



# Smithsonian

Fiscal Year 2026

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Submitted to the Committees on Appropriations  
Congress of the United States

Smithsonian Institution

Fiscal Year 2026

*Budget Justification to Congress*

May 2025

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**SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION (SI)**  
**Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request to Congress**  
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**INTRODUCTION**

Our Shared Future.....	1
FY 2026 Budget Request Summary .....	3

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Overview .....	9
Summary Table with Program, Project, Activity (PPA) Detail .....	10

**MUSEUMS AND RESEARCH CENTERS**

Archives of American Art.....	11
Asian Pacific American Center .....	15
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage .....	17
Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum .....	21
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden .....	24
National Air and Space Museum.....	29
National Museum of African American History and Culture .....	35
National Museum of African Art.....	40
National Museum of American History, Behring Center .....	44
National Museum of the American Indian .....	48
National Museum of Asian Art.....	51
National Museum of Natural History.....	55
National Portrait Gallery .....	60
National Postal Museum .....	63
National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute.....	66
Smithsonian American Art Museum .....	71
Smithsonian American Women's History Museum.....	75
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory .....	79
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.....	86
Smithsonian Latino Center .....	89
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute .....	91

**MISSION ENABLING**

Administration .....	96
Communications .....	99
Facilities Maintenance.....	102
Facilities Operations, Security, and Support .....	104
Institution-wide Programs.....	107
Museum Conservation Institute.....	111
Museum Support Center .....	114
Office of the Chief Information Officer .....	116
Outreach .....	119
Smithsonian Exhibits.....	123
Smithsonian Libraries and Archives .....	125

**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Office of the Inspector General .....	128
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## **FACILITIES CAPITAL**

Overview .....	129
Summary Tables with Project Detail .....	131

### **Revitalization Projects**

National Museum of Natural History .....	134
National Museum of American History .....	138
National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute .....	145
National Air and Space Museum .....	152
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute .....	154
Suitland Collections Center .....	158
Quadrangle .....	162
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory .....	163
National Museum of the American Indian .....	164
Multiple Location Revitalization Projects .....	166
Construction Supervision and Administration .....	166

<b>Facilities Planning and Design .....</b>	<b>168</b>
---	------------

## **APPENDIX**

Organization Chart .....	169
Visitation Chart .....	170
Trust Funds Summary .....	171
Appropriation Language and Citations .....	173
No-Year Funding .....	184
Object-Class Breakout .....	184

TAB 1  
INTRODUCTION

## OUR SHARED FUTURE

Celebrating the country's 250th anniversary in 2026 is a remarkable milestone for the nation. It will also be a significant moment for the Smithsonian, a chance to look back at our history of giving back to the country and to glimpse into our future as a reservoir of knowledge anyone can dip into at any time, from any place. As Secretary of the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, I am excited about the opportunity to honor our nation by welcoming Americans and international visitors alike to explore all facets of our extraordinary and shared history.

Given the importance of the semiquincentennial, our budget prioritizes the visitor experience, particularly related to the museums on the National Mall. I would also like to emphasize our ongoing priority of facilities maintenance to help preserve our collections of historic artifacts, artworks, and scientific specimens. As we know from our current complex renovation projects, the Castle and the National Air and Space Museum, buildings have a limited time before they must be upgraded and improved for the public and for the protection of our collections, at ever-increasing cost. This is why approximately 55 percent of the FY 2026 funding within our Facilities Capital account request is dedicated to projects on the National Mall.

We are also emphasizing digital strategies throughout the Institution, integrating them across our museums and research centers to break down physical barriers and bring our world-renowned scholarship, research, and collections directly to the American public. Building digital capacity will allow our educational resources to be in every household, classroom, and community in the nation, one of my most fervent goals. We are also accelerating the effective and responsible use of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI). Balancing innovation with safety, security, and privacy will require a consistent focus moving forward. It will be a worthwhile and cost-effective investment.

I would humbly argue that the Smithsonian provides you with one of the most notable returns on investment in the federal sector. We increase our reach and impact by collaborating with other organizations, agencies, non-profits, and governments that share our mission and goals. We rely heavily on the generosity of donors and the public who value what we do and help support all our work. Our current national fundraising campaign, only the second such Institution-wide effort in the Smithsonian's history, is helping us reach our goals. The reality, however, is that donors tend to be attracted to museum openings and exhibitions, not the prosaic annual budgetary concerns of staffing, maintenance, and operations for which we depend on the federal government. For all our ancillary sources of funding, the U.S. Government remains our most valuable partner.

As we celebrate this milestone year for the nation, with the support of the Administration and Congress we will continue to build on our historic mission and achievements. We will reinvigorate our facilities from the 19th and 20th centuries and create new efforts and initiatives that embody the 21st century. We will take advantage

of technology and partnerships to reach more people than ever. In charting this course for the Smithsonian, we strengthen our shared future and prove that the Smithsonian matters today and tomorrow, in everyday life, and in every corner of the country.

Sincerely,

Lonnie G. Bunch III  
Secretary  
Smithsonian Institution



## SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FY 2026 BUDGET REQUEST SUMMARY

Account (\$000s)	FY 2024 Enacted		FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Request	
	FTE	\$	FTE	\$	FTE	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>1,090,500</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>1,090,500</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>959,300</b>
Salaries & Expenses	4,047	892,855	4,047	892,855	3,804	839,300
Facilities Capital	53	197,645	53	197,645	40	120,000

For fiscal year (FY) 2026, the Smithsonian's total request to fund essential operating expenses and the revitalization of the Institution's physical infrastructure is **\$959.3 million**. The total amount includes **\$839.3 million** for Salaries and Expenses (S&E) and **\$120.0 million** for the Facilities Capital account. A detailed summary of the request is presented on the following pages. Highlights of the FY 2026 request and the Smithsonian's plans include:

### **AMERICA 250**

The Smithsonian is the keeper of the nation's stories—a source of inspiration to visitors from the United States and around the world. As the country celebrates its 250th anniversary in 2026, every community across America will reflect upon the nation's founding ideals along with its innovation, creativity, and optimism for our shared future. With its iconic museums on and off the National Mall and vast reach across the United States, the Smithsonian is uniquely positioned to help mark this important milestone by bringing together people to reflect upon what it means to be an American and celebrate on a national stage.

### **Across the Smithsonian's Museums**

With the National Mall as one of the major anchors for America's celebration in 2026, the Smithsonian will activate its museums that serve millions of additional visitors to Washington, DC, as well as those who access the Smithsonian's content virtually. In addition to offering their core exhibitions – such the National Portrait Gallery's *America's Presidents* gallery and the National Museum of American History's *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *The First Ladies* exhibitions – Smithsonian museums will also present special exhibitions in FY 2026 including:

- *In Pursuit of Life, Liberty and Happiness* at the National Museum of American History spotlights 250 objects that reflect Americans' pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness across 250 years of American history.
- *Bison - Standing Strong* at the National Museum of Natural History explores the complex story of our national mammal.

- *American Stories, American Stamps* at the National Postal Museum showcases how stamps tell the stories that shape our collective identity as Americans.
- *State Fairs: Growing American Craft* at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery examines the role that state fairs have played on an individual, local, and national level.
- The National Air & Space Museum's multi-year renovation culminates in 2026 – its 50th anniversary – with the reopening of galleries highlighting American ingenuity.

## **Reopening the Smithsonian Castle and Arts + Industries Building**

The iconic Arts + Industries Building (AIB), the first building to serve as the U.S. National Museum, will reopen to the public during 2026. Together with the Smithsonian Castle – whose major renovations will be momentarily paused to allow for visitation – these buildings will offer visitors the opportunity to orient themselves to the many 250th anniversary offerings across the Smithsonian, to see additional displays and pop-up spaces, and to partake in events, food service, and a retail shop. Two special exhibits will also be on display: *American Aspirations* in the Castle, which will feature a selection of important objects from across the Smithsonian's collection, and *Voices and Votes: Exploring Democracy Across America*, which looks at the importance of individual voices and voting in our democracy.

## **A Festival of Festivals**

*Of the People: The Smithsonian's Festival of Festivals*, an expanded edition of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, will activate the National Mall for one month (June 18 – July 12, 2026). Showcasing festivals as powerful tools of civic engagement and cultural exchange, the Festival will collaborate with communities from around the United States to bring their local festivals to Washington, DC. Events on the National Mall will be amplified through a series of on-site workshops and by bringing Smithsonian programming to participant festivals. This special month-long celebration of American gatherings will actively invite people to remember, harmonize, move, and grow together.

## **Across the Country**

In partnership with organizations nationwide and working closely with more than 200 Smithsonian Affiliates, the Smithsonian also plans to reach households and classrooms across the nation during the semiquincentennial. Some of the national programs include:

- The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's *STARS* (Scientists Taking Astronomy to Rural Schools) program will offer students the opportunity to see the stars by placing telescopes in rural schools across the United States and sending Smithsonian astronomers to classrooms.

- *Democracy in Dialogue* is a vibrant civics-focused virtual exchange program that connects teens from different regions and backgrounds to explore, reflect, and share how their local communities have contributed to American democracy over the past 250 years.
- *Making History, Making Change*, organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service | Smithsonian Affiliations (SITES | Affiliations), will offer the nationwide lecture series at 25 Smithsonian Affiliate locations with a Smithsonian expert shedding new light on the nation's 250th anniversary.

## **PRIORITIZING THE NATIONAL MALL**

Given the iconic status of the National Mall, the FY 2026 request prioritizes support for the Smithsonian's landmark buildings on the grounds of the Mall. The FY 2026 request includes a \$9.2 million increase in funding for the Office of Protection Services to ensure an adequate response to security, safety, and emergency incidents and effectively sustain security for museum, public, and unit operations on the National Mall and elsewhere.

Funding in the Facilities Capital account also strongly prioritizes projects that address safety, security, and repairs at the museums on the National Mall. Approximately 55 percent of the FY 2026 funding within the Facilities Capital account is dedicated directly to projects on the National Mall, a major priority for the Institution and the Administration.

## **OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES**

President Trump's FY 2026 Discretionary Budget is committed to finding cost savings and identifying operational efficiencies throughout the federal government. Specific proposals included in the Smithsonian's FY 2026 request to achieve those goals include:

### **New Museums**

When Public Law (P.L.) 116-260 was enacted on December 27, 2020, it established both the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum (SAWHM) and the National Museum of the American Latino (NMAL) within the Smithsonian. The site selection process continues, with legislation currently pending in the House and Senate related to the use of sites on the National Mall for both museums.

The FY 2026 request includes a straight-line in funding for the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum at \$9.6 million. These funds will enable the Smithsonian to continue developing a women's history museum that documents the contributions women have made to the history of America.

The President's FY 2026 Budget does not fund the development of the National Museum of the American Latino. Instead, the request returns the Smithsonian to the integrated approach previously used to share the collections throughout the Institution that chronicle American Latino history and culture. That approach was led by the Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC), which promoted the Latino presence within the Smithsonian's collections, programs, and educational content. The FY 2026 request reestablishes the SLC with funding of \$5.8 million.

### **Anacostia Community Museum**

The President's FY 2026 Budget does not include any separate funding for the Anacostia Community Museum (ACM). Recognizing the successful launch, outreach, and local engagement of National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) since it opened in 2016, the FY 2026 Budget would transition ACM staff, archives, collections, and real property into NMAAHC. Integrating ACM into NMAAHC would streamline the Smithsonian's workforce and result in other operational efficiencies and cost reductions.

### **Scientific Research**

In line with other parts of the President's Budget, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) will streamline their operations and workforce and reduce activity on certain scientific initiatives. The FY 2026 request provides \$23.4 million for SAO and \$4.0 million for SERC.

### **Interdisciplinary Research Centers**

The FY 2026 request eliminates all four of the Smithsonian's interdisciplinary research centers (American Experience, Biodiversity, Universe, and World Cultures). In FY 2025, the Smithsonian reallocated funding from the Universe Center to SAO. Most of the World Cultures Center funding and the responsibility for overseeing the Smithsonian Cultural Resource Initiative (SCRI) was shifted to the Museum Conservation Institute (MCI).

### **Institution-wide Programs**

The FY 2026 request includes \$7.0 million for the Smithsonian's Institution-wide Programs. The request shifts the Information Resources Management (IRM) Pool funding, previously executed under Institution-wide Programs, to the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to support network operations and server administration across the Institution. The shift ensures greater operational efficiency. The FY 2026 request continues funding for the Digital Support Pool, Collections Care and Preservation Fund, and the Research Program Initiatives Pool and eliminates the Research Equipment Pool.

## **Smithsonian Libraries and Archives**

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives (SLA) is \$10.0 million. As part of this request, the Smithsonian is actively evaluating ways that we can update our library operations to reflect the changing use of physical and digital assets. In FY 2026, we plan to increase our use of technology, which will allow us to reduce SLA's funding, and the number of staff needed to perform its core library functions of reference and research services. Moving forward, SLA will continue to develop efficiencies and modernize library operations and its organizational structure to reduce future costs. We will continue to evaluate whether moving more library volumes to remote storage, where they can still be accessed by the public, is feasible.

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**TAB 2**  
**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

## SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Account (\$000s)	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
Salaries & Expenses	892,855	892,855	839,300

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request includes **\$839.3 million** for the Smithsonian's Salaries and Expenses (S&E) account. The account supports the Institution's operational requirements, including the federal salaries and benefits of the Smithsonian workforce; programming overseen by our museums, research centers, and offices; mission enabling activities devoted to the maintenance, security, cleaning and operations of our facilities, and centrally based administrative functions supporting our IT infrastructure, human resources, and procurement.

