

# Commitment to Distinction

## COMMITMENT TO DISTINCTION

In 1975 we launched the Commitment to Distinction program to provide funds for operations and necessary capital improvements over a five-year period. We began well with gifts to this program totalling more than \$1.7 million by the end of 1976 and our initial success has continued. Most significantly during this period, we received three-year challenge grant awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. These grants total \$1.5 million. This sum is the largest granted to any museum in the country by the two endowments' combined grants — an amount awarded to a very limited number of the nation's major museums. At the end of 1978, the Museum had successfully met the matching requirements for the first and second years of the grants. Commitment to Distinction funds have already

been used to close the income gaps for 1976-1978. In 1978 this program was re-evaluated by the Board of Trustees — as it will be every two years — and was updated to 1982 with a goal of \$13.3 million.

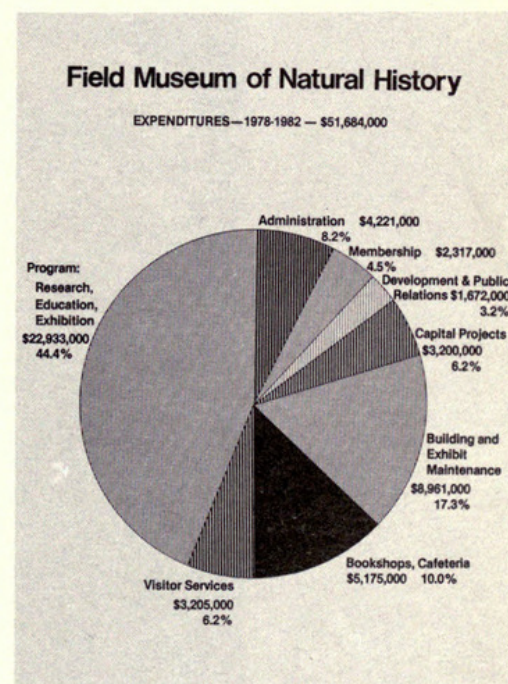
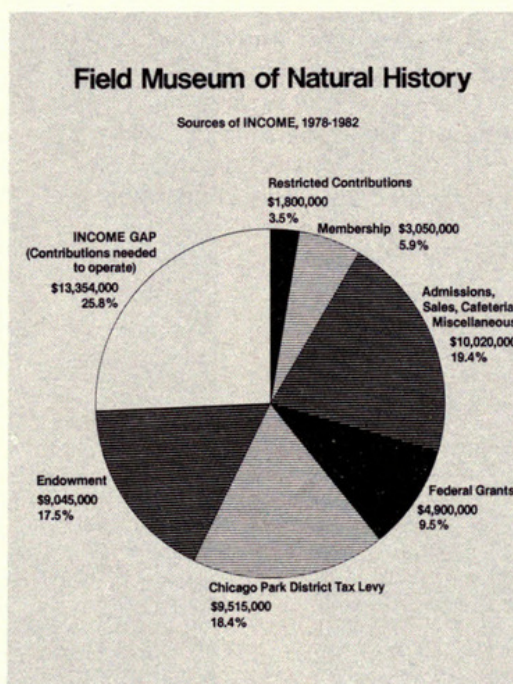
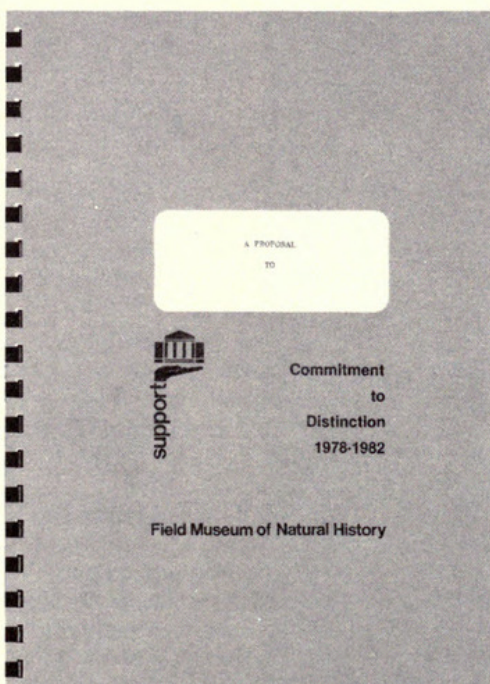
During 1977-1978 contributions to the program and for other Museum purposes totalled \$2,905,868 from individuals and \$2,034,448 from corporations and foundations for a total of \$4,940,316. This remarkable sum came from the more than 4,500 individuals and 500 corporations and foundations who are currently contributing to the Museum over and above membership dues. It is these donors who, together with government and the users of the Museum, keep Field Museum the strong and dynamic institution that it is. Particularly generous donors during the biennium were:

*Benefactors:* Helen L. Kellogg (bequest), Mr. and Mrs. Ray A. Kroc, Ellen Thorne Smith (bequest), Harold E. Stuart Trust, Amoco Foundation, Field Enterprises Charitable Corporation, The Joyce Foundation, Robert R. McCormick Charitable Trust, and the Woods Charitable Trust.

*Major Donors:* Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Cherry, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene A. Davidson (Sterling Morton Charitable Trust), Mr. and Mrs. Joseph N. Field, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Leslie, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Runnells, Commonwealth Edison Company, Continental Bank Foundation, The Chicago Community Trust, International Harvester, The Walter E. Heller Foundation, The Nalco Foundation, The Dr. Scholl Foundation, Sears, Roebuck & Company, The Frederick Henry Prince Trust, and Arthur Young & Company.

*Upper left:* Planning and Development Officer Thomas Sanders (right) reviews Commitment to Distinction progress with associate Clifford Buzard. (Fleur Hales photo) *Upper right:* Museum President-Director E.L. Webber (left) accepts the Xerox Corporation's contribution to the Commitment to Distinction from Marc T. Eisner. *Lower left:* Commitment to Distinction proposal. *Lower center and right:* Graphs depicting Museum income and expenditures for 1978-1982.









1979. "Commitment to Distinction." *Field Museum of Natural History bulletin* 50(7), 16–17.

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