What’s New

Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light
Enjoy MSI’s one-of-a-kind seasonal displays throughout the Museum, featuring a majestic 45-foot Grand Tree in the Rotunda. On select days, take a photo with Santa in the Holiday Shop.
- Main Level 2
- Timed ticket required for Santa, available in the Entry Hall (subject to availability).

Take Flight
Imagine being a passenger on a 1960s flight, take behind-the-scenes journey from aircraft assembly to takeoff, and learn what happens to your body when you fly. • Balcony Level 3

Black Creativity: Architecture
From ancient Egyptian pyramids to modern skyscrapers, learn about Black architects and their influence on our past, present and future.
- Lower Level 1

Giants Dome Theater
A timet-entry ticket is required for films, which are subject to change. Enjoy a premium theater experience on our newly renovated five-story, domed wraparound screen.

Antarctica: Discover the farthest reaches of this wild and majestic continent and the weird and wonderful creatures that thrive there.
Show times: 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:10 p.m.

Dark Universe: Stunningly detailed scenes celebrate the pivotal discoveries that led us to greater knowledge of the universe and new frontiers for exploration.
Show times: 9:45 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 2:25 p.m., 4:20 p.m.*

Volcanoes: The Fires of Creation
Discover how the world we know and even life itself has been shaped by volcanic energy.
Show times: 12:30 p.m., 5 p.m.*
* CIRC is the Giant Dome Theater season sponsor.

On days when the Museum closes at 5:30 p.m.

Must See

We Can Beat the Pandemic Together.
Explore pandemics of the last 100 years and what we’ve learned to help us fight COVID-19, and discover what and why it takes to create a vaccine that will help end the pandemic. • Lower Level 1

VR Transporter
Be transported to outer space via VR goggles and exciting motion and 4-D effects. • Lower Level 1, Henry Crown Space Center
Tickets are required. Recommended for ages 13 and older. Under 13 must be 42” or taller and have guardian consent.

Live Science Experiences
Discover interactive science moments with our staff and volunteers throughout the Museum. Investigate the conditions needed to form a vortex, learn how the Tesla coil fires and more. Visit the Information Desk to see what’s offered. • Main Level 2

Balcony Drop
Experience energy transformation as we drop objects from our 25-foot-tall balcony. • Main Level 2

Wagner Family Fab Lab
Design and make a custom object in our state-of-the-art fabrication laboratory, where you can try 3D printing and other techniques. • Main Level 2
Ages 10 and up (ages 10-12 only with Fab Lab-ticketed chaperone age 18+). Timed-entry ticket required.

Dissect an Eye at MSI
Dissect a cow eyeball to explore how our own vision works in this hands-on laboratory experience. • Balcony Level 3, Education Labs
Recommended for ages 8 and up. Chaperones required for ages 16 and under. Timed-entry ticket required.

Extreme Ice
Discover the incredible photos and time-lapse videos of James Balog, a photographer whose work illustrates diminishing glaciers. • Main Level 2

Future Energy Chicago
Collaborate to design the most energy-efficient Chicago in the Simulation Lab. Available Thursday through Sunday. • Lower Level 1
Recommended for ages 7 and up. Timed-entry ticket required.

MSI Classics

Colleen Moore’s Fairy Castle
Experience the enchantment of a fairy’s dream home, featuring a collection of miniature treasures. • Lower Level 1

Swiss Jolly Bahn
Watch a massive mechanical pinball machine in action! • Lower Level 1

Science Storms
Investigate the science behind nature’s power as you understand the dynamics of a 40-foot storm, see an avalanche in motion, and more. • Main Level 2

Numbers In Nature: A Mirror Maze
Navigate a giant mirror maze and discover the mathematical patterns that abound in the natural world.
- Main Level 2
Free with timed-entry ticket available at exhibit entrance.

Genetics + Baby Chick Hatchery
Learn about DNA, discover what makes us unique and watch as baby chicks peek out of their shells. • Main Level 2

YOU! The Experience
See yourself in new and fascinating ways as you examine the connection between mind, body and spirit. • Balcony Level 3

MAP

Going Places

Explore the ways people have traveled the Earth by visiting these transportation-themed exhibits.

Pioneer Zephyr
At aboard the world’s most groundbreaking train! Explore a new story about one of the fastest trains in the world in a renovated exhibit showcasing its legacy and impact on the future of transportation. • Entry Hall

U-505 Submarine Exhibit
The world-famous U-505 is the centerpiece of an unforgettable exhibit. Experience the Battle of the Atlantic, the U-505’s dramatic story and more. • Lower Level 1

Transportation Gallery
Witness how humankind has flown, soared, sped and chugged throughout the years with this awe-inspiring collection of planes, trains and automobiles. • Main Level 2

The Great Train Story
Watch more than 20 trains race on a cross-country journey through realistic terrain and citiescapes. • Main Level 2

The Art of the Bicycle
Understand the design process as you examine rare historic bicycles alongside new high-tech bikes. • Main Level 2

Henry Crown Space Center
See the real Apollo 8 spacecraft and Apollo 11 training mock-up and learn about the future of space exploration. • Lower Level 1

Ships Gallery
Discover richly detailed dioramas as you sail through the maritime history of ship design and evolution. • Lower Level 1

Interactive Flight and Motion Simulators
Climb aboard and try your skills as a pilot or gunner in the flight simulator, or take an exciting virtual trip onboard a six-passage motion ride experience. • Balcony Level 3

Tickets are required, available at the simulators. Each rider must weigh less than 254 lbs and be 48” or taller.

Coming Soon

The Art of the Brick
Get inspired by the world’s largest display of LEGO® art! Opens Feb. 10, 2022.