### Proposed Budget Restructuring

In recent years, the Explanatory Statement associated with each year's appropriation allocated the Smithsonian's S&E account funding across 39 different line items. The FY 2026 request is proposing to reduce and consolidate the number of line-items within the S&E account to three. They are:

- Museums and Research Centers
- Mission Enabling
- The Office of the Inspector General

The major reasons for this change include the relatively small size of the Smithsonian's S&E budget and our desire to strengthen management and operational efficiencies in execution of our federal funds. This change, reflected in the table on the following page, is consistent with the program, project, and activity (PPA) organization of other non-CFO Act agencies and will provide the Smithsonian with greater flexibility to reallocate resources where they are needed most. Reflecting our continuing commitment to transparency, subsequent sections provide the detailed funding plan for each of the Smithsonian's units within the new PPA structure.

### EXPLANATION OF CHANGE

The President's budget request includes the following major changes within the S&E account:

- Prioritizing the National Mall and maintaining the visitor's experience by limiting reductions to Mall-based museums and facilities operations and increasing security and utilities funding.



- Reestablishing the Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC) and eliminating funding for the development of the National Museum of the American Latino (NMAL).
- Integrating the Anacostia Community Museum (ACM) into the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).
- Streamlining the operations of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC).
- Eliminating the interdisciplinary research centers (American Experience, Biodiversity, Universe, and World Cultures).
- Reducing Institution-wide Program pools, to include the elimination of the Research Equipment Pool and the Information Resources Management Pool.
- Reducing the allocation for Smithsonian Libraries and Archives (SLA) through the increased use of technology and other operational efficiencies to further modernize library operations.
- Extracting operational efficiencies with commensurate funding reductions at most of the other museums, research centers, and offices.

**SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES  
FY 2026 Request**

Program, Project, Activity (\$000s)	FY 2024 Enacted (Revised)		FY 2026 Request	
	FTE	\$	FTE	\$
<b>SALARIES AND EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,047</b>	<b>892,855</b>	<b>3,804</b>	<b>839,300</b>
Museums and Research Centers	1,825	349,194	1,647	310,529
Mission Enabling	2,199	539,043	2,136	524,407
Office of the Inspector General	23	4,618	21	4,364

## ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN ART

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	14	2,128	1	758	14	2,302	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	12	1,873	1	725	19	3,005	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art (AAA) is \$1.9 million. Founded in 1954, AAA is the world's pre-eminent and most widely used resource for original papers and other primary records documenting the visual arts in the United States. By collecting, preserving, and making available more than 30 million unique letters, diaries, photographs, financial records, sketchbooks, scrapbooks, and the like, AAA embodies the Smithsonian's mission for "the increase and diffusion of knowledge."

During FY 2026, AAA will advance its planning for the 2026 commemorations on the National Mall. In alignment with the celebrations taking place across the nation to showcase the importance of American crafts and handiwork, AAA will develop an exhibition and online digital resource about the vitality of crafts in the United States.

To achieve the Institution's strategic initiative to ensure that every home and classroom has access to the Smithsonian's digital content, AAA continues its ambitious digitization program, established in 2005, to provide online access to a significant portion of its holdings. By digitizing entire archival collections and fulfilling digitization-on-demand requests from researchers, AAA will make hundreds of linear feet of material freely available and searchable online in FY 2026.

In addition, the Archives will continue to update its Collections Stewardship Plan, perform its cyclical inventories, and review its collections management plans and emergency preparedness plans to ensure the preservation and sustainability of its national collections for future generations. As part of this effort, AAA continues to decrease the backlog of unprocessed collections with a focused effort on audiovisual (AV) holdings.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

In FY 2026, AAA will be in the second year of its new strategic plan, centered on the priorities of building and caring for collections, enhancing access, engaging in outreach, and strengthening infrastructure to support the Smithsonian's overall Strategic Plan. In addition, AAA will be executing its long-term digital and communications strategies. The latter includes rebuilding the AAA's digital operations and strategy department, which will be led by the supervisory IT program manager, enabling the

Archives to deliver on the Smithsonian's promise to "ensure every home and classroom has access to the Smithsonian's digital content."

*Collecting:* In FY 2026, AAA will continue to expand its signature oral history program, the oldest and largest in the United States dedicated to the visual arts, while adopting new video technologies and increasing accessibility for the public. AAA will continue to work with its advisory board and others to collect the materials relating to those artists, collectors, arts organizations, and others who have shaped and defined the American visual experience.

In addition, the Archives will strengthen its collections stewardship through ongoing, comprehensive collections assessment surveys for manuscript collections, photographic materials, and at-risk AV and born-digital holdings. These surveys allow the Archives' staff to make informed, shared decisions about the best, most cost-effective way to allocate limited resources. AAA will also continue its leadership role in working with the larger Smithsonian archival community to initiate and implement Institution-wide collections assessment strategies and systems.

*Access:* AAA will contribute to the Institution's strategic initiative to be a trusted source of information through ongoing efforts to enhance collection records and finding aids as well as ongoing digitization to make it possible for everyone, from arts enthusiasts to professional researchers, to access the Archives' materials easily and readily. In FY 2026, with continuing support from the Terra Foundation for American Art, the Lichtenstein Foundation, and other funding streams in the private sector, AAA expects to add an estimated 150,000 digital-image files online. The Archives also plans to replace its aging Collections Information System (CIS) application to improve collections documentation and support increasingly complex workflows, including those relating to born-digital formats. Together, these efforts will enable AAA to track the life cycle of all materials from pre-acquisition to storage and access. In addition, the Archives will work with staff in the Office of the Chief Information Officer and the Office of Digital Transformation to leverage Smithsonian systems, including ArchivesSpace, the Smithsonian Online Virtual Archives, the Enterprise Digital Asset Network architecture, the Digital Asset Management System, the Smithsonian Transcription Center, and other digital initiatives and resources. AAA's overall goal is to improve the online presence of its materials, including search and discovery features.

Furthermore, in FY 2026, the Archives will process all new collections and at least 10 percent of AAA's current backlog, or about 1,000 linear feet of archival collections, resulting in new, fully searchable finding aids on AAA's website. Finding aids – descriptions or roadmaps of archival collections that allow users to understand what we have and how to request access, both in person and online -- will make public many previously hidden collections. System workflows will continue to integrate accelerated processing and preservation strategies to diminish the current backlog and prevent a new backlog.

AAA will continue to strengthen its capacity to acquire, preserve, describe, and make accessible a wide range of AV formats and at-risk digital formats, including born-digital materials. This will advance AAA's leadership in the field.

Additionally, in FY 2026, AAA will support researchers by providing access to its collections and microfilm in the Archives' Washington, DC research center, as well as other U.S. research centers. AAA staff will offer remote reference services through the Web-based "Ask Us" form, and continue to digitize legacy microfilm on demand, thereby expanding a new revenue stream.

*Outreach:* The Archives will also advance the Smithsonian's role as a trusted source of information via exhibitions. In the winter of 2026, AAA will open *Best Laid Plans: Unrealized Projects from the Archives of American Art*, which delves into the wealth of unrealized projects documented in the Archives' collections. These projects were previously planned but never completed and the exhibitions will shed light on the processes of creativity as well as little-known or unknown works by important artists and thinkers.

In FY 2026, the Archives will continue to strengthen its flagship publication, the *Archives of American Art Journal*. During the past 10 years, AAA has increased the number of outstanding submissions, raised its visibility, strengthened the Archives' relationship with the University of Chicago Press, and established more cost-effective, multi-year contracts for design and printing. An external review recently confirmed the positive directions taken by the journal and AAA will continue working with the University of Chicago Press to make improvements recommended through this process.

AAA aims to strengthen its education efforts, building on its legacy of internship experiences that have advanced professional excellence as well as its successful Teaching with Primary Sources pilot project. The Archives plans to explore avenues of collaboration in education along with other Smithsonian units, including contributions to the Institution's online Learning Lab.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support AAA's director's office. Donor/sponsor-designated funds support staff (salaries and benefits), including AAA's advancement office, as well as specific programs and projects, including exhibitions, internships, production of oral history interviews, collections and media processing, and publication of the *Archives of American Art Journal*.

Also, in FY 2026, the Archives will continue to develop strategies for strengthening its digital capacity, including plans to build on its ambitious and well-recognized digitization program supported by funding from the Terra Foundation for American Art and the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation. The Archives will continue to raise money from the private sector for born-digital collecting, processing, and preservation; career development; digitization; oral history projects; its flagship journal; collections

management; and general operating expenses. In addition, in FY 2026, the Archives will continue to seek funding for its programmatic activities in support of the Smithsonian's celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary.

In response to the Smithsonian's initiative to build and enrich a national culture of lifelong learning by engaging with educational systems nationwide, AAA aims to make its teaching with primary sources program — focused on making the Archive's digital resources available in undergraduate courses — a sustainable enterprise. AAA will also expand its internship opportunities to support up to five paid positions per year.

## ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN CENTER

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	7	2,560	1	204	1	730	0	14	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	6	1,920	4	647	0	94	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Center (APAC) is \$1.9 million. Established in 1997, APAC strives to ensure the comprehensive inclusion of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) across the Smithsonian's collections, research, exhibitions, and programs. Asian Americans are the fastest-growing major racial and ethnic group in the United States. More than 24 million American citizens trace their roots to more than 20 countries in East and Southeast Asia, as well as the Indian subcontinent. In less than 50 years, nearly one of every 10 people in the United States will have a heritage from the continent of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Given the importance and size of these demographics, it is important that AANHPI stories be shared to ensure a more accurate and compelling understanding of the United States and its people.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

APAC works across units to accelerate the collecting of objects that help the Smithsonian tell new AANHPI stories in existing spaces. These story arcs catalyze new conversations that enable more comprehensive narratives about the American Experience.

### ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN INITIATIVES POOL

The Asian Pacific American Initiatives Pool (APAIP) enables APAC, on behalf of the Smithsonian, to document the full spectrum of the American Experience by allocating funds to other Smithsonian units in support of research, exhibitions, educational programs, collections, digital and media projects, as well as partnerships with local and regional cultural organizations. Due to overall budget constraints, funding available for the APAIP in FY 2026 will be significantly lower than prior years.

Projects are selected on a competitive basis from proposals that demonstrate innovation and advancement of scholarship, cost-effective deployment of the pool funds, coordination with other Smithsonian resources, and successful fund raising from the private sector. Since its inception in FY 2016, the APAIP has funded 100 programs and projects across the Smithsonian and increased the AANHPI presence in the Institution's presentation of and research into the American Experience.

Additionally, APAIP has enabled the creation of positions at the Smithsonian that not only help to extend the APAC mission but establish a much-needed pipeline of museum professionals specializing in the art, history, and culture of AANHPI peoples and communities. In FY 2018, the APAIP supported the Smithsonian's first curator dedicated to preserving and exhibiting Asian Pacific American history at the National Museum of American History (NMAH). With the funding provided in FYs 2020 and 2022, the pool was able to support more projects and the hiring of two curatorial assistants — one at NMAH and the other at the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. In FY 2023, the APAIP assumed additional responsibility by supporting the Smithsonian's first curator of Native Hawaiian history and culture at the National Museum of the American Indian, a collections specialist on Asian Pacific art at the Archives of American Art, and a curatorial assistant at the Smithsonian American Art Museum to oversee the research, documentation, display, and acquisition of works by Asian Pacific American artists. All positions supported by the pool are for terms not to exceed four years. In FYs 2024 and 2025, APAIP worked with other Smithsonian units to highlight contemporary AANHPI artists through acquisitions and programming support.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support salary and benefit costs for the APAC director and other program-related costs. Donor/sponsor-designated funds support salaries and benefits for development staff; costs associated with reaching APAC's fundraising goals; training of future conservators; conservation of objects for exhibits and community loans; publications and special events for exhibition openings; and costs related to specific programs and projects.

## CENTER FOR FOLKLIFE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	20	4,058	10	1,811	4	1,136	0	341	0	4
FY 2026 REQUEST	17	3,571	8	1,367	25	20,000	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH) is \$3.6 million. The summer of 2026 will mark the semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Smithsonian and CFCH will celebrate this momentous occasion in American history by producing *Of the People: The Smithsonian Festival of Festivals* — both on and off the National Mall — in collaboration with cultural organizations throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. In addition to public workshops, performances, demonstrations, and conversations, the CFCH will host a series of meetings for festival-makers to exchange ideas and best practices, amplify the role of cultural events in civic life, and strengthen the ability of festivals to promote and sustain heritage practices and community engagement.

CFCH connects communities across cultures — cultivating curiosity, understanding, and belonging for all people. For more than five decades, the CFCH has accomplished this mission through many avenues: scholarly research; public presentations, including the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival; the widely distributed Smithsonian Folkways Recordings; publications which rely on documentation in the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections; and various other cultural heritage and sustainability projects.

The Center has also developed a robust website and digital outreach presence that reaches an audience of hundreds of millions. The CFCH collaborates with other Smithsonian museums, other federal partners, cultural and educational centers, and hundreds of organizations in the United States and around the globe.

The CFCH is recognized as a national and world leader in the cultural heritage field. The award-winning Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the Institution's largest and longest-running public program, is a model for presenting living, community-based cultural heritage in the United States and other nations. The CFCH has repeatedly produced large, public educational events similar to the Festival "back home" in many U.S. states, as well as for presidential inaugurations, the opening of national museums and monuments such as the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), the World War II Memorial, the Smithsonian's 150th anniversary, the bicentennial of the United States,



and the Olympics. The Festival also produced a series of events to support the re-opening of the Freer Sackler Galleries as the National Museum of Asian Art. In FY 2025, the Smithsonian will draw upon the CFCH's expertise to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in FY 2026.

