



museum of  
**science+industry**  
chicago

**Contacts:**

Marilyn Stein, Museum of Science and Industry, (773) 947-3133  
Beth Boston, Museum of Science and Industry, (773) 947-6003

**DID YOU KNOW ... ?**

- The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) 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!
- MSI, which opened in 1933, is housed in the only remaining building from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. The Museum's Beaux Arts building was originally the Exposition's Palace of Fine Arts and displayed works of art from around the world.
- For a short period of time in the early 1900s, the building was the home of the Field Museum of Natural History.
- The building's dome is 120 feet high and is supported by four anchors weighing more than 500 tons. Around the interior of the dome are written the following words: "Science discerns the laws of nature; Industry applies them to the needs of man."
- Across the interior balcony's frieze are written the names of famous scientists throughout history, including Galileo, Newton, Freud, Curie and Pasteur.
- MSI 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 was also named one of the "Seven Wonders of Chicago" by *Chicago Tribune* readers.
- Scenes from Hollywood movies *Flatliners*, *Chain Reaction* and *Damien: Omen II* were filmed at MSI.
- There are many famous guests among the more than 175 million people who have visited MSI 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, directors George Lucas and 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, Queen Elizabeth I and Prince Charles.

###