



ABOUT THE TOY & MINIATURE MUSEUM

The Toy & Miniature Museum of Kansas City is a 38-room house of play ready for you to explore the largest collection of nostalgic toys, fine-scale miniatures and marbles in the Midwest. This specialty museum, located on UMKC's campus, is easily found near the Country Club Plaza, surrounded by other local destination points.

The young and young-at-heart will be whisked back in time through displays of the toys that defined generations. This magical journey through the evolution of childhood, also offers a glimpse into values and virtues of various cultures and times.

The Museum also houses the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures, sure to delight and capture the interest of visitors of all ages.

The Museum's mission is to educate, inspire and delight adults and children through their collection and preservation of toys and miniatures.

See 'collections' for a more extensive depiction of the items housed in the Museum.

Background

The Toy & Miniature Museum of Kansas City was born of a longtime friendship and shared love of collecting.

Mary Harris Francis, an avid collector of doll houses, and Barbara Marshall, who made her first of many miniature purchases in the 1950s, were often teased by Mary Harris' mother for having collections so large, they should start a museum...and that's exactly what they did.

In 1979, the women formed a not-for-profit corporation. Three years later, the Toy & Miniature Museum opened its doors.

From its humble beginnings as separate private collections, the museum now boasts the largest collection of toys and miniatures in the Midwest, the world's largest collection of marbles, a busy schedule of events and programming, and frequent special exhibits.

Historical Home

The Toy & Miniature Museum of Kansas City is located in an historic mansion built in 1911 for the family of Dr. Herbert Tureman, a prominent local physician. The Tureman house was designed John W. McKecknie, an architect best known for his work on commercial projects such as the Tension Envelope Building.

The home was bequeathed to the University of Missouri – Kansas City in the 1960s and was used as classroom and office space until it was leased to the Toy & Miniature Museum.

As the museum has grown in popularity, it also has grown in size. Major building renovation and expansion initiatives in 1989 and 2003 have brought the museum to its current size of 33,000 square feet.



WHAT YOU WILL SEE: COLLECTIONS AT A GLANCE

Toys

Timeless favorites such as dolls, dollhouses, trains, cars, soldiers and teddy bears fill the halls and rooms of the Museum. Every generation will discover a beloved toy that brings them back to the whimsical days of their childhood. Come find your favorite!

Miniatures

Our exquisite collection of fine-scale contemporary art miniatures will transport visitors through history and far-away lands. Perfect in scale, these miniatures are working reproductions of actual pieces crafted by highly skilled artisans. The collection features tiny versions of decorative artifacts adorning exquisite homes and palaces from various eras – past and present.

Artists, architects and home enthusiasts alike will be dazzled by the intricate craftsmanship showcased in the museum's world-class collection of fine-scale miniatures. Each miniature is a work of art, painting an elaborate picture of a time, place and way of life.

Marbles

The second floor of the Museum is home to the Marble Games and Gallery Room, filled with the colors, shapes and sounds of approximately one million marbles! This extensive marble collection was donated to the Toy & Miniature Museum by Cathy and Larry Svacina, who were collectors for years and decided to combine their collections once married. This collection is now one of the largest, widest-ranging marble collections in the world.

Visitors can try their hand at the game in a real marble ring, or become mesmerized by colorful marbles looping and winding through the intricate marble maze stationed in the middle of the room.



EXPLORING THE TOY & MINIATURE MUSEUM

Featuring 38 bustling rooms full of exciting and engaging collectibles, there are countless ways to explore inside the Museum walls. Discover things at your own pace and venture into each room on your own, or join parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren to have fun and learn together. There is something that every generation can appreciate and relate to that will feed the imagination. Use the Museum guide to aid your exploration and choose which of the 38 rooms you will start your journey in!

Ongoing Programming

Delving into the Museum's captivating collection certainly isn't the only way to have fun! Visitors can also take advantage of the Museum's regular programming, events and activities year round. Activities include seasonal, holiday, educational, or just plain fun events. Check out the web page for continuous updates on Museum activities.

Special Exhibits

At least twice a year the Toy & Miniature Museum holds a special exhibit complete with relevant programming. Here are some recent exhibits that captured audiences from all over Kansas City and beyond:

American Girl Exhibit : This one of a kind exhibit was created by the Toy & Miniature Museum in 2007 and witnessed thousands of girls from across the region. The main purpose of the program was to educate young women about history, by bringing it to life with stories that real American girls are part of and to which they can relate. Participants learned about their favorite American Girl with programs surrounding each beloved character. Educational programming included tea parties, garden parties and even an exciting silhouette workshop!

The Dangerous and Daring Exhibit : The Toy & Miniature Museum created this unique exhibit for the summer of 2008, inspired by the bestsellers *The Dangerous Book for Boys* and *The Daring Book for Girls*. This exhibit hopped, skipped and jumped through generations of kids having fun. What did they do? How did they play? Visitors discovered what seven generations of kids from ages 7 to 70 had to say. Visitors interacted, explored and shared in the fun as they realized everyone is a kid at heart!