The quality of CFCH products is widely recognized. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings has won 10 Grammy Awards for its productions, 11 lifetime Grammys for its key artists, three Grammy Hall of Fame awards, 30 additional Grammy nominations, one Latin Grammy, two Latin Grammy nominations, and 30 Independent Music Awards. (In 2024 alone, Folkways received four Grammy nominations.) Recognition of the CFCH's excellence includes Academy and Emmy Awards for documentary films and awards from various educational organizations. The CFCH staff have authored important books, been elected to national academies and designated as prestigious Fellows, led professional associations, and received top national and international honors in their fields. CFCH personnel lecture at universities and museums and annually mentor some 120 interns and Fellows from the United States and other nations.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

The CFCH accomplishes its mission through high-quality scholarship, educational productions, and project implementation involving Smithsonian and numerous external partners, including U.S. agencies, state cultural agencies, and international cultural organizations. Toward this end, federal appropriations provide base-level support for research and education, archival and collections care, and Festival production, while also leveraging considerable support from U.S. federal and state agencies, foreign nations, foundations, and philanthropic sources. The CFCH's collections support is vital for research and educational purposes. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings generates \$3 million annually in earned revenue to support 19 trust staff salaries and operations from the proceeds of distributing and licensing music in the collections. The Center annually leverages about three times its value in nonappropriated funds to reach an audience of more than 300 million a year, increasing public understanding of grassroots cultural traditions in the United States and abroad.

The CFCH's original signature production, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, takes place annually on the National Mall for two weeks around the July 4th holiday, in partnership with the National Park Service. The 2024 Festival was co-produced with the NMAI and featured living traditions from Native American, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native communities. This event marked the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Museum on the National Mall. At its core, the program honored contemporary and traditional creative expressions, celebrations, and community connections. Crossing regions, nations, and cultures, the Festival also made space for crucial conversations and new lines of dialogue, all while affirming the value and vitality of Indigenous cultures today and into the future.

In 2025, the Festival will feature a program entitled *Youth and the Future of Culture*. Today's world is shaped by the largest generation of young people in history, with about 42 percent of the global population under the age of 25. Cross-generational exchange has long been a hallmark of the CFCH's work; however, this is the first time an entire Festival will be dedicated to the experiences of young people. *Youth and the Future of Culture* will underscore how they influence and engage with cultural heritage, practices, and traditions. Programming will also demonstrate how young people create, innovate, and sustain community-based knowledge through music and dance, language and storytelling, foodways, and crafts. Significantly, the 2025 Festival will enable the CFCH to preview activities, individuals, and communities to be featured in 2026.

Meanwhile, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings — the Center's most broadly distributed signature product — has extended its impact with the continued success of several music boxed sets. The most elaborate was *The Smithsonian Anthology of Hip-Hop and Rap*, a major collaboration of Smithsonian Folkways with the NMAAHC and the hip-hop community, released in 2012. In 2023, Smithsonian Folkways and the National Museum of American History co-produced an award-winning, major boxed set of blues and other regional southern music, *Playing for the Man at the Door: Field Recordings from the Collection of Mack McCormick (1958–1971)*. These productions are on their way to becoming signature publications, setting the standard for the field, much like prior Smithsonian anthologies of jazz and folk music did. Releases in 2024 included Dan and Claudia Zanes' family album *Pieces of Home*, Ann Savoy's *Another Heart*, Charlie Parr's *Little Sun*, and the archival release of Bessie Jones and the Georgia Sea Island Singers, a new release from Washington, DC bluegrass legends The Seldom Scene, *Remains to Be Scene*, as well as reissues from children's artist Ella Jenkins.

Smithsonian Folkways releases expected in 2025 and 2026 include a box set marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Louisiana Zydeco legend Clifton Chenier, an exploration of Mahalia Jackson's gospel traditions with the Kronos Quartet, and a new project by former U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo and Grammy Award-winning jazz bassist Esperanza Spalding.

Folkways will also continue to extend its reach to millions more listeners, distributing 65,000 tracks of audio recordings to teachers, students, scholars, and the public via download and streaming services. In addition, the label will keep expanding its collaboration with private partners to deliver the entire Folkways collection to more than 560 libraries throughout the North American continent and beyond.

The CFCH's Smithsonian Folklife Festival Incubator, which shares resources from the Festival with peer festival organizers, will expand with partners in several U.S. territories.

By building on their research and community-responsive collaborations, CFCH curators and other staff will continue to publish books, articles, and digital features, as well as make professional presentations at gatherings of specialists. They also will

continue to serve in an advisory capacity for other Smithsonian units and external agencies and in leadership roles for academic and professional societies. For example, CFCH curators contributed to the traveling exhibition *World on the Move: 250,000 Years of Human Migration*, produced in collaboration with the American Anthropological Association, that will be mounted in libraries around the country with support from the American Library Association.

The Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections contain the written and audiovisual documentation of more than 50 years of Festival research and planning, the recordings of Folkways and 19 other record labels, and a rapidly expanding digital footprint. Its major accomplishments include the renovation of the Center's archives with expanded offsite storage and the re-housing of collections. Archives staff have enhanced the tracking of collections, increased digitization of audiovisual media, and processed additional materials from the Arhoolie Records collection and others. The Center will make these vast collections accessible to source communities and the public while ensuring their continued availability as a "working archive" for CFCH staff to use for ongoing productions.

In keeping with its decades of community-based consultation and collaboration, the Center is committed to continuing culturally respectful collections management in its Shared Stewardship of Collections Policy and contributed to the Secretary's call for an Institution-wide policy on Shared Stewardship and Ethical Returns. In addition, the CFCH provides programming for the Smithsonian Channel and regularly contributes stories to *Smithsonian* magazine.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support salaries and benefits for approximately one-quarter of the CFCH's full-time personnel, and revenues from Folkways Recordings pay more than one-third of all full-time staff salaries and expenses. Donor/sponsor-designated funds cover costs related to specific projects such as the programmatic components of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, some research efforts, and several other educational programs.

## COOPER HEWITT, SMITHSONIAN DESIGN MUSEUM

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	37	5,774	21	3,418	19	4,332	1	95	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	33	5,292	26	3,750	17	5,000	1	100	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum (CHSDM) is \$5.3 million. The Museum, which is located in New York City, is one of two Smithsonian museums outside Washington, DC. Unique among its peers at the Institution, CHSDM is the only national museum dedicated exclusively to historic and contemporary design. Its collection is international in scope and encompasses 215,000 objects, representing 30 centuries of design. The Museum presents compelling perspectives on the impact of design on daily life through educational programs, exhibitions, and publications.

As an influential design authority in the United States, CHSDM's programs and exhibitions demonstrate how design shapes culture and history — in the past, present, and future. The Museum will continue its dynamic exhibition programming and active roster of educational and public programs and events. These programs ensure CHSDM engages wide-ranging audiences and fulfills its mission to serve as a catalyst for design education throughout the nation.

The Museum also devotes resources to ensure the advancement of knowledge in the humanities by fostering a greater understanding of the role of design in everyday life and its impact on shaping the built environment of the past, present, and future; and to encourage the “by-products” of design thinking — such as creative problem solving and teamwork — in other disciplines and areas of life, through interactive, engaging, in-person and online experiences.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

In FY 2026, CHSDM will continue to transform the Museum visit from passive to participatory with the most innovative, educational, immersive, and interactive exhibitions for the public. The Museum will present *Design Across Time: Selections from the National Design Collection*, the first comprehensive survey of CHSDM's permanent collection in more than a decade. Using existing collection objects, visitors will gain understanding of the breadth of the national collection of design of the United States covering fields including graphic, product, digital design, fashion, jewelry, textiles, wallcoverings, and architecture. This two-year, permanent installation will give visitors a foundational understanding of design practice and provide the tools they need to engage meaningfully with objects during their visit. Throughout the run of the exhibition,

the Museum will host a variety of public programs with living designers to offer audiences a range of points of entry into the exhibition content.

The Museum will also present *Made In America: Industrial Photography of Christopher Payne*, an exhibition showcasing the industrial manufacturing prowess of the country. Christopher Payne has spent a decade photographing America's factories and manufacturing industries. His intricately detailed, large-format images celebrate the making of things; the combination of human skill and mechanical precision that transforms raw materials into useful objects. This exhibition brings together some of his most iconic images, illuminating the beauty and grandeur of industrial processes and honoring the craftsmanship of American workers.

Next in the calendar will be the *Art of Noise* exhibition. From the graphics of music posters to the forms of radios and record players, design has played a crucial role in how we experience the world of music. *Art of Noise* tracks nearly 100 years of revolutions of the visual artifacts of listening to and sharing music, drawing from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and CHSDM collections to present decades of designs across genres and continents.

Also in FY 2026, the Museum will continue to explore enhanced visitor experiences designed to keep pace with emerging technology, providing an interactive design methodology to enhance CHSDM's visitor experience. In addition, CHSDM resources will continue to advance knowledge in the humanities through exhibition-related and collections-oriented scholarly research to create the most innovative and educational exhibitions for the public.

The Museum will continue to acquire objects for its now digitized, internationally renowned permanent collection. CHSDM will also continue its more-than-30-year partnership with the New School/Parsons to support an onsite graduate program focused on the history of design and curatorial studies, which will give students and scholars access to objects in the Museum's collections.

CHSDM will inspire, educate, and empower audiences through design by offering educational programs and content in various formats. The goal of all the programming is to deliver content relevant to the individual program participant's level of understanding of design and design thinking. To do this, the Museum will engage intergenerational audiences that include students, educators, emerging designers, design professionals, and the public, through beginning, intermediate, and advanced programs in design. Content will focus on using objects in the collection or on view in an exhibition as points of inspiration and reference. Visitors will be encouraged to view design with the broad goals of developing practical, creative, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills which can be applied to any field. The Museum will also continue its traditional offerings such as design field trips, family programs, docent-led tours, and public programs.

CHSDM remains committed to making its programs and content virtually accessible. The Museum will continue to offer online programs and channels for its

exhibitions, providing educational opportunities to broader audiences. CHSDM will also continue leveraging its design collection to offer nationally recognized professional development workshops in design thinking for K–12 educators across the country.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

Nonappropriated resources support 65 percent of the CHSDM's operating budget. General trust funds are generated from memberships, Museum shop sales, admissions, special events, and unrestricted contributions. General trust funds support salaries and benefits of administrative personnel, development and business activities, and other program-related costs. The CHSDM also raises funds from private sources to support research, exhibitions, public programs, and administrative functions. This includes securing contributions for new exhibitions, educational initiatives, and public outreach. Donor/sponsor-designated funds are essential to support exhibitions and educational initiatives. In addition, endowment gifts support the Museum's research, exhibitions, public programs, and administrative functions.

## HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	33	5,637	7	3,500	20	8,173	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	31	5,412	7	4,000	21	8,000	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 Request for the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (HMSG) is \$5.4 million. Now in its fifth decade, HMSG is a leading voice for contemporary art and culture and provides a national platform for the modern art and artists of our time. Located in the heart of Washington, DC, on the National Mall, the facility is free to all public visitors. As one of the most visited modern art museums in the United States, HMSG seeks to share the transformative power of modern and contemporary art by creating meaningful personal experiences in which art, artists, audiences, and ideas converge. Through groundbreaking exhibitions, events, research, and acquisitions, visitors encounter the most important artists of the 21st century. The Hirshhorn's holdings encompass one of the most important collections of modern art in the world, wherein artists have a global platform to explore new ways to create with performance, digital media, video, and technology.

As the national Museum for modern and contemporary art, the Hirshhorn is home to a collection of more than 13,000 artworks and objects which cover the broad sweep of visual culture of the last 150 years, including paintings, sculpture, works on paper, performance, and digital media. While the initial collection was a gift from the Museum's founder, Joseph Hirshhorn, collections acquisition efforts are ongoing. The acquisition program focuses on artworks at the forefront of contemporary art and has increased its efforts to feature more of its wide array of objects on public display.

In recent years, the Hirshhorn has made a concerted effort to strengthen its collection holdings of time-based media, performance art, and sculpture in addition to works from new and emerging artists. As part of the commemoration of the Museum's 50th anniversary, efforts are under way to collect 50 artworks from 50 important artists across the modern and contemporary art spectrum. The collections care and conservation of HMSG's extensive holdings receive a substantial portion of the Hirshhorn's resources and enable staff to showcase artwork online and through an active loan program with other institutions.

The Museum conducted a strategic visioning process after two years of work with a variety of stakeholders. This plan is built on the successes and lessons learned in the last decade and focuses on three pillars: (1) Engaging Artists; (2) Activating the Collection; and (3) Building Community. HMSG intends to highlight the unique opportunities that come from working with living artists through offerings, including:

- The Artists “Out of Residence” Program, for creating digital content to provide audiences with a behind-the-scenes view into the exhibition development process. The Museum’s collection is one of its biggest assets; however, due to space limitations, only a very small number of artworks are on view at a time.
- Evolving the Museum’s outgoing loan program into long-term, multi-dimensional partnerships across the country and worldwide, and by expanding our in-gallery digital guide (*Hirshhorn Eye*) to include full gallery integration to make content available across the World Wide Web, in our social media and publications, and everywhere else HMSG works are on view.
- Building community by following the Museum’s best practices for staff enrichment and community engagement to create a sense of belonging and welcoming everyone to the conversation.

HMSG strives to make the transformational power of art visible and tangible. The Museum welcomes staff and community as stakeholders in helping shape its decision making to meet the potential of an expanded campus and growing visitation. Further efforts are being made to understand how HMSG impacts audiences before, during, and after a visit.

## MEANS AND STRATEGY

Efforts to support interdisciplinary research continue as the Museum develops public forums on the intersections of art, design, technology, and education, featuring international subject-matter experts and an interactive online component, extending digital audience engagement far beyond the walls of the physical Museum. HMSG will support its online and onsite programs dealing with the role of technology and new media in contemporary art, museum culture, and digital education.

