



Contact: Christina Kahler  
Director of Marketing & Public Relations  
Omaha Children's Museum  
(402) 930-2353  
[ckahler@ocm.org](mailto:ckahler@ocm.org)

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## **The Schoolchildren's Blizzard Exhibit to Open at Omaha Children's Museum January 10**

Omaha, NE – *The Schoolchildren's Blizzard*, an exhibit created by Omaha Children's Museum that focuses on the January 1888 Children's Blizzard, will be on display at the museum, 500 S. 20<sup>th</sup> Street, January 10 through March 22, 2009. *The Schoolchildren's Blizzard* exhibit will educate guests about the blizzard through history, art and science.

The exhibition features poetry by former U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser from his collection, *The Blizzard Voices*. The history highlighted in the exhibit centers on the art of storytelling and how oral history keeps stories alive from generation to generation. With multiple interactive panels, the exhibit displays the historic events of the blizzard of 1888 and teaches children how history can be a learning tool to help plan for the future.

"Children visiting the exhibit are amazed at how quickly the blizzard hit the Midwest and inspired by the story of the courageous teacher Minnie Mae Freeman," said Tom Simons, Omaha Children's Museum director of education & public programs. "*The Schoolchildren's Blizzard* is a unique hands-on experience that will bring history to life."

Children will also gain an understanding of how art can be an emotional outlet and can contribute to the exhibit by adding their own poetry and drawings to a Poetry Quilt that covers the façade of an exhibit wall. The exhibit highlights how art and beauty are inherent in snowflakes and visitors can explore some of the first snowflake photographs and create snowflakes with magnetic pieces.

Pacific Studio in Seattle designed and fabricated the exhibition. Educational consultant, Susan Guthrie, in partnership with Omaha Children's Museum director of education and programming, Tom Simons, researched and wrote the curriculum, which is in line with the museum's mission of "engaging imaginations and creating excitement about learning" and meets Nebraska education standards.

The creation of *The Schoolchildren's Blizzard* is part of an ongoing collaboration between Omaha Children's Museum and Opera Omaha. Opera Omaha premiered its original production *The Blizzard Voices* in September.

The Schoolchildren's Blizzard was generously supported by the Carmen and John Gottschalk Foundation, Richard Holland, Iowa West Foundation, Lincoln Financial Foundation, Nebraska Arts Council and Nebraska Humanities Council.

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### **About Omaha Children's Museum**

Since its inception in 1976, Omaha Children's Museum has been a special place where children can challenge themselves, discover how the world works and learn through play. The mission of Omaha Children's Museum is to engage the imagination and create excitement about learning. The museum's permanent exhibits are all new following a \$6.6 million renovation. In addition to its permanent exhibits, Omaha Children's Museum offers educational programs, traveling exhibitions, field trips, outreach programs, summer camps and early childhood programs.

For more information visit <http://www.ocm.org>

#### **Museum Hours:**

Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Monday and major holidays\*

\*open Monday on some school holidays

#### **Admission**

Members, Free

Children under 24 months, Free

Children ages 2-15, \$7

Adults ages 16-59, \$7

Seniors 60+, \$6

#### ***Headed to the White House Admission***

Members, Free

Children under 24 months, Free

Children ages 2-15, \$2

Adults ages 16-59, \$2

Seniors 60+, \$2