



Media Contacts:

Angie Gasset
Weber Shandwick
O : 952-346-6210
C : 612-669-6693

Carolyn Parsons
Weber Shandwick
O : 952-346-6318
C : 651-208-9931

CivicFest: Fun Facts

In a span of eight days the Minneapolis Convention Center will transform into CivicFest, a historical, educational and entertaining event featuring American democracy and Minnesota statehood. To make this happen:

- More than 10,000 labor hours are required to install and dismantle the event.
- In excess of 50 tractor trailers each traveling up to 1,500 miles will be used to haul exhibits to and from the Minneapolis Convention Center.
- There will be 800 theatrical lighting fixtures used to light CivicFest.
- More than 5 miles of cable will be installed – that’s nearly twice the distance around Lake Calhoun!
- A true civic event, more than 1,000 volunteers will dedicate roughly 15,000 hours to staff CivicFest.

Exhibit Fun Facts

- Since 1962, John and Jan Zweifel, and their family, have invested **several hundred thousand hours** and more than \$1 million in creating one of the world’s greatest miniature houses. The White House in Miniature is a one-foot-to-one-inch exact scale replica of the original, complete with tiny, working televisions, hand-carved chairs and tables and crystal chandeliers.
- Air Force One is the call sign – not the official name – of whichever aircraft the president is aboard. The title was established in 1953 after Eisenhower’s plane was confused with a commercial flight. Fortunately, Air Force One sounds more presidential than its predecessors, “Guess Where Two” and “Sacred Cow.”
- As featured in the “White House Pets and Animals” exhibit, there has been a pet at the White House during nearly every term – Martha Washington had a parrot, William Taft had a cow, Martin Van Buren briefly had tiger cubs and Calvin Coolidge had a donkey.
- “Harriet,” an eagle from the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minn., is featured on both *The Colbert Report* and Minnesota state license plates. Live eagles from the National Eagle Center and University of Minnesota Raptor Center will be on display at CivicFest, and attendees will have the opportunity to vote for the name of the National Eagle Center’s newest eagle.
- A 1903 circus vehicle that was used in several inaugural parades is traveling 230 miles from Circus World in Baraboo, Wis., to be showcased at CivicFest.
- As outlined in the “Forgotten Fathers” exhibit, some historians believe that the United States of America was formed not with the Constitution in 1787, but with the formation of the Continental Congress in 1744 or with the Articles of Confederation in 1781. So, depending on whom you ask, George Washington was not the first president, but the 11th or even the 15th.