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Museum logo and building renderings available upon request.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES REOPENS AUGUST 1
New Exhibits and Experiences After \$8 Million Renovation

February 23, 2015 (KANSAS CITY, MO) – The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures (T/m) will reopen on Saturday, August 1, 2015. New exhibits and interactive experiences will feature the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures and one of the nation's largest collections of antique toys.

The renovation, which included improvements to the museum's environmental conditions and visitor experience, was part of a \$10.2 million capital campaign. Thanks to the generosity of the local community, as well as regional and national donors, **the museum's first public capital campaign successfully concluded earlier this year with a total of \$10.73 million raised.** "We are overwhelmed by the support the Kansas City community has shown for every aspect of our project from monetary donations to donations of LEGOs, Happy Meal toys, and small action figures for a new toy sculpture," said T/m board chair Vincent Gauthier. "We are counting down the days until we get to share the results."

In T/m's lobby, visitors will be greeted by a two-story rotating sculpture comprised of small, donated playthings. The assemblage recreates bedtime stories, fairy tales, and imaginative play in whimsical scenes that envision how we once played with the toys. In a new introduction space, a short video will start visitors' journey through the art of the imagination.

Three new exhibitions will add to visitors' enjoyment of the fine-scale miniature collection. In *The Artist's Studio* visitors will enter a recreation of a fine-scale miniature artist's studio to discover how these detailed, diminutive works of art are constructed. A video interactive shows artists cutting dovetail joints smaller than the lead of a pencil, turning metal on a lathe, throwing a pot the size of a quarter on a wheel, and painting with egg tempera. The artists' tools and in-process pieces accompany the video.

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The second floor will feature four main antique toy exhibits in addition to areas devoted to optical toys, iconic toys, and dolls. *Toys From the Attic: Stories of American Childhood* provides a nostalgic look back at the nation's treasured toys, the personal stories of the children that played with them, and the history, culture, and values of the age in which they were played with. *Toys, Inc.* explores the business side of our playthings, including an interactive where visitors can x-ray some of their favorite toys.

T/m's updated floor plan includes two rotating exhibit spaces. The larger North Gallery will feature an illustration of America's love affair with automobiles both large and small. *Pedal to the Metal: Pedal Cars and American Car Culture* is an exploration of the history, design, and production of pedaled playthings. In the smaller South Gallery, *Messengers of Goodwill: The 1927 Japanese Friendship Doll Exchange* reunites four of the three-foot-tall dolls, and their accessories, that embarked on a diplomatic mission to soothe relations between Japan and the United States.

In preparation for the reopening, The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures launched a new website today at toyandminiaturemuseum.org. With support from the Victor E. Speas Foundation, Bank of America, trustee, the new website allows visitors to browse the collection, search for volunteer and internship opportunities, purchase museum memberships, and sign up for the museum's newsletter. Visit the website, follow the museum's blog Small Talk, and check in on Facebook and Pinterest for sneak peeks as the exhibits are fabricated and the objects are installed.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES

The National Museum of Toy and Miniatures educates, inspires, and delights adults and children through the museum's collection and preservation of toys and miniatures. Located on the University of Missouri - Kansas City campus, the museum exhibits the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures and one of the nation's largest collections of antique toys. The museum will reopen on August 1, 2015. For more information, call (816) 235-8000 or visit www.toyandminiaturemuseum.org.

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