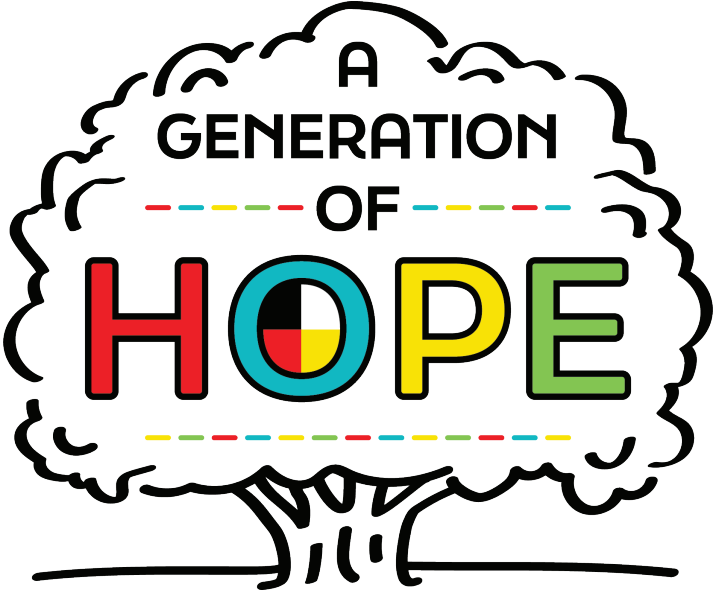
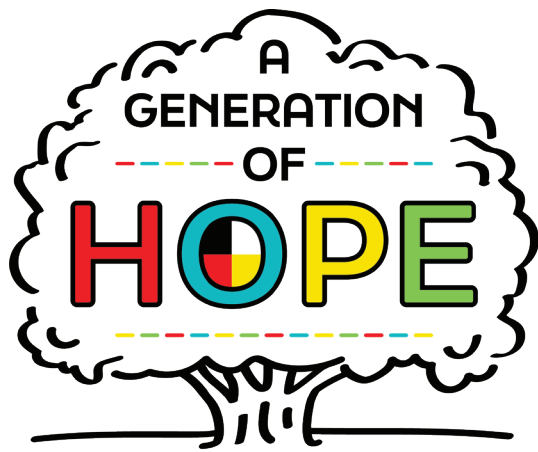


OMAHA  
childrens  
MUSEUM



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
OF THE HEARTLAND



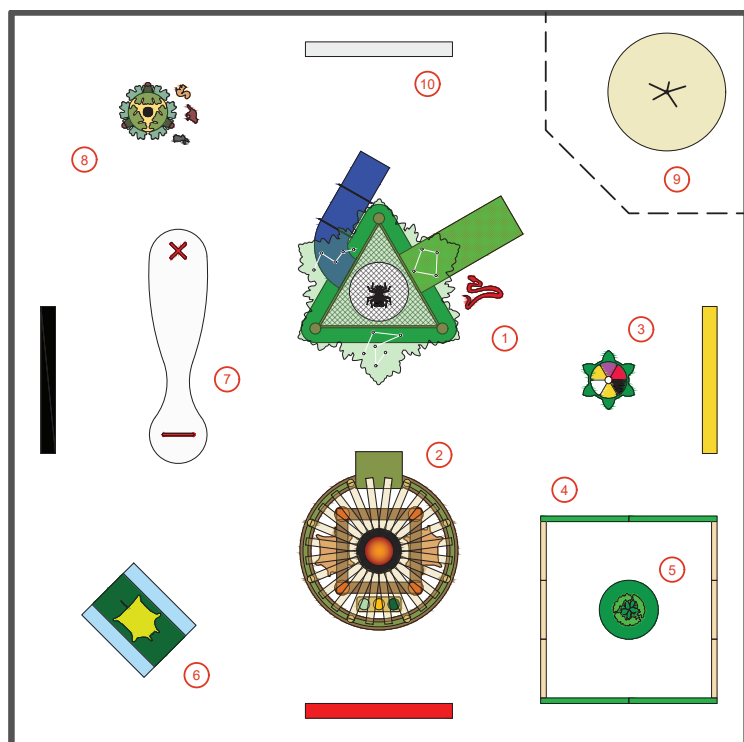
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
OF THE HEARTLAND

### EXHIBIT MISSION

To inspire children to create a future where diversity fuels the innovation that allows mankind to reach for the stars.

### EDUCATIONAL MISSION

- To demonstrate how science solves the problems of space travel
- To ignite innovative thinking through tinkering
- To inspire appreciation for teamwork and diversity



- 1 TREE OF LIFE CLIMBER
- 2 EARTH LODGE
- 3 RAINBOW CORN BUILDER
- 4 INDIGENOUS SCHOOL
- 5 LANGUAGE & ARTS KIOSK
- 6 WINTERCOUNT TABLE
- 7 WINTER GAMES
- 8 SACRED ANIMAL STORIES
- 9 TIPI
- 10 FOUR SEASONS GRAPHICS

## OMAHA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM PROVIDES:

Installation guidance, ongoing site support, education materials for school groups and families, print-ready photos and logos.