The Museum’s proposed exhibition schedule for FY 2026 builds upon the mission to expand access to the arts and increase public understanding of, and engagement with, the international scope of modern and contemporary art in all its diversity. FY 2026 will feature exhibitions and major events highlighting the best of emerging, international contemporary art. This will include:

- As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, the Museum will present an exhibition with multiple art rotations that takes a fresh look at its collection from a contemporary perspective. *Revolutions: Art from the Hirshhorn Collection, 1860–1960*, running through January of 2027, features works from the 1880s to 1960 — which make up the core holdings of Joseph Hirshhorn’s initial gifts. This major survey of artwork from a transformative period includes thematic sections devoted to Impressionism and Realism, early abstraction, Surrealism, regionalism, Abstract Expressionism, and other artistic movements. The freshly curated exhibition follows a general chronological



approach that offers a view of art history through the unique holdings of HMSG. It also includes selected examples of contemporary artworks to show how the ideas and approaches employed by historical artists still resonate today.

- Starting in November of 2025, a second exhibition marking the Hirshhorn's 50th anniversary will highlight artworks from the Museum's collection encompassing multi-media artworks that require the active participation of the visitor. Following a six-decade trajectory of such artworks, or Environments, the exhibition opens with a series of significant historical examples, while the second half of the show demonstrates how contemporary artists continue to employ Environments in new and diverse ways.
- Coming in early 2026, the Museum's lower-level gallery will display a collection of 48 silver gelatin photographs by Carlotta Corpron that were recently gifted to the Hirshhorn. Carlotta Corpron was a pioneering figure in American abstract photography, experimenting with light and form in the 1930s–50s. She aligned herself with other modernist visionaries who disrupted the traditional photography convention by creating images that were unmoored from the principles of gravity and the stabilizing anchors of the horizon line and perspectival space.

HMSG will ensure every home and classroom has access to the Smithsonian's digital content by offering robust digital resources to local and remote audiences. The Museum's website will engage with local and remote audiences about exhibition offerings, upcoming public programs, and information on collections and artists. Featured content includes audio and video from in-person and virtual public programs, interviews with artists and curators, and searchable access to the Museum's collections. HMSG's communication and outreach efforts will diffuse deep knowledge of contemporary art and culture. In addition, the Museum continues to publish original catalogues to complement exhibitions, along with other books that examine modern art, design, and cultural shifts in the 21st century.

The Museum's efforts to advance the concept of a virtual Smithsonian through a series of innovative, digitally driven activities include using *Hirshhorn Eye!* (*Hi!* for short), a revolutionary, in-gallery art guide that uses image recognition to scan art and instantly provide access to exclusive artist videos and inside information. The platform allows visitors to have engaging interactions between exhibitions, living artists, and the digital resources of the Museum. *Hi!* content is updated regularly in coordination with rotating exhibitions. In FY 2026, the Museum will continue to create and deliver content that builds on the in-gallery exhibitions to provide rich content for all artworks on view. A key element of the "Out of Residence" program includes a peek into living artists' creative processes. These resources will be available through the *Hirshhorn Eye!* technology, both in-gallery and as part of the more in-depth content shared via social media and the Museum's website.

HMSG will continue to offer public programs geared toward visitors with varying levels of art experience and cultural interests, expanding the concept of a museum as a learning center. HMSG leverages the lessons learned from *ARTLAB+*, the award-winning digital media studio that connects teenagers from local, underserved communities with artist mentors to create educational youth and family programming. Local artists will lead youth and teacher workshops for K–12 teachers and students.

In concert with educational foundation sponsors, HMSG will build and enrich a national culture of learning by engaging with state and local educational systems nationwide and using the *ARTLAB+* program to create an environment where local teenagers can attend workshops to explore digital media. The Museum will re-launch the “Gallery Guides” program. This brings advanced art students into the galleries to aid visitors’ critical experience with art on display and develops the students’ own education objectives and teaching skills. HMSG will also launch programs to reach preschool-aged children and families through accessibility programs offered in Spanish and American Sign Language.

HMSG will also continue collections research in its state-of-the-art Conservation Lab and onsite collections storage spaces. The upgraded spaces have improved natural light to enhance collections management and conservation. In addition, HMSG will further research and preserve time-based media (such as film, digital video, and audio artworks) by integrating the work of conservation and exhibits to provide leading-edge presentation and responsible stewardship of the analog and digital time-based media. The Museum will continue to photograph and catalogue the permanent collection to make it more accessible via search features on HMSG website.

The Museum will merge the functional with the artistic by including artists and designers in discussions with Facilities Management staff. This will involve a revitalization of the Sculpture Garden and re-envisioning the way that the plaza and gallery spaces are used as the Museum approaches its 50th anniversary. These projects will enable HMSG’s physical plant to support the Museum’s mission and its expanded programming and collections, as well as enhance the visitor experience and address critical infrastructure needs. The new Garden will create an area for large-scale contemporary works and performances within intimate spaces where visitors can better enjoy the Museum’s modern masterpieces.

Finally, HMSG’s senior leadership will continue to build a nimbler and more effective Smithsonian by improving long-range program planning to enhance resource allocation, funds management, and more effective cost-sharing with outside organizations to support major exhibitions and programs. By working with partners in the private sector, the staff will leverage the Museum’s federal appropriations to the maximum extent possible.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support salaries and benefits of administrative and development personnel, as well as some programs and public relations staff, advancement activities, and exhibition and program-related costs. Donor/sponsor-designated funds are essential to support exhibitions, public programs, communications, and marketing.

## NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	131	22,731	84	9,654	45	14,502	2	561	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	126	21,822	97	12,922	44	16,515	4	1,047	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request includes \$21.8 million for the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum (NASM). The Museum is dedicated to the collection, preservation, study, and exhibition of artifacts and artworks connected to the rich history, culture, and science of aviation and space exploration. By engaging in cutting-edge research and outreach activities, the Museum serves audiences both within and beyond its physical locations. NASM not only commemorates the past but explores current and future aerospace developments, playing a crucial role in educating and inspiring the next generation of innovators and explorers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) to shape the future.

NASM is one Museum with multiple locations: the National Mall Building (NMB) in Washington, DC; the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center (UHC) in Chantilly, Virginia; and the Paul E. Garber Facility in Suitland, Maryland (a non-public facility). In FY 2026, NASM will continue ongoing efforts to revitalize the NMB and transform the exhibits. The Museum's NMB entrance and the galleries in the center zone will open in July 2025.

The preparation for relocating artifacts, integral to the revitalization and transformation initiative, has resulted in a comprehensive plan for the relocation and preservation of more than 4,000 objects. This process includes the systematic transfer of artifacts to the Mary Baker Engen Restoration Hangar and Emil Buehler Conservation Lab at the UHC for necessary treatment. Temporary storage has been arranged in the Dulles Collections Center Storage Module or on the public floor of the UHC. Meanwhile, Museum teams and contractors are in the final stages of refining designs and components for the east end of the NMB. Concurrently, NASM leadership is advancing plans for the Bezos Learning Center (BLC) and reassessing master plans for the UHC, all while sustaining world-class science and history research programs.

The Museum provides millions of onsite guests from around the world with access to its peerless collection of aerospace artifacts and stories. In 2024, NASM had more than 1.9 million visitors at the NMB and 1.2 million at the UHC. In addition, the Museum continues to engage the public online through enhanced digital resources reaching millions of people via its website, broadcast/webcast educational programming, and social media. The Museum continues to publish the *Air and Space Quarterly* (ASQ), which had its first exclusive news story about the country's first female

combat pilots. ASQ supported overall National Air and Space Society revenue growth of 3 percent.

In FY 2025, NASM continues to collect and preserve the nation's key aviation and space artifacts and archival material, as well as those from other countries, and to perform original research and reference support in aviation, space history, and planetary science. Core activities support a broad array of exhibitions, programs, publications, and education and outreach projects. As new audience trends emerged after the COVID-19 pandemic, the Museum began balancing onsite and online programming to provide educational resources and engaging, entertaining, and inspiring content for learners of all ages.

NASM accomplishes its public service mandate and reaches audiences by drawing upon a mix of in-house and contracted resources as well as a large roster of volunteers and docents. Museum exhibits immerse visitors in the stories of people of all backgrounds who have broken barriers, defied what was thought possible, and changed the world to inspire a new generation to accomplish the amazing. As Apollo 11 command module pilot and former director of NASM Michael Collins once said, "It's human nature to stretch, to go, to see, to understand. Exploration is not a choice, really; it's an imperative." Today, digital offerings allow anyone, anywhere to take a path that engages them with the Museum's collections and stories, provides resources to students, teachers, and researchers, and integrates those elements with the in-person experience to amplify its impact.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

*Public Engagement* — Learning at NASM sparks curiosity and empowers learners to imagine the possibilities of our collective future. Museum staff continue their efforts to reach all audiences in meaningful ways through exhibitions, educational programs, research reference support, publications, and digital engagement. In FY 2025, NASM continues to elevate the Museum's role as a learning facilitator and convener by developing experiences that place the audience at the center of the action. Hybrid programming both online and onsite will continue to be an operational part of the education team's practice, given that it reaches both national and local audiences. The team will continue to deploy progress tracking tools to monitor key performance indicators and evaluate quality assessments conducted by external reviewers, to set and track annual participation targets alongside participation in discrete efforts. This combined strategy increases NASM's overall understanding of its impact with audiences, ultimately positioning the Museum as a key player in building a nation of innovators and explorers who think critically and are ready to address big problems with creative, nimble solutions.

As both a national and community Museum, in FY 2025 NASM will continue to populate an arc of engagement for learners from pre-K to adult grades. Museum staff will support educators' abilities to enhance classroom learning via a range of high-quality professional development focused on teaching with collections and aligned to

national learning standards. NASM will also continue to deploy and refine the series of design challenges for youth, leveraging resources across the Smithsonian, so they can address, and potentially solve, real-world problems.

In FY 2026, NASM staff and volunteers will continue to support daily experiences for students and families — such as hands-on science activities, demonstrations, virtual planetarium shows, labs, engineering and design student workshops, and offering resources for learners with autism and sensory perception disorders. The Museum will also facilitate large, multi-faceted, day-long events which can reach tens of thousands of visitors in one day, such as through the Innovations in Flight and Air and Scare activities around Halloween.

In addition, the Museum continues to advance the Institution's priorities by making collections, archival documents, and images available via publicly accessible websites. NASM collections and archival databases contain extensive information on the history and provenance of each artifact and are an effective way to offer in-depth information to the public through electronic or digitized means. These electronic resources also encourage more researchers to request access to the Museum's many archives and collections, and to make in-person visits to follow-up on initial online research efforts. The NASM Archives set up workflows for attaching digital assets to the Smithsonian Online Virtual Archives, resulting in a total of 1,457,721 digital assets currently available to the public.

*Exhibitions* — In FY 2025, the Museum continues to ensure stewardship of and access to its priceless collection of aerospace artifacts and archival materials and produce expert scholarship and research while guiding the fabrication of new exhibitions at the NMB. These exhibits offer a fresh interpretation of many stories the artifacts represent. During FY 2025, NASM will finish designing and start fabricating 10 new galleries in the east end of the building, including: a rotating exhibit in the *Allan and Shelley Holt Innovations Gallery*, with the first installment being about environmental change; the *Barron Hilton Pioneers of Flight Gallery*, which will feature the famous *Spirit of St. Louis* airplane that Charles Lindbergh piloted in the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean; the *TEXTRON How Things Fly Gallery*, with more than 50 mechanical interactives aimed at teaching middle-school students STEAM concepts; the *Raytheon Technologies Living in the Space Age Gallery*, with life-size spacecraft; the *Jay I. Kislak World War II in the Air Gallery*, which will display prime examples of military aviation; and the *At Home in Space Gallery*, *Discovering Our Universe Gallery*, *Flight and the Arts Center*, and the *Modern Military Aviation Gallery*. Additionally, NASM is finalizing the *Boeing Milestones of Flight Hall*, which will feature a large screen showing the collection on display in the Museum.

*Collections* — In support of NASM's transformation in FY 2024, Museum staff have completed treatment of 64 large artifacts and 345 medium and small objects. Approximately 3,000 objects will be installed in the transformed NMB galleries, including many artifacts never on display before.

Thus far, during FY 2025, the Museum has obtained 149 new objects. Significant acquisitions include the Prototype Ingenuity Rover Helicopter, a North American F-86F Sabre fighter jet (deployed in the Korean War), and a Boeing Cargo AirVehicle “X-Wing” drone.

NASM continues supporting outreach through an active loan program. The Museum collaborates with private collectors, corporate entities, and Smithsonian and non-Smithsonian museums to secure loans of artifacts to share with the public in new exhibits. NASM has engaged with 148 lenders to borrow 922 artifacts for the National Mall exhibits. The Museum has an active outgoing loan program that currently supports more than 475 objects on loan to 108 borrowers.

In FY 2025, Museum staff have begun packing and preparing 149 medium-sized artifacts in anticipation of moving them from inadequate storage facilities at the Paul E. Garber Facility to the UHC in Fairfax County, Virginia. Staff have also re-housed 3,289 small artifacts and moved 4,059 objects to the UHC. This relocation of artifacts to museum-quality storage will continue for the foreseeable future so that the priceless national collections can be properly protected.

*Facilities* — NASM is using the Dulles Collections Center (DCC) Storage Module 1, next to the UHC, as a swing space for storing artifacts from the NMB while the main Museum undergoes renovations. When renovations of the NMB are completed, this storage module will support the continued move of artifacts from the Garber facility until additional storage buildings are constructed to store all the NASM artifacts remaining at the Garber facility. Accordingly, in FY 2025, NASM has completed 35 percent design development for a second storage module and kicked-off the DCC campus master planning effort for an Institution-wide collections facility at the UHC site.

