

A New Chapter in Unisys' Story

UNISYS SHADOW BOXES FIND A HISTORIC HOME

If you ever paused in front of the wall-mounted shadow boxes that were in our former Unisys Eagan facility—marveling at the ingenuity, the milestones, and the people behind them—you saw they are more than displays. They are our collective memory in three dimensions. Read on for an update that ensures our story lives on for generations to come.

PRESERVING A LEGACY, TOGETHER

Back in 2005, members of the Minnesota-based [Unisys VIP Club](#) formed the IT Legacy Committee with a clear purpose: to preserve the history of our computer system technologies. Since then, the Committee has captured five decades of innovation, beginning in the 1950s, in a remarkable series of twenty-three shadow boxes. The collection of displays tells a story: the ideas sparked, the breakthroughs achieved, and the impact our work had across the industry.

One seven-box set spotlights the Twin Cities Sperry-UNIVAC era—the local computer and semiconductor development achievements—covering the seven years leading up to the 1986 Burroughs buyout of Sperry. Another set traces the unfolding sequence of the Unisys computer systems story into the 1990s, showing how each generation built on the vision and engineering of the last.

ARTIFACTS OF INNOVATION

Photos that tell the story from the 1103 system in 1953 to the IX5800 in 1996. Click an image to enlarge.



WHERE THEY ARE GOING—AND WHY THAT MATTERS

With the sale of the Unisys Eagan facility, the company looked for a permanent steward worthy of the collection's significance—and found it in the [Ramsey County Historical Society](#) (RCHS). We are proud to share that the shadow boxes have been donated to RCHS, ensuring that the Unisys heritage will be properly preserved and the historical value of this unique collection will be retained for the future.

This is more than a change of address. It is a commitment to education, community, and history. At RCHS, the shadow boxes will be cared for by museum professionals and made accessible to students, researchers, and the public—allowing new audiences to discover how those who came before us helped shape the trajectory of modern computing.

Thank you to the countless contributors who helped create, protect, and now pass along this legacy. Here's to honoring the past, inspiring the present, and encouraging the innovators of tomorrow.

