

Information and Application Form

Minnesota Children's Museum/American Library Association Traveling Exhibition

"Go Figure!"

(Postmark deadline: December 17, 1999)

The American Library Association (ALA), in cooperation with Minnesota Children's Museum (MCM), invites libraries to apply for the tour of a traveling exhibition for libraries called "Go Figure!" The traveling exhibition is based on a large, 1,200-square-foot interactive exhibition of the same name that opens at MCM in January 2000 and then travels to children's museums across the country. The National Science Foundation provided major funding for the exhibit, and additional support has been provided by Cargill and 3M.

"Go Figure!" includes an interactive exhibition as well as interpretive and educational materials that bring the exciting world of math and its everyday uses to children two to seven years old and their parents through children's literature. A few of the primary messages of the exhibit for parents and children are: "Math is more than numbers," "Math is everywhere," "Math is in books," and "I can help my child learn/do math."

The core of the exhibition will be large-scale representations of scenes from one or more children's books that feature basic math concepts within a story. A nearby parents' station will provide take-home materials and other helpful information on fun-filled and age-appropriate ways of helping children to recognize and use math concepts such as measuring, sorting, counting, and estimating in their everyday lives.

Five copies of the freestanding, 700-square-foot exhibition will each tour to 15 libraries in the U.S. between September 2000 and December 2002. Each library will have the exhibit for six weeks, with two weeks between venues for shipping and installation. A planning and training workshop presented by MCM and ALA will be held in St. Paul, Minn., in June, 2000, for one representative from each library on the tour.

Cargill and 3M will assist host sites in communities where they have operations and will encourage employee involvement.

Seventy-five libraries will be selected by the project Advisory Board as host libraries for the exhibition based upon the information submitted in the attached application. Selectors will be seeking:

- ◇ A commitment to reach out to underrepresented audiences--especially low-income urban and rural communities--by collaborating with community-based partners such as Head Start, literacy organizations, Boys and Girls Clubs, or other agencies, in developing public programs related to the exhibition. Support letters and evidence that resources and community support exist to successfully carry out programs are essential.
- ◇ A mix of library types and sizes and representation of varied geographic regions.

- ◇ Libraries with appropriate space for the exhibition (700 square feet). The exhibit should not be split up for display in different areas of the library.
- ◇ Libraries that can ensure they have personnel and time for:
 - 1) setting up an exhibition that has several parts and detailed set-up instructions;
 - 2) keeping track of small, replaceable exhibit pieces, e.g., plastic cookies that will be handled by children and their families.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Setting up the exhibition will involve lifting and carrying and the use of a screw gun and other tools, and it will be necessary for a staff member to gather up and inventory smaller components from around the exhibit area at the end of each day.

- ◇ Libraries with sufficient staff to offer at least a minimum security environment for the exhibition (definition of minimum security can be found under "Display the exhibition" below).
- ◇ Libraries in communities with 3M or Cargill facilities.

Libraries are required to:

- ◇ **Host an opening reception** for the exhibition, and plan and implement one or more public programs in collaboration with community-based organizations.
- ◇ **Display the exhibition** appropriately in a minimum-security environment. *Minimum security means that when the library is open to the public, the exhibition should be monitored by an authorized library staff member as frequently as is reasonable for the library, but at least every half-hour during peak use times, and hourly at less busy times.*
- ◇ **Charge no fees** to view the exhibition.
- ◇ **Provide timely reports:** program announcements, exhibition condition report, and a final report on programs, publicity, audience figures and sources for any locally raised funds.
- ◇ **Commit a staff member** to coordinate the exhibition and to attend the planning seminar.

Libraries selected as hosts will receive:

- ◇ **The traveling exhibition for a six-week loan period**--The exhibition is composed of various sizes of panels that will form scenes from one or more children's books and several activity stations.
- ◇ **Banners**--Two 2-color banners accompany each copy of the exhibition. The banners may be used inside or outside the library.
- ◇ **Brochures**--Brochures summarize the exhibition in selected illustrations and text and include a brief bibliography.

- ◇ **Posters**--Each library will receive colorful posters to promote the exhibition.
- ◇ **Exhibition component shipping and insurance**--Costs are covered by the project grant.
- ◇ **Site Support Notebook**--A comprehensive guide to planning for and presenting the exhibition, the notebook contains a press kit (publicity photos, sample press release and TV and radio announcement copy); logo and camera-ready art for local printed materials (invitations, flyers, etc.); shipping and installation instructions; suggestions for programming and more.
- ◇ **Basic travel and subsistence expenses** for one staff member to attend the project planning and training seminar.

APPLICATION FORM ATTACHED

APPLICATION COVER SHEET
POSTMARK DEADLINE: December 17, 1999

"Go Figure" Traveling Library Exhibition

Library Coordinator:

Name: (First, Middle, Last)

Title: _____

Place of employment :

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

FAX: _____ Toll Free #: _____

E-mail: _____ ALA member #: _____

Library home page: <http://www.>_____

Size of library's service population: _____

Please sign below if the library is prepared to fulfill all stated requirements for successful coordination of "Go Figure!"

Library Coordinator (print name) Signature Date

Library Director (print name) Signature Date

Please attach this cover sheet to your application and return the original and five copies, **postmarked by December 17, 1999** (no faxes, please) to:

"Go Figure" Applications
American Library Association
Public Programs Office
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

Please use no more than four pages to respond to the following questions. Number your responses to correspond to the questions or repeat the questions. Attach the application cover sheet to your responses before submission.

1. Why would your library like to display "Go Figure"? Please describe library programs and interests related to the exhibition.
2. Libraries displaying "Go Figure" must commit themselves to an opening reception and at least one public program done in collaboration with a community-based organization and designed to reach low-income family audiences. How will your library fulfill this commitment? Please be specific about your programming ideas. Letters of intent from groups you plan to work with are encouraged.
3. How will you determine if your goal of reaching low-income audiences has been achieved?
4. Describe the space your library has available for exhibitions. "Go Figure" will require approximately 700 square feet of floor space. If possible, include a floor plan of your exhibition space.
5. What is the scope of your current (i.e., within the past year) family programming, including type and frequency (e.g., story hour weekly, monthly child development speaker). Have you sponsored any programs focused on math?
6. Has your library participated in or will it participate in any other ALA traveling exhibitions? If so, please list title and dates of display.
7. Libraries will have the exhibition for six weeks. Are there any dates between September 2000 and December 2002 that you would prefer to display the exhibition, or cannot display the exhibition? We will try to accommodate your requests, but **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE REQUESTED DATES.**
8. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

THANK YOU!