In the meantime, NASM continues phase 2 renovation activities in the east half of the NMB, with substantial completion of base-building infrastructure achieved in FY 2024, and all east-end Museum exhibition spaces scheduled to re-open to the public in FY 2026. In addition, design work and external agency coordination continues for the Bezos Learning Center to be located on the east terrace, with award of the construction contract planned for FY 2025.

*Scientific Research* — NASM’s Center for Earth and Planetary Studies (CEPS) conducts original research related to planetary exploration. The Center also curates galleries and offers public programs in the planetary sciences. NASM scientists currently work as science team members for the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, and Curiosity Mars rover. Original research and publications in scientific literature focus on the origin of solar system bodies and habitable planets, with an emphasis on the past climate of Mars and icy moons with subsurface water in the outer solar system.

*Historical Research* — The Museum continues to lead in the field of recorded aerospace history by producing books, scholarly articles, and other publications, and by

making presentations at professional conferences on the history of aerospace technology, aviation, aerodynamics, spaceflight, space sciences, and aviation and space art. Based on their research and expertise, NASM's archives and curatorial staff will continue to evaluate potential acquisitions for the national collections and respond to public inquiries. The Museum will also continue to upgrade exhibitions on aviation and spaceflight, thereby ensuring that current materials remain available to the public.

Curators across NASM continue to produce an average of more than 50 publications each year, many of which are award-winning works. For example, the book *Space Craze: America's Enduring Fascination with Real and Imagined Space Flight*, by curator Margaret Weitekamp, won the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics' History Manuscript Award. Other significant publications by NASM scholars in FY 2024 included *A Wartime Necessity: The NACA and Other National Research Organization's Efforts at Innovation during World War II*, edited by Alex Spencer, and Carolyn Russo's article in *Issues in Science and Technology*, "How Space Art Shaped National Identity."

*Digital, and Social and Traditional Media* — The Museum continues to expand its use of digital and social media outreach to share educational, collections, and research information with the public and encourage their engagement with online assets, as well as to visit NASM and participate in its programs and events. Across all social media platforms in FY 2024, there were 135 million impressions; 4.7 million engagements; 32,000 followers gained; and 3,800 published posts. The NASM website received more than 17.1 million views. In FY 2025, the Museum continued developing its analytic data to deliver targeted content to students, teachers, and other key audiences to ensure they have access to NASM's educational resources and timely information on visitation and programs.

The Museum also engages consistently with local, national, and international media to ensure that visitors are aware of the collections, educational offerings, research findings, and NASM events. During FYs 2024 and 2025, these efforts have generated more than 17,800 print and online stories, with a potential audience numbering in the tens of billions.

*Management* — NASM operates with a director supported by a seven-member senior leadership team. The team advances tactical objectives to achieve the goals of the Museum's FY 2020—2025 strategic plan: *Expanding Our Universe*. During the coming year, a consultant will assist NASM in creating the 2026—2031 strategic plan. Management decisions are rooted in cost-effective and responsive administration to make the most out of the opportunities from revitalizing and transforming the NMB in Washington, DC., and leverage the future growth of the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia.



## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds are used to support research, education, exhibitions, fund raising, and associated salaries and benefits. Donor- and sponsor-designated funds cover costs for specific programs and projects. A \$250 million campaign was launched to support the transformation of NMB and the reimagining of 23 exhibits and presentation spaces, with a stretch goal of \$285 million. By the close of FY 2024, more than \$277 million had already been secured. The Museum's fundraising total for the year was nearly \$22 million. The largest donation in the Smithsonian's history came from Jeff Bezos, who contributed \$200 million. Approximately \$70 million of this will support the transformation efforts (included in the \$285 million goal), while the remaining \$130 million will fund education programs and the construction of the Bezos Learning Center. Additionally, private-sector support helps fund educational initiatives, public programs, and applications for government grants and contracts, which support research and other scientific activities.

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	155	35,861	18	5,215	52	32,894	0	9	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	155	34,427	21	9,820	72	53,012	0	10	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) is \$34.4 million. NMAAHC was established by Congress in 2003 to document, collect, conserve, interpret, and display the historical and cultural experiences and achievements of African Americans. Driven by its mission, NMAAHC captures and connects stories, scholarship, art, and artifacts from the past and present to illuminate the contributions, struggles, and triumphs that have shaped our nation. NMAAHC forges new and compelling avenues for audiences to experience the arc of living history.

Since opening in 2016, NMAAHC, both in person and virtually, continues to provide a meeting place for all people to learn about the history and culture of African Americans and their contributions to American life. The Museum seeks to help all Americans and others around the world to understand these contributions, and in so doing, stimulates dialogue and fosters understanding. As the only national Museum devoted exclusively to documenting and exploring African American history and culture, NMAAHC exhibitions and programs focus on a wide arc of history and look deeply into slavery, Reconstruction, the Harlem Renaissance, the great migrations of African Americans before and between the World Wars, the civil rights movement, and other significant issues of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. The Museum also celebrates African American creativity and cultural expressions through art, dance, sports, theater, music, and literature.

NMAAHC's building, exhibitions, digital technology, and Sweet Home Café are all award-winning entities, and the Museum's shop and café both continue to greet large crowds. The Museum welcomed its 12 millionth visitor in March 2025. In FY 2026, the NMAAHC will mark its 10th year since opening by continuing to expand major initiatives which fulfill its mission.

Recognizing the successful launch, outreach, and local engagement of NMAAHC since it opened in 2016, the President's FY 2026 budget request does not include any funding for the Anacostia Community Museum (ACM) and would transition its staff, archives, collections, and real property into NMAAHC.

## MEANS AND STRATEGY

In FY 2026, the Museum's top priorities include long-term enhancements to its scholarly output, educational outreach, and digital programs — all while continuing to build the national collection. NMAAHC will continue expanding domestic and international partnerships; designing and developing temporary and traveling exhibitions for display throughout the United States and internationally; increasing scholarly research in all areas of African American history and culture; and developing robust virtual and in-person programming for various audiences of all ages.

Also in FY 2026, the Museum's Office of Digital Strategy and Engagement will continue expanding NMAAHC's global audience reach, engagement, and impact. The Museum will research, design, and develop new digital experiences using emerging technologies to enhance interactive educational programs; promote engagement with visitors; and make the Museum's collections, archives, exhibitions, programs, and educational resources more accessible to a global audience. These experiences will further NMAAHC's commitment to engage various audiences of all ages online and further realize the Smithsonian's strategic goals of 1) ensuring that every home and classroom has access to the Museum's educational resources, and 2) being a trusted source of information to explore America's past, present, and future.

Furthermore, NMAAHC will continue expanding its digital offerings across various platforms to provide innovative and engaging digital experiences that deepen the connection between visitors and the Museum's collection through bold, interactive storytelling and introduce audiences to themes which are relevant in today's world. NMAAHC will continue to build on the success of The Searchable Museum, a multi-year initiative to make exhibition content and scholarly resources accessible through an intuitive and accessible online platform. Recent Searchable Museum releases include exhibitions exploring American culture and history: *In Slavery's Wake: Making Black Freedom in the World*; *Afrofuturism: A History of Black Futures*; *Make Good the Promises: Reconstruction and Its Legacies*; and *Hip-Hop Origins*. In addition, original digital stories and highlights of recent collections acquisitions include features about the Ebony Test Kitchen and the manuscript for the poem *Ocean* by Phillis Wheatley.

In FY 2026, NMAAHC curators will continue to acquire artifacts, fine art, archival materials, photographs, film, and other media assets for the Museum's permanent collection. Curatorial research will advance historical and cultural knowledge and contextualize objects from historical and contemporary perspectives to create interpretive exhibitions, digital projects, publications, symposia, and public programs that encourage critical thinking. Projects in development include a signature publication related to the Museum's 10th anniversary in 2026; gallery rotations and updates; and an exhibition of new works commissioned by the Museum from contemporary Black artists.

In December of 2024, NMAAHC premiered a groundbreaking exhibition and publication entitled *In Slavery's Wake: Making Black Freedom in the World*. Following the exhibit's presentation at NMAAHC, it will travel internationally in FY 2026. As part of

the exhibition-development process, the Museum and its partners conducted an oral history initiative called *Unfinished Conversations*. These filmed conversations about the legacies of slavery will inform a new globally shared archive that includes the perspectives of the descendants of enslaved peoples.

The Museum also co-owns, with the J. Paul Getty Trust, the Johnson Publishing Company Archive and continues to process and digitize the collection of more than four million of its images, including photographs published in *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines. In FY 2026, NMAAHC will continue to move this important collection from Chicago to Washington, DC to make the physical collection accessible to the Museum and researchers. In addition to physical accessibility, NMAAHC will create an online portal for public access and develop educational programming from the archive.

Digital Humanities, an interpretive method and type of project based on the intersection of scholarship, digital tools, and technology, will be incorporated into projects to provide new and innovative ways for visitors to engage with the Museum's collections. In FY 2026, NMAAHC will continue to focus on recent acquisitions and undigitized objects to improve the features and functions of the Museum's collection information and cloud-hosted, digital-storage, and delivery systems, as well as online interfaces. These enhanced systems will integrate with NMAAHC's digital-first strategy to drive visionary, interdisciplinary research and scholarly projects.

The Robert Frederick Smith Center for the Digitization and Curation of African American History will continue to deliver public programming, digitization of community-based collections, Fellowship programs, and visitor engagement through the Explore Your Family History Center and the Community Curation Program — an online platform for communities to share personal stories through digitized images, video, and audio, along with digital media resources from the Museum and its institutional partners.

In addition, NMAAHC will continue working to make 100 percent of the Museum's collections accessible to the public online, adding to the more than 22,200 accessioned items now available, and ensuring that all digitized collection records and images for unrestricted materials are freely available via the Digital Public Library of America. NMAAHC will also add to the more than 25,000 images of collection objects now available through the Open Access Initiative, including 3D models of selected collection holdings. The Museum will increase access to the Freedmen's Bureau and other historical records by continuing to work with the Smithsonian Transcription Center and online volunteers and partners to provide searchable, full-text transcriptions, many of which are linked to a genealogical index accessible via a public search portal.

Also in FY 2026, NMAAHC will further realize the potential of the Museum's second-floor space to serve as an integrated, state-of-the-art gallery that uses technology and programming so visitors of all ages can explore educational themes, family genealogies, media offerings, library resources, and featured collections. While many of the current individual elements are successful on their own, NMAAHC will improve the visitor experience by addressing issues of functionality, flow, connectivity,

and presentation. At the same time, the Museum will continue its intensive and comprehensive rotation program to replace loans and at-risk objects within its long-term exhibitions. Typically, NMAAHC replaces between 200–300 objects per year on a twice-yearly cycle.

The Museum will continue to build and enrich a national culture of learning by presenting an array of lectures, conferences, community resources, staged readings, film screenings, concerts, and conversations with scholars, thought leaders, musicians, actors, artists, authors, and filmmakers, all while highlighting Juneteenth, Black History Month, rare collections, exhibitions, and more. NMAAHC will further advance the Smithsonian's educational goals by sharing content about African American history and culture through marketing and social and traditional media channels.

To achieve the strategic initiative of improving collections stewardship, the Museum will continue to identify, acquire, process, and lend collections while developing, preserving, and refining them to make the collection more accessible to the public. NMAAHC has more than 45,500 objects in its collection and continues to manage a high volume of offers of new collections through a robust review process. Collections staff welcome external researchers to access objects and archives at the Museum's storage facility, host tours in storage areas and the conservation laboratory, and lead conservation workshops.

The Museum will continue to enhance its collections storage spaces and improve efficiency with high-density storage equipment and reorganization activities, and regularly coordinate with the National Collections Program. This includes optimizing storage spaces and developing archival-quality housing for collection objects. NMAAHC will continue to develop keystone collection standards while reviewing and streamlining workflows to be nimble and promote collaborative, integrated solutions.

The Museum's Office of Strategic Partnerships will advance the strategic goal of making NMAAHC a trusted source of information by delivering far-reaching and transformative support for African American and African Diaspora history and culture organizations regionally, nationally, and internationally. The office works with collaborating institutions to help provide training and resources which strengthen professional best practices and serve the broadest constituent groups, all while raising awareness of shared projects. In FY 2026, NMAAHC will offer virtual and in-person professional development workshops and training to strengthen ethical interpretation and address topics such as community-informed wellness and conservation activities.

NMAAHC will further the Smithsonian's digital strategic goals by leveraging best practices in information and digital technologies, data analytics, and cybersecurity measures to drive innovation, enhance public engagement, and optimize efficiency. Digital technologies such as the Searchable Museum website and mobile applications foster deeper connections with visitors and the public. NMAAHC uses various data analytics tools and methods to evaluate visitor data and improve visitor capacity management and engagement. By leveraging cloud computing and automation

platforms, the Museum will continue to streamline internal operations. Cybersecurity informs NMAAHC digital strategy and reinforces the Museum's commitment to be responsible stewards of federal assets and the public trust.

### **Integrating the Anacostia Community Museum**

The FY 2026 request would integrate ACM into NMAAHC, which will enable Smithsonian staff to continue ACM's mission from a stronger base of operations that will eliminate duplicative administrative and programming efforts. ACM was founded in 1967 and for almost 60 years has brought to light the unsung stories of people who catalyze change in their neighborhoods and communities. While local in nature, these stories are relevant to people and communities across our nation and are now shared daily at NMAAHC.

The request would support the transition of ACM staff, archives, collections, and real property into NMAAHC. If some portion of ACM's archives or collections are not aligned to NMAAHC's mission, the Smithsonian will redirect responsibility for those items to the appropriate museum. Once the request is enacted, NMAAHC would need to update its organizational structure to support this integration and implement efforts to streamline administrative and operational resources. This request supports the President's commitment to find cost savings and identify operational efficiencies throughout the federal government.

