical design of exhibit components.

This hands-on immersive exhibit engages visitors of all ages while asking important questions about science and ethics. Through her ground-breaking novel, Mary Shelley created the science fiction genre and inspired one Minnesotan, Earl Bakken, to change the bio-medical industry forever.
Message from leadership

Fun. Learn. Inspire. Connect. These are the core values of The Bakken Museum that shaped the experience of more than 35,000 people in 2016 onsite and through our community outreach programs. Whether it is a 4th grade student on a field trip or a visitor to one of our Evenings@TheBakken events, a trip to The Bakken Museum is sure to foster a spirit of wonder and an appreciation for the innovators who push the boundaries of science and technology.

With the generous support of our individual donors, partners and sponsors, The Bakken Museum was able to grow our impact in the Twin Cities community and beyond. We are proud to share highlights from the many of the projects and endeavors that took place in 2016. In the past 12 months our activities and hands-on programs continued to challenge our audience to be creative problem-solvers. In addition, we were delighted to introduce the world to our Mary and Her Monster exhibit while enhancing the overall visitor experience by investing in our facility’s amenities.

As we plan for our growth in the future, we must build upon our lessons from the past. Last year saw our staff carefully analyzing all aspects of our organization with the goal of creating the strategies that will guide us for the next five years. We are excited by our new mission and vision and the possibilities for the future.

The Bakken Museum staff and Board of Directors acknowledge the amazing people and partnerships that helped us along the way. We are grateful for your support and look forward to an exciting new year.

Michael Sanders
Executive Director

Brad Bakken
President
Board of Directors

Cole Hunter Schilling Memorial Scholarship established to increase access for kids in STEM classes and camps. Over the next 10 years the scholarship fund will impact the lives of more than 20 children.

Artifacts & Books from the vault on display

147 (of 2,300 artifacts and 11,000 volumes)

Board of Directors
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Lifelong Impact of our STEM Education Programs

“Going to The Bakken Museum as a kid helped stimulate my passion for science and problem solving. Getting older, I realized the opportunities for women in science. I would say The Bakken lead me to a science oriented field, but I discovered engineering much later when I was in college. I have been with The Bakken from 8 years old to 18 years old. Even when I was getting older, The Bakken was still fun and exciting for me to visit and volunteer at!”

– Isabel Johnson, past program participant / volunteer

Today, Isabel has a degree in Environmental Health Engineering and is doing amazing work to keep hazardous materials out of our oceans, lakes and streams.

“The Bakken Museum has helped me to pursue my passion for science, and has motivated me to continue to follow it. I have always had an interest in science and inventing, but The Bakken really helped to nourish it into a passion that I would continue to pursue.”

– Ben Lenington, past program participant

Ben is currently pursuing a degree in Computer Science at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

“It’s a great pleasure and honor to volunteer with The Bakken and share my love for science and exploration with the visitors and students. Technology and machinery is my joy, and I hope that a little bit of that enthusiasm rubs off on our guests. Since I’m an experimental physicist I have a great respect for the builders of all of these devices and experiments. Each exhibit shows a particular solution to a technical problem of its day. But even more it demonstrates a stepping stone in mankind’s progress in understanding how the world works. My big reward is seeing that flash of recognition when someone gets it, puts the concepts together, and understands a little bit more about their world.”

– Bob Hiller, volunteer
WHAT'S THIS YOU HEAR ABOUT A REBRAND?

For decades, The Bakken Museum has inspired imaginations and provoked curiosity. So we’ve set out to take these two ideas to a new level of innovative—bringing life science and health together with education. And fostering a museum that can live on for future generations. We’ll invite visitors young and old, near and far, science-inclined and not-so-much to stop by and let their imaginations run wild, if only for an afternoon.

STAY TUNED!
2016 Financial Summary

In 2016, we thank our corporate, foundation, individual donors and community partners for providing continued financial support that has allowed us to expand our STEM Education programs and visitorship to maximize the impact of The Bakken Museum in this community.

Total Revenue $1,297,265

Total Expenses $2,632,954

2016 revenue does not include in excess of $1.9 million in pledges received in 2015 designated for use in future years.

Audited financial reports for 2016 are available at thebakken.org/annualreport.
Thank you to our donors
The Bakken Museum greatly appreciates our donors for their generous support. This list recognizes gifts of $250 and above. If you have any questions about your current or past support contact Hannah Baines at 612-926-3978 ext. 215 or baines@thebakken.org.

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$5,000+ annual support

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