“An absolute poetic experience that reminds us of nature and the power of the universe.”

RICHARD BLANCO, AMERICAN POET
We love Maine. Back in the 70’s we bought our first small parcel of land and built a home in Albany Township. Our deep respect for Maine’s landscape combined with our passion for land conservation led us to eventually conserve 11,000 acres in Western Maine. To our surprise, it included a prospect mine. We instantly became absorbed in the fascinating story of Maine mining and were astonished by the breathtaking minerals and gems discovered. In a desire to preserve its unique history, we acquired the Bumpus Mine—where giant beryl crystals were found in the 1920’s. Over the years, we organized field trips for thousands of school children to visit the mine and one thing led to another…

We are about to open what will be Maine’s most interactive science museum, something we’d never imagined doing. Our original vision to display Maine minerals in a modest addition at a local historical society has evolved into a fully dedicated 14,000 sq. ft. facility on Main Street in Bethel. We saw an opportunity to preserve a part of Maine’s past and protect it for the future, and we added a world-class collection of meteorites to inspire a greater sense of wonder still.

The Maine Mineral & Gem Museum celebrates the perseverance of many: the miners who made the first discoveries and those pursuing the next big find; the rock hounds whose curiosity keeps them digging; the lapidaries who transform “rough” into stunning cuts; the educators who make science fun and the scientists whose research has led the way. This is their story.

Creating the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum has been both inspiring and humbling. We are deeply honored to share it with the good people of Maine and beyond. We hope you enjoy the MMGM, and if you do, please consider joining the Museum and help secure this treasure for future generations. Thank you.
A skillfully curated collection of 30,000 rocks, minerals and fossils spanning the globe are at the MMGM’s core. With the support of our comprehensive library and archives, we create exhibitions, publications, research and educational programs for the most discriminating adults—and children!

Our collection of Maine minerals and gems is the largest ever assembled—and it is still growing. Our permanent exhibition contains thousands of objects celebrating Maine’s distinguished gem and mineral history.
Meteorites are extraterrestrial rocks that impact Earth. Some are older than Earth itself, some originate from the Moon and Mars, others contain amino acids—the building blocks of life—and then there are those that contain extraterrestrial gems. Stunning examples of all of these varieties and more are on display at the MMGM.

Meteorites are fundamental to our understanding the origin of our Solar System as well as other solar systems in our galaxy. The MMGM will house and exhibit one of the world's most preeminent collections of rocks from space, the Stifler Collection of Meteorites, which features the largest piece of the Moon on Earth.
Science and natural history are the bedrock of our educational programs. The MMGM delivers hands-on and experiential programming with an emphasis on STEM learning standards. Internship opportunities are also available.

Museums are valued in part for the immersive educational experience they provide. Whether a student learns by sight, sound or touch—and whatever his or her interests—the MMGM’s creatively designed exhibits will spark curiosity and inspire notions of new possibilities.

“The opportunities the MMGM offers to students are out of this world. Their resources are unlike anything else and their staff continually inspires our students.”

DEB WEBSTER, EDUCATOR, THE EDDY SCHOOL

Research is fundamental to the MMGM’s mission. Eminent researchers are now utilizing MMGM’s laboratory in multiple ongoing studies—from exploring the mineralogy of meteorites to identifying the composition of minerals and gems from Maine’s renowned pegmatites.

One of the world’s foremost experts in pegmatites and author of hundreds of scientific papers, Dr. William Simmons is the MMGM’s chief research scientist. His team collaborates with academic and research institutions worldwide.

“Having a research facility in the heart of Maine’s pegmatite mining districts provides for an abundance of stimulating research projects and the opportunity to conduct research on material, from initial discovery to final scientific description and publication.”

DR. SKIP SIMMONS
Surrounded by wilderness and mountain peaks is the charming village of Bethel.

Western Maine, and Oxford County in particular, boasts a long history of mineral and gem discovery. Bethel is central to some of the area’s most historic mines and mining culture. The MMGM is prominently located on Main Street in this classic New England village where cultural and recreational opportunities abound throughout the seasons, including Sunday River—the second largest ski resort in Maine—which is minutes away.

“I am especially interested in having a museum of Oxford County minerals. If the specimens we are now finding could be preserved here in Oxford County, we would have something to be found nowhere else in the world.”

GEORGE HOWE, MINERALOGIST AND NATURALIST, 1948
Preserving Maine’s mining history as told by the families who lived it.

The history of Maine mineral mining is as colorful as the gems discovered. Recording and preserving the unique stories of Maine’s miners, lapidarists, retailers, researchers and educators creates a deeper, enduring understanding of the past. “Maine Voices” enliven the Museum’s galleries, weaving together narratives dating from the State’s earliest finds to current discoveries and future quests.
With the generous support of people like you, the MMGM will continue long into the future celebrating the past as it educates, entertains and inspires young people to consider paths never before imaginable.

Please consider becoming a member, or donate, or participate in one of the MMGM’s recognition opportunities. Your assistance will support our educational and research programs, expand our exhibitions and much more. While we are Maine’s foremost science museum, we aspire to be an internationally known institution located in Maine.

Visit our website for more information about our capital campaign. Our board and staff couldn’t be more excited about our new museum and we’re sure you will be too when you experience first-hand what the MMGM has to offer. Plan your visit soon. We look forward to meeting you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DONATE, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: MAINEMINERALMUSEUM.ORG OR CALL MMGM AT 207-824-3036

MMGM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent of IRS regulations.