### **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support salary and benefit costs for the Museum director and program-related costs. Donor/sponsor-designated funds support salaries for programmatic and development staff; costs associated with reaching fundraising goals, collections acquisitions, digitization, and educational initiatives; publications and special events for exhibition openings; and costs of specific programs and projects, including educational programs, advertising, and various membership and public-facing special events.

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	32	5,439	1	286	2	607	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	30	5,221	1	168	3	780	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the National Museum of African Art (NMAfA) is \$5.2 million and will inspire cross-cultural conversations and understanding by presenting the beauty, power, and breadth of Africa's arts and cultures. The Museum reaches audiences — in person and virtually — from across the nation and around the world. NMAfA's collection of nearly 12,000 African art objects represents nearly every area of the continent of Africa; it is the largest publicly held collection of contemporary African art in the United States. The Museum also houses the Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives — named for the famed *Life* magazine photographer — which houses approximately 500,000 items, including rare archival collections. NMAfA uses its unparalleled collections, exhibitions, educational programs, and publications to foster broad access and collaboration with American, African, diasporic, and global communities. As a national museum, NMAfA shares its resources with the American public to celebrate cultural heritage, allow visitors to benefit from a rich global perspective, and reflect upon our shared heritage.

Beginning in FY 2024, the Museum celebrated the 60th anniversary of the founding of its precursor, the Museum of African Art, by a former U.S. Foreign Service officer. The Museum sponsored exhibits and lectures reflecting the contributions of African and African American people to the history and culture of the United States. The anniversary, running through December of 2025, continues to provide opportunities for NMAfA to present more exhibitions and programs, focus on new audience development, and reimagine and activate more of its public spaces under the banner of an anniversary celebration. The Museum will continue to create compelling temporary and long-term exhibitions of historical, modern, and contemporary artworks from its own collection or in partnership with other museums. Further, it will develop curriculum-focused educational assets and collaborate more closely with organizational, academic, and community partners. The Museum is preparing to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026 by developing an exhibition and programs connecting Africa and early African Americans to our nation's history.

Over the course of the last year, substantial selections from the Museum's permanent collection of Africa's historical, modern, and contemporary arts were on view. This included the ongoing *Currents: Water in African Art* exhibition that features aquatic-themed artworks from the permanent collection and the long-term exhibition

*Visionary: Viewpoints on Africa's Arts* that highlights the most significant selections from the Museum's permanent collection of African works of art.

NMAfA also launched two new exhibitions in the past year: *Benin Bronzes: Ambassadors of the Oba*, which presents nine objects from the Kingdom of Benin on long-term loan in the context of the Smithsonian's stewardship policy; and *Tsedaye Makonnen: Sanctuary :: መቅደስ :: Mekdes*, which features the work of Ethiopian-American artist Tseday Makonnen in conversation with historic Ethiopian devotional artifacts.

The Museum will continue activating public access by focusing on educational and convening spaces. In FY 2025, NMAfA creatively revitalized its entry pavilion into a new programming space, as well as its entrance from the S. Dillon Ripley Center, and created a new gallery in repurposed space to display more of the collection. In addition, the Museum revitalized its Lecture Hall and made it available to the public for convening and other special events.

NMAfA is working with the National Museum of Asian Art to create new, fire-rated storage spaces and modify existing fire-rated spaces to meet current life-safety codes. In pursuit of this goal, the Museum has completed three phases of its main storage master plan and is using resources from the Smithsonian's Collection's Care and Preservation Fund (CCPF) to finish more phases of this work.

Furthermore, NMAfA is supporting the Smithsonian's commitment to creating a "virtual museum" that would deploy the Museum's assets wherever, whenever, and however they are most needed. As part of that effort, NMAfA staff are developing new exhibition technology to create virtual gallery experiences and increase virtual access to offerings on display in the building. Several technology modifications are under way to support both on-site and virtual exhibitions and program access. The Museum is reimagining its web-page and exploring web add-ins such as artist or curator tours, as well as other contextual information. The new website will launch in December 2025.

In addition, to further enhance the in-person experience, the Museum continues upgrading all exhibition fixtures and lamps with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) throughout the building. The LEDs installed in two first-floor galleries to date improve the lighting's energy efficiency and reduce utility costs.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

NMAfA catalyzes new methods of engagement with larger audiences — including with stakeholders historically engaged with the Museum as well as new, first-time visitor audiences, by working to ensure that every home and classroom has access to its digital content. Through its expanding digital strategies, NMAfA is emphasizing effective learning styles, introducing new language content, and improving accessibility. In that regard, the redesigned website will increase accessibility, offer content in



additional languages, and better allow educators, art enthusiasts, and students worldwide to access the Museum's offerings.

The website redesign effort is also supporting the expansion of the Museum's social media presence on multiple platforms and will enable it to reach a broader range of long-term audiences as well as new audiences and stakeholders. NMAfA continues to digitize its art and photographic archive collections to make them available to the public on its website. The Museum works closely with the Smithsonian's Office of Digital Transformation and the Office of the Chief Information Officer to continue a large-scale digitization project that will add a substantial number of new object records to the online collection database. Conservation and registration records are also being digitized and added to the Institution's database network.

In FY 2026, NMAfA will continue to broaden visibility, prepare future programming that attracts more visitors, and seek visitor feedback on exhibitions and programs, using visitor comments, docent interactions, and surveys of its public programs. Collaborative projects initiated by the NMAfA include working with Smithsonian units on best practices in program development, internships, audience assessment, and semiquincentennial-specific programming.

In October of 2022, NMAfA made its first deaccession of collections under the Smithsonian's new Ethical Returns and Shared Stewardship Policy by formally transferring ownership of 29 Benin bronzes to the National Commission for Museums and Monuments in Nigeria. The Commission, in turn, loaned nine objects back to the Museum for the exhibition, *Benin Bronzes: Ambassadors of the Oba*. The exhibition engages visitors on the issue of shared stewardship, as well as on the artistry and cultural significance of the bronzes themselves.

These types of collaborations forge strong connections with colleagues at African museums to share information, develop mutually beneficial partnerships, and increase cross-cultural communications in the United States and worldwide

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support staff salaries, benefits, and travel. The Museum raises contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations to support activities and programs such as the Paid Internships Initiative, the ongoing NMAfA Women's Initiative, and the Global Religions of Africa Initiative. In addition, grants, donations, and sponsorships fund special projects such as exhibitions, education programs, and publications. The Museum has expanded its offerings and increased fund raising to support new projects, such as collaborative programs with partner African museums, multi-year curatorial residencies, and participation in professional development training that increases both domestic and international peer perspectives, welcomes new voices, and raises the visibility of art from the African continent around the globe.

NMAfA also continues to apply the \$1.5 million five-year implementation grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. to support the Museum's Global Religions of Africa Initiative. Africa's global religious practices on the continent and in its diasporas engage with verbal, visual, and performing arts and offer strategies relevant to the urgent issues of our day. This initiative focuses on educational programming, community outreach, and audience engagement through onsite and virtual programs. Endowment-funded programming is designed to enhance existing programs and offerings, as well as to better represent voices and communities of faith. The grant includes contract support for a project coordinator and four paid internships per year.

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY KENNETH E. BEHRING CENTER

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	159	28,627	17	3,650	39	14,067	1	247	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	153	27,482	16	3,343	39	12,247	0	300	1	161

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the National Museum of American History (NMAH), Kenneth E. Behring Center, is \$27.5 million. NMAH traces the remarkable 249-year trajectory of the nation and has the unique and cherished role as the only Museum in the country dedicated to telling the full history of the United States. The Museum educates more than two million visitors annually and 12 million online as it documents the political, military, social, medical, scientific, technological, business, popular, and cultural history of the country. A public that better understands its past and is active in its democracy has the power to create that “more perfect union” envisioned in our Constitution, and the freedoms hoped and fought for in the Revolutionary War two and a half centuries ago.

The Museum is responsible for caring for the greatest single collection of American history in the world, consisting of more than 1.8 million objects, more than three shelf-miles of archival collections, and growing terabytes of digital collections. NMAH manages a nearly 800,000-square-foot building on the National Mall in Washington, DC as well as collections primarily stored and cared for at the Museum Support Center (MSC) and the Paul E. Garber Facility in Suitland, Maryland, and at the Penny Drive Building in Landover, Maryland.

At the heart of the Museum are the employees who care for its audiences, collections, resources, messages, buildings, and scholarship, all in service to the people of the United States and their lifelong learning goals. NMAH creates forums, both virtual and in the Museum, where millions of people engage with one another through inspiring and challenging stories from U.S. history. In our galleries and online presence, we have connected generations of Americans to deeply researched history via an exceptionally broad range of primary sources and material culture.

The Museum’s traveling exhibitions reached 15 states and 43 communities across the nation in 2023 and 2024. NMAH education content reached hundreds of thousands of young people and thousands of teachers in all 50 states and territories, via direct outreach and collaboration with organizations like the Boys and Girls Clubs and 4H groups. The Museum’s exhibitions, collecting, research, and digital work are also covered extensively through media campaigns, which in 2024 reached a potential

audience of 40 billion people, with coverage across all national networks, wire services, U.S. and international newspapers and their digital outlets, as well as radio programs, podcasts, and blogs.

Federal funding comprises close to 60 percent of NMAH's annual budget and is vitally important to cover costs associated with staffing and operating a national Museum, stewarding our collections, producing and maintaining exhibitions, and welcoming and educating the public. NMAH also generates nonappropriated funds from earned revenue, gifts, grants, and endowments to cover advancement and programmatic staffing as well as costs associated with research, new exhibitions, public programs, and educational initiatives. Ultimately, however, the Museum depends on both federal and nonappropriated resources to achieve its mission.

## MEANS AND STRATEGY

### Signature Projects

Through exhibitions, public programs, and education outreach, NMAH will continue to promote the role, value, and vitality of history in our democracy. This is perhaps nowhere more important than for the rapidly approaching 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. The semiquincentennial of 2026 is a celebration, and this milestone is a once-in-a-generation moment to learn from the past and to embrace the promise of our nation. It is a time to inspire civic participation and to each do our part in becoming more active citizens in our democratic processes. We have been honored to work with the America250 Commission and look forward to participating in the President's Task Force250. After years of planning and private fund raising for the 250th, NMAH will be launching a museum-wide initiative, one that runs across our whole building and online and deploys multiple public history formats. We are developing five project pillars, including an exhibition installation; live walk-in museum programming experiences; pre-K–12 curricula to inspire students to become involved in their constitutional democracy and help to sustain the republic; online collections documentation; and a conservation project for our signature Revolutionary War artifact, the 1776 Gunboat *Philadelphia*.

Opening in March of 2026, the exhibition is entitled *In Pursuit of Life, Liberty, and Happiness*. Unique in that it is not contained in a single gallery, it will be instead an installation running throughout the museum and extending across all of our galleries. *In Pursuit* showcases 250 “revolutionary objects” — artifacts that reflect how Americans, across 250 years, have pushed to make the promises of the Declaration real. Included will be true national treasures, such as:

- the Gunboat *Philadelphia*, built in 1776, that was part of the first fleet in the American Revolution;
- the portable desk designed by Thomas Jefferson, on which he wrote the Declaration of Independence;

- a necklace of Abigail Adams, who challenged Revolutionary lawmakers to “Remember the Ladies”;
- the candlestand George Washington used when writing his Farewell Address, in which he urged the new nation to resist partisan infighting;
- the chairs from Appomattox on which generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant sat as they ended the Civil War;
- the hat Lincoln wore to Fords Theater the night he was assassinated; and
- the famous 1960 Greensboro Lunch Counter where the sit-in movement caught fire and ignited the Civil Rights Movement.

NMAH will supplement the exhibition with a wide range of live daily experiences throughout the Museum, from live theater programs in the galleries, musical performances, and cooking demonstrations and shared programs with the new Center for the Understanding of Religion in American History gallery. All this will offer opportunities for Museum visitors to engage more deeply with history. Funding permitting, the exhibition and programs will be sustained for several years beyond 2026, reflecting the need to continue the celebration of our history and reach as many people as possible.

As noted above, an important part of the Museum’s commemoration of the country’s 250th anniversary in 2026 will be the gunboat *Philadelphia*. Commissioned by the Continental Congress in July of 1776, the vessel and her sister ships were quickly organized into what is considered the first American Navy. Age has caught up with the gunboat, which was already badly damaged from the war nearly 250 years ago. However, NMAH is raising funds for the gunboat’s conservation. The Museum will create an environment where visitors will be able to see the restoration work in progress through large windows in a temporary structure around the vessel.

Simultaneously in 2026, the Museum is examining ways to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Curators will display rarely seen objects out of storage over multiple days, present related programming, and create an updated, more contemporary website with moving 9/11 content from the photographic history collections. Artifacts highlighted from the collection would represent the three terrorist attack sites — New York, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania — to highlight the powerful stories of that day.

### *Educating with the National Collection*

NMAH continues to shape the nation’s history collection for the American people by focusing on collections acquisition, stewardship, and utilization. The Museum is closely examining new approaches to better care for our most important collections and

find new homes for those better suited for specialized or regional repositories. NMAH, in collaboration with the Smithsonian's National Collections Program and Facilities Management, is continuing its work to move approximately 65,000 artifacts and archival collections ahead of the long-planned Museum's East Wing revitalization from the National Mall building into the new Pod 6 collections storage space at the MSC. Pod 6 has upgraded environmental and security controls to better ensure the safety and preservation of the collections.

NMAH remains committed to promote and enhance the value of its collections; complete intensive inventory, digitization, and description projects; increase online access; advance cross-institutional collaborations; deploy innovative uses of technology; and work to transform its physical infrastructure by enhancing the resiliency of the building and protecting it from catastrophic flooding — all with the goal of preserving the historical memories of the nation for future generations.

