

The Minnesota Streetcar Museum, Inc.
2330 West 42nd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55410

**IRS Form 1023
Application for Recognition of Exemption**

NARRATIVE

Part I Identification of Applicant

Item 7 Borenstein and McVeigh Law Office, LLC
 ATTN: Eve Borenstein, Esq.
 2836 Lyndale Ave S.
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

Part IV Narrative Description of your Activities

MISSION: To preserve and communicate to the public the experience of Minnesota's electric street and interurban railway history.

PURPOSE AND GOALS: The Minnesota Streetcar Museum operates the Como-Harriet Streetcar line at Lake Harriet in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the Excelsior Streetcar Line in Excelsior, Minnesota. The Museum's purposes and intent are to:

1. Educate the citizens of the Twin Cities metropolitan area and the state of Minnesota, and Museum members, volunteers and passengers about the history and historic significance of the electric street railway and public transit generally, and especially as they relate to Minnesota.
2. Preserve the methods and skills that were necessary to build and maintain electric street railways and public transit systems while authentically, economically, and safely interpreting, maintaining, operating and restoring the museum's streetcars and physical assets
3. Operate a historically correct, profitable, safe, well endowed, well maintained, and well run streetcar line at Lake Harriet in Minneapolis and at Excelsior on Lake Minnetonka.
4. Operate regularly scheduled, charter, special, and training streetcar operations.
5. Schedule special events on and off-site as appropriate to promote goodwill, membership, ridership, and volunteerism in the Linden Hills and Excelsior Communities and throughout the metropolitan area and the State.
6. Operate a variety of electric interurban and street railway equipment, including but not limited to streetcars Winona No. 10, Fargo and Moorhead Street Railway No. 28, Duluth Street Railway No. 78, Duluth Street Railway No. 265, Twin City Rapid Transit Company No. 322, Twin City Rapid Transit Company No. 1239 and Twin City Rapid Transit Company No. 1300.
7. Preserve and ultimately restore and operate a variety of electric interurban and street railway equipment representing the broad spectrum of electric railway vehicles that operated in Minnesota for the Twin City Rapid Transit Company and other Minnesota electric interurban or street railway companies. These cars include, but are not limited to: interurban coach Mesaba Railway No. 10; streetcars Winona No. 10, Fargo & Moorhead Street Railway No. 28, and Duluth Street Railway lightweight No. 304.

8. Acquire, catalog, display, and properly store additional artifacts that assist the Museum in developing and maintaining a collection that interprets and represents the broad spectrum of electric railway vehicles that operated in Minnesota for the Twin City Rapid Transit Company and other Minnesota electric traction operators.

9. Attract and maintain members and volunteers, including younger and more diverse persons, providing education, enjoyment, satisfaction and training.

MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS. The Museum’s two operating demonstration railways consist of one mile of railroad track at the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line in Minneapolis and one-half mile of railroad track at the Excelsior Streetcar Line in Excelsior, Minnesota. Restored historic Minnesota streetcars are operated at both demonstration railways.

The operating season at both sites generally begins in early May and concludes in late October of each year. At the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line, weekend operations are conducted throughout the operating season with daily (weeknight) service offered from late May to Labor Day. The Excelsior Streetcar Line operates on weekends only except for Thursday afternoons.

Volunteers perform all management, supervisory and administrative functions of the Museum. Streetcar operations are also done with all-volunteer crews. The Museum has no paid employees.

Streetcar operations allow the Museum to collect revenue to pay necessary operating and administrative costs such as insurance and utility expenses. After expenses are paid, excess revenue allows the Museum to maintain our historic streetcars, restore those streetcars awaiting restoration, create historic exhibits and displays and conduct educational programs.

The Museum is funded primarily from revenues realized from streetcar operations at both demonstration railways. Donations and membership dues from Museum members and the public account for approximately 15 percent of gross income.

Part V Compensation and Other Financial Arrangements With Your Officers, Directors, Trustees, Employees, and Independent Contractors

Item 5b The Museum’s governing Board has not yet approved the Museum’s Conflict of
Item 5c Interest policy. When the policy is approved it will be consistent with that found in appendix A of the instructions for IRS Form 1023.

Part VIII Your Specific Activities

Item 4b The Museum conducts an annual appeal fund raising drive to solicit donations from Museum members and friends. This annual appeal fund raising effort will be conducted primarily by direct mail sent to current Museum members, former members and past annual appeal donors. This direct mailing announcement will sometimes be followed-up by e-mail and telephone solicitations to selected members and past donors.

We will make directed solicitations to private foundations for specific projects such as public educational programs, development of historical exhibits and displays and for major capital projects such as streetcar restorations.

We intend to apply for government grants for major capital improvement projects when these grant programs are announced and if the Museum qualifies as an applicant.

We do not yet have a separate website. When one is established we intend to

	have a section in the website that will solicit donations to specific projects, especially a capital intensive project such as a streetcar restoration.
Item 4d	Throughout the state of Minnesota. Our members and friends reside throughout the entire Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area and in cities and towns throughout the state of Minnesota.
Item 10	<p>The Museum, in furtherance of its mission to educate the public and its members, intends to publish books, pamphlets or monographs on Minnesota's electric railway history and equipment on a periodic basis. The copyright to any published books, pamphlets or monographs will be retained by the Museum.</p> <p>The books, pamphlets or monographs will be sold primarily at the Museum's two operating sites and through local bookstores.</p> <p>The historical books, pamphlets or monographs will be sold to the public and to Museum members to cover the cost of publication. Whatever profit is realized from these sales will be used to further the mission and purposes of the Museum.</p>
Item 11	The Museum will occasionally receive donations of electric streetcar historic artifacts and equipment from Museum members and the public. These donations will be received unconditionally or they will not be accepted. Upon receipt of the artifact, the Museum will retain sole ownership and possession of the artifact and no agreements will be made with the donor.
Item 15	<p>The Museum operates its historic streetcars at two separate operating sites: The Como-Harriet Streetcar Line located in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and, the Excelsior Streetcar Line located in the city of Excelsior, Minnesota. The Museum's demonstration railway track is located on land that is leased from, or governed by, the following governmental entities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The City of Minneapolis, Minnesota ▪ Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board ▪ Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (Hennepin County, Minnesota) ▪ The City of Excelsior, Minnesota <p>We also maintain close working and collaborative relationships with the following related organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Association of Railway Museums ▪ Minnesota Historical Society ▪ Hennepin County Historical Society ▪ Edina Historical Society ▪ Linden Hills Historical Society ▪ Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society
