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THE WORKS IS MOVING TO BLOOMINGTON

Fast growing hands-on museum, currently located in Edina, is moving to a new larger facility in Bloomington.

EDINA, Minn. – July 15, 2011 – The Works, a rapidly growing educational non-profit known for unique kid-friendly activities in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) announces today that it is moving to a new, larger, and dedicated facility in the heart of Bloomington.

The new facility will enable more people to experience The Works unique hands-on activities that explore how things work and inspire an interest in engineering and innovation. The Works has grown dramatically over the past several years. Last year, The Works' attendance soared to 41,366. That is nearly 20% more than the previous year and nearly three-times the attendance of three years prior. The new facility is quadruple the size of the current site and can accommodate the organization's growing audience. The Works offers programs for families, school groups, and professional educators with an emphasis on hands-on activities for elementary school age children. The new site will serve as the flagship for The Works' outreach programs that brings hands-on engineering activities to schools throughout Minnesota.

Rebecca Schatz, The Works President and Founder states, "The Works' new site will allow everyone to experience the joy of building, designing, creating, and engineering. It will help us achieve our mission, to inspire the next generation of innovators, engineers, and creative problem solvers."

The Works began 16 years ago and has been in several temporary homes, including shopping centers and most recently the Edina Community Center which has been its home since 2002. To date, over 250,000 visitors have experienced the museum's "hands-on, minds-on" exhibits, workshops, summer camps, teacher trainings, and engineering events.

The Works' new address is 9740 Grand Ave, near the intersection of 98th and Lyndale, just east of 35W in Bloomington.

"The Works will be a wonderful addition to the Bloomington community", says Gene Winstead, mayor of Bloomington. "Kids today need these hands-on programs in science and engineering. The benefit to the community is huge. Today's kids are tomorrow's high tech workforce. I am personally very excited about The Works and what they do."

Visitors to The Works can program robots, build giant structures, make a race car, play a harp with "strings" of laser lights and even zip-up a 6 foot tall zipper. Every exhibit is interactive and designed to highlight how things work. The Works also offers workshops and camps where kids can explore a topic in depth and build their own project, often using real tools. The Works' programs

for school groups complement the Minnesota state science standards which now include engineering in every grade, starting in kindergarten.

To finance this major expansion, The Works is in a multi-year "Gearing Up" Capital Campaign. The organization is currently funded by an equal mix of contributions from corporations, foundations, and individuals and earned revenue from memberships, admissions, and workshop fees. Major corporate partners include 3M, Medtronic, Donaldson, Xcel Energy, Goodrich, and Boston Scientific. Additional funders of all types are needed for this project and are encouraged to contact The Works Director of Development Kris Best at 952-848-4846. Tax-deductible donations and family memberships can also be made online at www.theworks.org.

The Works will remain open at their current Edina facility until September 3rd while renovations begin at the new site. The new facility will open in November. Group Leaders will still be able to schedule workshops for early fall by contacting The Works scheduling desk at 952-848-4856 to book a visit at their location. More information about the added features of the new site will be released later this summer.

For more information, visit www.theworks.org or call 952-848-4848.

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Additional Images and Interviews are Available. Please contact
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Concept Drawing of The Works new site, supplied by Architectural Alliance. Below, kids enjoying The Works hands-on activities.

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