The Museum recognizes the size of our audience of visitors, readers, program attendees, students, and teachers as well as online users, co-creators, community partners, conveners, and artists. NMAH's interpretive plan provides direction and focus to create rich and engaging visitor experiences within the Museum, in classrooms, and on digital channels. For example, in 2024, NMAH held its 11th National Youth Summit on Elections and Politics, bringing middle and high-school students together with scholars, teachers, and experts in a national conversation to examine how youth have driven social change. NMAH is a key destination each year for hundreds of thousands of teens from across the nation who are making a pilgrimage to Washington, DC.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust revenue sources include space rentals for special events, revenue sharing from business operations, honoraria for speaking engagements, and tuition reimbursements for classes taught by staff. These general trust funds support salaries and benefits for NMAH staff who work in administration, advancement, public affairs, and special events, as well as other program costs. In addition, the Museum receives restricted funding through donor/sponsor-designated trust funds (such as gifts, private grants, and endowments) and Government grants and contracts. These restricted funds are used to develop, install, and promote new exhibitions, fund public programs and educational initiatives, and support research, travel, and collection acquisitions.

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	185	36,904	7	2,138	25	12,015	0	57	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	173	34,690	5	1,779	42	12,929	0	59	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is \$34.7 million. In keeping with its authorizing statute, NMAI is a single Museum in three locations: NMAI-DC on the National Mall, NMAI-NY in lower Manhattan, and the Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Maryland. Utilizing each of its sites, NMAI will continue to focus its resources to support research, exhibits, and programs concerning the cultures and histories of Native communities and to present contemporary works of art to the public. The online and onsite offerings of exhibitions, cultural programs, educational presentations, and scholarly symposia ensure a meaningful visitor experience at all the Museum's locations and online. Online content based on these programs will continue to expand NMAI's reach to distant virtual visitors who may not be able to come to the Museum in person. Through its exhibitions and public programming, NMAI continues to present the contemporary perspectives of Native peoples to educate and inform the public.

NMAI will continue to steward the more than one million collection items entrusted to the Museum's care. The collections represent more than 14,000 years of history and more than 1,500 indigenous cultures and communities throughout the Western Hemisphere and Hawaii.

By partnering with Native peoples and their allies, NMAI fosters a richer shared human experience through a more informed understanding of the Native peoples of America.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

NMAI is directing its resources to: 1) activities that will increase visitation; 2) public programming and exhibits that include information about the Indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere and Hawaii (as mandated in the NMAI enabling legislation) and highlight the presence and cultural contributions of contemporary Native peoples; 3) outreach to Native communities, tribes, and organizations through programming that includes consultations, loans from NMAI collections, online access to collections and content, and internships; and 4) amplifying issues facing Native Americans by conducting programs on matters of public interest. Major exhibitions opening or under development in FY 2026 include:

- *Stretching the Canvas*. Since the 1920s, many Native contemporary art and artists have made tremendous strides in achieving recognition as American artists. Drawing from NMAI's rich permanent collection, this exhibit presents 51 paintings that have forged today's infinite varied landscape of contemporary Native art.
- *Miniverse: The World of Indigenous Miniatures* is an exhibition that celebrates Indigenous miniatures and the artists who create them. The exhibit highlights the NMAI permanent collection (of ethnographic and contemporary art) as well as new miniatures created by 15 invited Indigenous artists. There will be about 100 works in the exhibition, made by at least 40 Indigenous nations representing the Western Hemisphere.
- *Infinity of Nations: Art and History in the Collections of the National Museum of the American Indian* is a permanent exhibition at NMAI-NY undergoing a refurbishment and a rotation of select objects. This spectacular exhibition of some 700 works of Native art from throughout the Western Hemisphere demonstrates the breadth of the Museum's renowned collection and highlights the historic importance of many of these iconic objects.

The Museum will achieve its education goals by continuing to provide educational programming about Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere and Hawaii, thereby providing opportunities to expand public knowledge. NMAI will also continue working with Native educators and cultural experts on the Museum's national education initiative, "Native Knowledge 360," to create model curriculum materials. In support of this program, NMAI will offer teacher professional development events to provide educators with materials to augment their students' understanding of Native American history and culture. To promote learning across generations, the imagiNATIONS Activity Centers in Washington, DC and New York City will provide interactive learning spaces to introduce aspects of Indigenous knowledge or Native science through tangible examples of their remarkable accomplishments and contributions to the world.

NMAI staff will continue providing educational programs for groups, schools, and other public audiences, leading presentations in galleries and deploying volunteers in all public spaces and program areas to ensure maximum use of all the Museum's available educational resources to enhance the visitor experience.

NMAI will keep dedicating resources to expand access to the Museum's collections online, providing digital educational resources, and developing its website as well as other digital products, content, and experiences as part of the Smithsonian's strategic digital transformation goal.

NMAI will continue to hire and retain the highest quality research staff and collaborate with leading institutions of learning and community-based scholars. Museum staff will disseminate their research to Native American communities and public audiences through online content, digital experiences, exhibitions, printed materials,



programs, and publications, and will continue to seek collaborative opportunities with other organizations, museums, institutions of higher learning, and Native American communities.

Through judicious acquisition, documentation, digitization, inventory, preservation, research, security, storage renewal, and enhancements, as well as loans to museums across the United States, NMAI's staff will continue to serve as a trusted source for information and content in concert with Native communities and cultural experts. The Museum's curators will continue to enhance the collections by acquiring works which document Native experiences and expressive cultures, such as those represented in modern and contemporary arts. In addition, NMAI will continue to loan collections objects to tribal museums and, where appropriate and in accordance with the Smithsonian's and Museum's policies, repatriate sacred objects and items of cultural patrimony to their original tribes.

The Museum will also continue to maintain the National Native American Veterans' Memorial, which was legislatively authorized and opened on the grounds of the main building on the National Mall in FY 2021.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support salary and benefit costs for the Museum director and other program-related costs. Donor/sponsor-designated funds support salaries and benefits for development staff; costs associated with achieving NMAI's fundraising goals; training of future conservators; Fellowships; conservation of objects for exhibits and community loans; publications and special events for exhibition openings; costs related to specific programs and projects, including efforts to expand the interpretation and promotion of the National Native American Veterans' Memorial through educational programs; production of fundraising proposals; and member- and donor-related special events; as well as outreach activities to better serve the public.

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	40	6,982	8	1,513	78	15,448	1	250	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	38	6,703	10	1,420	103	13,229	1	98	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art (NMAA) is \$6.7 million, which will support the preservation, exhibition, research, and interpretation of art in ways that deepen the public and scholarly understanding of art and culture of Asia.

NMAA opened in 1923 as the first fine arts museum on the National Mall and the first Asian art museum in the United States. NMAA is now the steward of one of the world's most important collections of Asian art, with works dating from antiquity to the present, and from China, Japan, Korea, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the pre-Islamic Near East, and the Islamic world (including Central Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa). Because of the unique terms of Charles Lang Freer's original gift, the Museum also holds an important collection of 19th- and early 20th-century American artworks.

Today, NMAA is emerging as a leading national and global resource for understanding the arts, cultures, and societies of Asia, especially at their intersection with America. The Museum will continue to build on this strength through collaboration, increased access, and transparency.

Based on broad consultation, and fully aligned with the Smithsonian's overall Strategic Plan, the Museum's 2020–2025 strategic plan charted a path forward that is as faithful to the past as it is ambitiously future-oriented. Though NMAA is still formulating its 2026–2030 strategic plan, that will in many ways expand on the previous five-year plan. The vision, values, and goals that it sets out promise a more creative, engaged, and efficient Museum; one that celebrates Asian art and addresses basic questions about culture.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

The Museum will advance both Institution-wide and internal goals by continuing to guide operations, planning, and decision making. The plan's four goals are both practical and ambitious. They are:

- Goal 1: Expand, preserve, and celebrate our collections;

- Goal 2: Identify, attract, and serve new audiences through both physical and digital spaces;
- Goal 3: Foster an object-inspired understanding of the arts communities, cultures, and societies of Asia; and
- Goal 4: Build a museum culture that is creative, collaborative, transparent, and resourceful.

In FY 2026, the Museum will:

- present exhibitions, public programs, and events that illuminate our collections and deepen the public's understanding of the arts and cultures of Asia;
- add distinction to its newly established NMAA collection through the ongoing acquisition of extraordinary objects and donated collections;
- provide expertise in preserving cultural heritage to global partners through training programs, joint exhibitions, and research projects;
- ensure the integrity of our collection by enhancing the Museum's excellence in conservation and scientific research;
- implement a digitization plan that extends NMAA's reach and impact to national and international audiences;
- raise our local, national, and global profile with a coordinated campaign of communications, partnerships, and programs to attract audiences interested in understanding and celebrating Asian art and culture;
- better address visitor needs and expectations through expanded onsite offerings, including a new cafe;
- fund collaborations with select Smithsonian museums, universities, and other nonprofit partners to broaden NMAA's expertise and impact;
- participate in Institution-wide committees to share our expertise;
- enhance emergency response activities and training programs;
- strengthen relationships with communities by enhancing outreach and programming through formal partnerships and informal collaborations; and

- expand the paid internship program for both undergraduate and postgraduate students, which was first established in FY 2022.

The Museum will continue to monitor progress on these focused plans and other daily operations through its cross-departmental implementation team. This team provides regular oversight of action plans and tracks progress on key performance indicators. These metrics allow NMAA to take advantage of emerging opportunities and adjust to revenue fluctuations while also providing the focus needed to ensure that the four main goals of the strategic plan are achieved.

In addition, the Museum has a longstanding commitment to education, scholarship, and research, which will continue to advance through digital programming that brings NMAA collections and research to the public. The Museum will continue to expand its in-gallery K–12 programs. Through collaboration with educational partners, NMAA will add more educational resources to its website in support of the Smithsonian’s goal to reach every classroom in America with high-quality educational resources.

In FY 2026, the Museum will continue paying special attention to programming, visitor services, communications, research, monitoring the integrity of its infrastructure, and advancement. NMAA will also increase visitor engagement by:

- presenting several festivals featuring enhanced program offerings and marketing, as well as providing services to other departments and businesses to support their learning objectives for employees and visitors when relevant to the Museum’s collection areas and curatorial expertise;
- leveraging the emerging partnerships created through grant activity to deepen the public’s understanding of Asian art and culture through programming, digital initiatives, and exhibitions;
- capitalizing on a digital-first approach that puts the Museum at the forefront of the Smithsonian’s open-access effort by executing the digital strategic plan developed with an Institution-wide team of digital experts;
- supporting a new Center for Asian Art Conservation, Research, and Education that builds upon the Museum’s unrivalled expertise in Asian art conservation, and both broadening and deepening the Museum’s impact as a leading educational resource for visitors, both in person and online;
- preserving and protecting cultural heritage by sharing subject-matter expertise and resources, including NMAA library resources and access to the Museum’s archives; and

- continuing to implement digital solutions that add interactive features and functionality to core activities and better serve the needs of internal and external users.

The FY 2026 exhibition schedule and complementary public programs will offer opportunities for audience engagement and provide visitors with access to some of the finest works of Asian art.

As the Museum continues to build a culture that is creative, collaborative, transparent, and resourceful, staff will assess and enhance their own development, the efficacy of their organizational structure, and oversight of internal controls by:

- maintaining fiscal discipline in support of the Museum's strategic plan and taking advantage of opportunities for investments in infrastructure and new partnerships;
- recruiting new talent in the areas of curation, research, visitor services, digital and multi-media services, and administration;
- providing mentorship and resources to Museum staff to advance our mission;
- assessing operations to ensure that the Museum is nimble, collaborative, and well-positioned to meet the challenges of its next century; and
- dedicating funds for leadership and supervisory training to equip managers and supervisors with the information, skills, and tools needed to make effective decisions and better serve the visiting public.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust and donor/sponsor-designated funds are generated from memberships; revenue sharing from Museum shop sales and the Smithsonian Channel; participation fees from traveling exhibition venues; special events; unrestricted and restricted gifts and grants; and endowment income. The National Museum of Asian Art depends to a substantial extent on these income sources to support the quality of exhibitions, programs, and publications expected by visitors and scholars, both online and on site. In addition, these income sources allow the Museum to collaborate with other professionals, both nationally and worldwide, who will help increase the public's knowledge and appreciation of art and art history.

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	277	55,239	16	4,674	41	15,057	9	2,108	18	1,938
FY 2026 REQUEST	259	51,028	16	5,141	41	16,563	9	2,319	18	2,132

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request includes \$51.0 million for the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH). The mission of NMNH is to understand the natural world and our place in it. The Museum seeks to inspire curiosity, discovery, and learning about nature and culture through outstanding research, collections, exhibitions, and education. NMNH is widely recognized as the leading natural history museum in the world and the nation's largest informal science venue. It is also one of the world's most visited museums and holds the largest and most significant natural history collection, which is used for public exhibition, outreach, and for scientific research.

Building upon our unique and vast collections and associated data, field research stations, specialized laboratories, and an internationally recognized team of science researchers, the Museum staff, and the knowledge they generate, serve a wide range of constituencies from various federal agencies to the American public and American industry.

NMNH scientific research focuses broadly on discovering, documenting, and understanding the natural world through our collections; studying the formation and evolution of the Earth and other planets; exploring human biological and cultural changes; and investigating evolutionary patterns and processes throughout the history of life on Earth. This research is closely linked to important societal issues such as changes in species populations and distributions, cultural conflict, and natural hazards.