## MISSION:

To inspire children to create a future where diversity fuels the innovation that allows mankind to reach for the stars.

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- o To demonstrate how science solves the problems of space
- o The ignite innovative thinking through tinkering
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## AUDIENCE

Children up to 8 years old  
and their families

## SIZE

2,000 -2,500 square feet  
Minimum ceiling height 9 feet

## LOGISTICS

Install time 3 days

## PRICE

\$52,000



This exhibit is a celebration of the people who have called the midwest home for thousands of years. Learn about their culture and traditions throughout this interactive exhibit. Climb the Bur Oak Tree, visit a school, learn about the importance of storytelling and the significance of the winter count to that tradition, then create your own winter count. Explore traditional housing and imagine life in an earth lodge, tipi, and much more!

# EXHIBIT AREAS

## INDIGENOUS SCHOOL

Traditional education includes much more than reading, writing, and math. It includes traditional knowledge – their language and stories, harvesting and hunting food, and traditional art. In our school you'll find that knowledge under the large oak tree. Surrounding this knowledge is a typical school – history, geography, and language like you'd find in school today.



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## LANGUAGE & ARTS KIOSK



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## WINTERCOUNT TABLE

In indigenous cultures the recording keeping and storytelling is an oral tradition. Told from person to person by word of mouth, not in writing. The winter count helps keep those stories alive. You'll hear stories around this exhibit told in the oral tradition. Many of the Lakota and Dakota tribes in the northern regions of the heartland created winter counts to help record their story. In these tribes, the year was counted from the first snowfall of one year, to the first snowfall of the second year. Once the snow fell, the elders would meet and decide on the one big event of the year.



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## FOUR SEASONS GRAPHICS

Indigenous peoples relied on the resources made available by the land. The changing seasons, created a pattern of movement from one resource area to another, creating a cycle that was followed each year.



## TREE OF LIFE CLIMBER

Welcome to our Tree of Life Climber – a Burr Oak! The Burr Oak tree grows along rivers and streams throughout Nebraska. For thousands of years, the Burr Oak has provided food (acorns) for food, burn for warmth, and to build tools and homes, and more. The Oak tree also connects the upper realm (the sky) and the lower realm (underground) together. If you look down you will see our underwater serpent, the master of all creatures who live in the water. The thunderbird, on our slide, is the master of all that is in the air! Crawl up into the tree and listen to a story of the stars.

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## EARTH LODGE

Inside, you would find a central area for a fire. A small area is set aside for an altar, or small sacred area. In the outer ring, there were food storage chambers as well as sleeping areas and a place to store your tools, weapons, firewood, and other personal items. Who lives in an Earth Lodge? An extended family – like you, your parents, your cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. A village could have a few as a dozen Earth Lodges or more than a hundred. Sometimes a large fence was built all the way around all the village to help keep the people safe.

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## RAINBOW CORN BUILDER

Corn is the center of Indigenous people's food – not the bright yellow corn you see in the grocery store, but corn with kernels in various colors, reds, blues, blacks, and even whites. The corn plant is the center of the "Three Sisters," an important tradition in indigenous culture. "Three Sisters" is a traditional, symbiotic method to plant corn, squash, and beans. Each plant helps the other to grow. The squash plant spreads its leaves to keep animals from eating the corn and keep the soil moist, while the bean plant weaves its way around the corn stalk, working together to provide food for indigenous people throughout the winter.



## WINTER GAMES

Most traditional games are both fun and teach important life skills. They teach agility, strength, stamina, and more. Games fell into two types: chance or skill. Games of chance involved luck, like Bone sliders. Stand on the ice, opposite of the X. Hold a bone slider in your hand. Swing your arm back, and toss the slider forward towards the x on the ice. Each person takes turns tossing their sliders toward the x, the person with more sliders that stop on the x, win. Did you know..... traditional bone sliders were made from bison ribs, with eagle feathers attached to them.

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## SACRED ANIMAL STORIES

For many tribes, there are stories associated with animals. They may have special powers or be part of a tribes origin stories. We met with elders of several tribes and record them telling the stories of those animals. When the animal is placed on the sacred spot it will tell a story about the animal or play the sound the animal makes.

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## TIPI

Perhaps the most well-known “housing style” is the tipi, often found in central and western Nebraska. Each pole in a tipi holds a sacred significance to Indigenous People; many tribes in the heartland constructed theirs using twelve or thirteen poles. The tipi had the added benefit of portability. Tribes could travel with their tipis. The door always faces east. Some tribes would paint their tipi covers featuring geometric shapes, sacred animals, legends, or battle scenes.