World's Largest Marble Tournament: In 2008, The Toy & Miniature Museum broke the Guinness World Record for the World's Largest Marble Tournament with 668 participants. This event was held after a near victory in 2007, leaving no room for error this time around! Hundreds of students, scouts and families from across the city joined forces, scattered across marble rings filling the UMKC gym from wall to wall. Fun was had by all who participated and knuckled down to the winner's circle, and eventually, to the triumphant tournament winner!

Tours

Groups of 10 or more may schedule a 60-minute guided tour of museum highlights. Please contact the Museum for tour arrangements. Teachers, schools, cub scouts, and families have taken advantage of the tours for a personalized, educational and fun experience.

Admission

Adults: \$6

Seniors and Students: \$5

Children (5-12): \$4

Memberships- Purchase of a membership ensures special access and privileges to all regular museum activities and programming. Family packages available.



THE STORE

The Toy & Miniature Museum Store is filled with an assortment of unique items inspired by museum collections and featured special exhibits.

Remember the gyroscope, 15-puzzle, jacks, Tiddly Winks, marbles, and paper dolls? These nostalgic favorites are back...along with many more just like the originals!

Visitors looking for fun, creative and educational gifts are sure to find something special in the museum store that will help them remember their visit.

Take a Break from Technology for Some Timeless Fun

Nostalgic toys

- Shoot-a-loop, a marble game of skill
- A little Box of Marbles- retro graphics, includes Marbles, Cloth Marble Bag, and instructions for all the Traditional Marble Games
- Four Children's Card Games-Faithful reproduction of four classic card games from the 1950's and 60's
Old Maid, Animal Rummy, Hearts and Crazy Eights
- Fifteen Puzzle- reproduction of the original 1933 game called "The IMP"

Quilt related/inspired

- Punchneedle kits with various quilt patterns and borders. The craft of Punch needle is a Russian Folk Art and relates to our Russian Family Day as well
- Sterling Silver Quilt Square Charms and necklaces
- Glass Boxes with vintage look with quilt look designed stain glass
- The Quiltmakers Gift Book and The Quiltmakers Journey plus two other related books, beautifully illustrated with patterns for the quilts shown in the books.
- Transferware Glass vases as trays, beautiful collage designs with floral and fabric images

General merchandise

- Kimono ornaments
- Sea Shell handle magnifying glasses
- Marbles on letter opener handles
- Primitive framed punchneedle designs
- Primitive and fine china child size teaset



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What age group is the museum appropriate for/how old should my kids be to tour the museum?

While the museum is fun for kids of all ages, we recommend it for children five and older.

Who will enjoy the museum?

Everyone who ever was a kid or still has part of one on the inside

What are contemporary fine scale miniatures?

Our miniature collection features exact replicas of things you'd find in everyday life on a scale that is one inch to the foot. This means that they are 1/12th the normal size! What makes our collection contemporary is the fact that most of the pieces have been made in the last 50 years by artists who are still alive today.

What's the cost?

The easiest way to visit is by having a membership that grants unlimited visits and many special perks. Drop in anytime: Adults: \$6, Seniors and Students: \$5, Children (5-12): \$4. Programs and special events may have varied and individual charges, please check in advance. The museum accepts printed checks with proper identification, MasterCard and Visa.

How far in advance should I book a group tour?

We would appreciate you scheduling a group tour no less than two weeks in advance.

Is there parking at the museum?

Yes, the museum parking lot is in front of our building. It is free for museum visitors.

Can I take photos in the museum?

The museum does not allow photography for a number of reasons, but our primary concern is the potential damage it does to our collections.

Can I book a private event at the museum?

This depends on the availability of the museum and staff to support the event. If you are interested in talking with someone about booking a private event at the museum, please contact our operations manager, Sandi Russell.

Is the Museum handicap accessible?

Yes. 98 percent of the museum is wheelchair accessible. We have one small exhibit room that can only be entered by going down several stairs. We have an elevator to get to the second floor.

Is there a café at the museum?

The museum does not offer food service of any type. However, due to our close proximity to Brookside and the Plaza, there are a number of eating establishments close by. If you want to break for lunch and then come back to the museum, by all means do so! .

How is the museum funded?

The Toy & Miniature Museum is a private museum, supported entirely by funds received through admissions, membership, special event ticket sales, museum store revenue, contributions, and an endowment.

Can I donate?

There are many reasons you may want to donate objects. Most people place an importance on the objects they donate and want them preserved for the education of future generations.



Some factors to consider when thinking of donating objects:

- You must hold clear title to the object. If someone can dispute your ownership, they can dispute your right to donate the object.
- The museum will not accept donations with restrictions placed on them, such as the item must always be exhibited or the museum must accept another object as well.
- The museum practices *selective acquisition*. This means we accept only those objects that fit our mission, are in good condition, have potential for exhibition/ research and that we can take care of.

All potential donations are reviewed by a collections committee before being accepted into the museum collection. Mary Wheeler, Collections Coordinator, would be happy to speak with you further about your object and the donation process. She can be contacted by email at wheelerme@umkc.edu or phone at 816-333-9328.