Goldstein Museum of Design receives National Endowment for Humanities Grant

The Goldstein Museum of Design, part of the University of Minnesota’s College of Design, is the recipient of a Preservation Assistance Grant for Small Museums from the National Endowment for the Humanities. *Preserving the Goldstein Sister’s Legacy: A General Collections Assessment* will provide funds for a preservation consultant from the Midwest Arts Conservation Center of Minneapolis to conduct a thorough preservation assessment of the Museum’s historically significant design collection. The final report will include a survey of the storage environment, safety, staff training, and collection use and will provide recommendations and priorities for immediate and long-term preservation. It will facilitate developing a long-range preservation plan including future conservation projects.

At the core of Museum’s 25,000 piece collection are the personal holdings of the sisters Harriet and Vetta Goldstein, instructors at the University of Minnesota from the 1910s through the 1940s. Believing in the importance of objects to teaching design, the sisters acquired well-designed objects from the many countries they visited. Currently, over 6,000 students, scholars, and collectors visit the Museum annually and view collection objects. Collection items are also actively borrowed nationally for museum exhibitions. From its origins as examples of good design, the collection has grown to include:

**Costume:** the largest segment with over 18,000 items and the most often researched and published. It consists of items of historical, contemporary, and ethnic dress dating from 1760 to the present, from designer fashion to street dress. The size and scope of the collection provide a key resource for understanding local, national, and international apparel.

**Decorative Arts:** approximately 1,800 artifacts of ceramics, metal, glass, stone, porcelain, and basketry, including artifacts from the Goldstein sisters. This segment broadly represents historic and contemporary household and studio craft.

**Textiles:** approximately 6,000 artifacts represent both flat textiles and home furnishings. Rugs, carpets, draperies and linens represent European, American, Native American, and African, Latin American, Middle Eastern, South Central Asian, Far Eastern, and Scandinavian traditions.

**Graphic Design:** stresses the 20th century development of graphic design as a profession and includes complete sets of the publications Émigré, Octavo, and Fuse. This segment reflects the history of contemporary graphic exploration.

The Goldstein Museum of Design is funded by the Minnesota State Arts Board in cooperation with the Minnesota State Legislature, the Friends of the Goldstein, the College of Design, and the University of Minnesota.