In terms of reputation, NMNH science has worldwide recognition and is often cited by the greater scientific community as well as popular media. Our researchers regularly discover new species and document and analyze how they arise, evolve, persist, and migrate. Including how they interact with each other and with the environment, and why or how they become extinct. Our Earth and planetary scientists contribute to the understanding of our world's history as well as the effects of geologic and meteoritic phenomena on Earth's atmosphere and biosphere. They study the dynamic planet we inhabit in all its aspects, from its mineral resources to its core. NMNH anthropologists use collections and field-based studies to help understand the continually evolving story of our species and our interactions with other life and with the planet. Our staff also translate science to society through their broad and dedicated

outreach efforts and invest heavily in training and mentoring the next generation of new scientists and museum professionals.

Our physical collection of more than 148 million specimens and objects, combined with our collection expertise, is at the core of the Museum's mission and is fundamental to scientific research and what is displayed in the public spaces and through our programs. The scope and breadth of the NMNH collections provide a robust research infrastructure that supports the Smithsonian's scientific mission. The Museum's scientists work with professional colleagues in the United States and around the world to grow and analyze these collections, make new discoveries, and test new theories. NMNH's priceless and irreplaceable collections also represent a valuable historical archive because they document billions of years of planetary, geological, organismal, and cultural changes. As part of a larger Smithsonian initiative, the Museum focuses on the ethical uses of collections to better account for changes involving current societal considerations and respect for all human cultures, traditions, and what it means to be human.

NMNH collections are a dynamic resource used by researchers, educators, and policy makers worldwide, providing critical information that is relevant to U.S. economic interests, the bioeconomy, medical research, and other national priorities. They serve as essential reference materials for U.S. Government agencies and are used by staff members for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, and the Interior, some of whom are housed in NMNH facilities. For example, tens of thousands of insects urgently requiring identification are sent to the Museum from U.S. ports of entry each year. Scientists from the Department of Agriculture and the NMNH consult the collections and rapidly provide identifications to border control agencies so that American agricultural and economic interests are kept secure from damage by pests or potentially invasive species. NMNH collections also serve repository functions for other U.S. federal collections such as the National Cancer Institute, the Department of the Interior, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The FBI also has used the Museum's human skeletal collections to assist in its criminal investigations.

The NMNH's first-class research and collections are at the heart of its exhibitions and educational outreach. As one of the most visited museums in the world with more than four million visitors per year, primarily American tourists visiting their nation's capital, the NMNH provides far-reaching public audiences with presentations on every aspect of life on Earth. Through its many affiliations and partnerships, the Museum takes its science exhibitions and public programs to other institutions and non-traditional exhibition venues, such as libraries, parks, schools, and universities across the country. With a growing body of digital data, network of interactive websites (which host close to 13 million unique visitors annually), distance-learning experiences, and social media, NMNH continues to transform itself into a true digital classroom that is accessible to everyone — free of charge.

## MEANS AND STRATEGY

During the next three years, the Museum will tackle some of the biggest issues of our time by using its research, outreach, and collective efforts to solve problems and to inspire and train the next generation of natural history scientists and museum professionals. Through this effort, the Museum will align itself with broader Smithsonian objectives and embrace NMNH's potential as a catalyst for national and international conversations, reaching Americans in their own communities through a more visible digital presence, and seizing opportunities to partner with other Smithsonian units to better serve the public.

The Museum's strategic plan is centered around several initiatives which are supported with a combination of federal and private funding:

- The Ocean Science Center consolidates the Museum's vast marine portfolio and creates an array of new tools, techniques, and collections to measure marine life more accurately and rapidly.
- The Informatics and Data Science Center exists to develop and deploy technologies such as specimen digitization, artificial intelligence, geospatial analysis, genomics, and environmental DNA. The Center's overarching goal is to make the world's largest natural history collection accessible and discoverable enabling us to expand the utility and impact of the National Collection.
- The Interns and Fellows Initiative trains young people in the specific skill sets needed to be the next generation of scientists, museum professionals, and science-savvy citizens. NMNH has a long history of training future scientists and will continue this important work in FY 2026. NMNH academic programs are aimed at high school students in the early stages of scientific exploration, college and graduate students who are undertaking their first research projects, and postdoctoral researchers who are launching their careers as scientists.

NMNH is committed to the stewardship of its scientific collections. These resources play an important federal role in public health and safety, homeland security, trade and economic development, medical research, and environmental monitoring. They also provide the foundation for the Museum's broad research, exhibits, and public outreach programs. NMNH will continue its strong commitment to cutting-edge research and state-of-the-art stewardship of the collections, on behalf of and in partnership with the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, and the Interior. Continued federal funding is the key for maintaining and preserving these priceless collections, their valuable information for future generations, and their use for ongoing research.

The Museum's collections are the bedrock of its scientific enterprise. That is why the scientific research staff is organized into seven departments: anthropology; botany; entomology; mineral sciences; invertebrate zoology; paleobiology; and vertebrate zoology. Collection-based research programs address current topics, such as molecular



systematics and environmental DNA to better understand the relationships among living things, ecosystem modeling, and the documentation and preservation of human cultural heritages. In 2024, the Museum's scientific staff authored more than 661 scholarly publications. Annually, they typically contribute to the discovery and description of hundreds of species new to science.

In FY 2026, NMNH will continue to maintain and upgrade permanent exhibitions, improving public access to the Museum's resources through DIY (Do-It-Yourself) exhibits, and expanding NMNH's digital reach across the country.

In June of 2023, the Museum launched the exhibition *Cellphone: Unseen Connections*, a youth-oriented investigation into the often-surprising connections between the natural world and the fastest-growing and most widespread technology in human history. Made possible through a combination of federal funds and corporate support, *Cellphone* combines displays of natural specimens and technological and cultural artifacts with innovative media interactives to tell a rich story about the environmental and societal impacts of that ubiquitous device in our pockets. Varied onsite and digital educational programming will extend the exhibit's impact on schools and communities nationwide as the exhibit runs through 2027. The "Exploded Cellphone" program is one of the most popular school programs and was developed as part of the exhibit. The program will continue to be offered through 2027 along with exhibit tours, the "Expert Is In" programs, and other interactive features.

In 2026, the Museum will open two new special exhibitions as part of the Smithsonian-wide commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The first, *Bison: Standing Strong*, will celebrate our iconic national mammal. From the bison's early abundance and deep ties to Indigenous nations to its widespread commercial hunting to its eventual resurgence through a surprising cooperative conservation effort, spearheaded by the Smithsonian, the bison's story is uniquely American. These massive mammals shaped continental ecosystems for close to 100,000 years and persist in American culture as symbols of strength, power, and resilience.

The second exhibition, *From These Lands: Sharing Our Natural and Cultural Heritage*, will display at least one object from the Museum collections from all 50 of the United States and the inhabited territories, inviting visitors to discover curious, wonderful, and beautiful items from wherever they call home. Interactive media will invite visitors to explore our nation beyond state borders — the geology, topography, watersheds, and other aspects of the natural world that give the United States its stunning variety. Visitors will discover how NMNH's vast collections constantly reveal new knowledge that helps us better understand our nation's past, interpret our present, and plan for our future.

In addition, Q?rius, The Coralyn W. Whitney Science Education Center — the Museum's interactive science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning facility — continues bringing NMNH research and collections to visitors and

learners. Q?rius programs inspire the next generation of STEM professionals by helping citizens learn more about their connection to the natural world. In FY 2025, the Q?rius space will undergo an extensive renovation to update all technology in both the open collections space and the theater. This will enable the Museum to expand school group, family, youth, and after-hours programming — both in person and online. In FY 2026, a new, Web-based application for visitors' phones will give audiences an increased awareness of the rich variety of the Q?rius education collection. With the anticipated renovations and upgrades, Q?rius will be able to disseminate more natural history content and engage with additional visitors and educators.

During the 2024–2025 school year, the Museum's education team delivered more than 500 engaging and interactive onsite school science programs to 13,456 K–12 students from 20 states and five countries (the United States, Canada, Colombia, the Philippines, and France). The most popular program, reaching 1,488 students, was the newly offered "Exploded Cellphone" program. The Museum offered six onsite program options for students in grades K–5, six for grades 6–12, and nine digital school programs for grades K–12. Museum educators led all these programs and tied NMNH content to local curriculum and national science standards. More than 4,000 students participated in NMNH digital school programs, and three complimentary school program "explainer" videos garnered more than 133,000 views. The sustained demand for digital school programs and engagement with our digital resources and videos underscore our digital education efforts' ongoing need and impact. We will continue all these efforts in FY 2026.

These NMNH programs and resources will continue to inspire audiences by increasing their understanding of the natural world and their place in it. In addition, Museum staff are reaching new youth audiences and increasing youth participation in a continuum of opportunities to inspire, nurture, and grow the next generation of STEM professionals.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support salaries and benefits of administrative personnel, advancement and business activities, and other program-related costs. The Museum raises funds from private sources to support research, exhibitions, public programs, and administrative functions. Donor/sponsor-designated funds are vital to support exhibition hall renovations and offer educational activities and programs. In addition, significant endowment gifts support internships and fellowships which introduce more students to the natural sciences, underwrite field research, and help the Museum maintain and expand its educational programs.

## NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	57	7,614	14	3,624	8	4,267	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	51	6,700	14	2,098	11	2,350	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery (NPG) is \$6.7 million. Focused on history and art, NPG is a museum of people, by people, for people, with education at the core of its mission. NPG welcomes more than 1.2 million visitors a year from across the country and around the world to learn about the remarkable Americans who have shaped — and continue to shape — the United States.

Through the power of portraits, NPG takes visitors on a journey through U.S. history by focusing on the achievements of individual Americans. On the first floor, the gallery charts the history of the United States from the 1600s to the turn of the 20th century. The second floor showcases a complete collection of U.S. presidential portraits, marking leadership in the White House over time. Objects from the permanent collection are also featured on the third floor, where NPG recognizes the impact of people across all fields of endeavor, from the military and public service, and science and innovation, to sports and entertainment from the 1900s to today.

In addition to the permanent collection, NPG organizes between six to eight temporary exhibitions a year to focus on special areas of U.S. history. In FY 2025, these include 60 American women who lived in Paris before World War II and brought modern art back to the United States; a celebration of James Baldwin to mark the 100-year anniversary of his birth; the largest showing of Felix Gonzales Torres conceptual portraits; early photographs of U.S. presidents; photographs from Hollywood's Golden Age; paintings by Amy Sherald; and the triennial portrait competition. Of these exhibitions, three will tour other parts of the nation.

NPG is also known for its research. In 2024, books were produced to accompany *Brilliant Exiles: American Women in Paris, 1900–1939* (Yale University Press) and *James Baldwin: This Morning, This Evening, So Soon* (DelMonico Press). In 2025, the Museum will produce a catalogue to accompany the National Portrait Competition, contribute an essay to the *Amy Sherald: American Sublime* catalogue (Yale University Press), and publish *Facing New Freedoms: Emily Howland's Photograph Album* (Princeton University Press). These publications contribute new research to the field of portraiture, highlight the important contributions of individuals to U.S. history and culture, and complement the Gallery's major exhibitions. In addition, the Portrait Gallery's publications office continues to collaborate with other departments in providing

more accessible and valuable digital content by editing and managing hundreds of bilingual extended object labels and various education materials.

NPG is conducting several collections care projects, such as re-housing prints and drawings that are old or in disrepair, conserving 44 presidential portraits in advance of the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and treating more than 200 objects with a contract conservator — many of which have never been treated before. Currently more than 90 percent of the collection is digitized and available online, and Gallery staff will continue digitizing collection objects and recording them in the Smithsonian's Digital Asset Management System (DAMS).

NPG's education staff serve more than 1,000 teachers and 15,000 K–12 students on site a year and another 12,000+ through distance learning. The Audience Engagement team serves 20,000 youth and family visitors online. Building on the online engagement capabilities developed in recent years, NPG will leverage social media platforms to attract more followers and convert them to visitors while also expanding engagement with international media.

NPG will continue to collaborate with its innovative learning groups, the Teen Council and the Teacher Advisory Board, and use their perspectives and knowledge to extend the educational value of the Portrait Gallery's collection both programmatically and digitally. Other popular programs, including evening events, curator tours, and exhibition-specific programs and events, will continue to anchor NPG's educational offerings, both in person and online. The NPG docent corps remains a vibrant group, well-versed in the collection and trained to engage various audiences; one quarter of the docents are fluent in Spanish and English, and the full corps has returned to in-person tours while keeping the successful online tours. *Explore!*, the NPG education space for 18-month to 8-year-olds, designed to help young people explore portraiture as art and history, will also continue drawing families to the Gallery.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

In FYs 2025 and 2026, NPG will continue concentrating its efforts and resources to install exhibitions, develop and maintain its collection, expand public education offerings, and pursue new research directions.

The Portrait Gallery's main publication projects in FYs 2025 and 2026 include completing exhibition catalogues for the *Felix Gonzalez Torres: Always to Return* and *The Outwin 2025: American Portraiture Today* exhibits, as well as developing the catalogues for *Wendy Red Star* and *Photographic Memory*. With each publication, NPG aims to broaden access through high-quality printed works which reach far beyond the Gallery's walls nationally and worldwide.

NPG will continue to improve the stewardship of the national collections by providing a fuller picture of the early United States, with further acquisitions of 18th- and 19th-century portraits of minorities and women adding to the narrative of the recent

reinstallation of the permanent collection gallery of artworks from 1600–1900. This effort includes works never previously on view and featuring more women. In FY 2024, NPG acquired the quarter-plate daguerreotype of Dolley Madison (c. 1846) by John Plumbe Jr., which is the earliest known photograph of a U.S. First Lady. The photograph joins the first known photograph of a U.S. president, an 1843 daguerreotype of John Quincy Adams by Philip Haas, acquired by the Portrait Gallery in 2017.

The Portrait Gallery will also seek to acquire portraits of contemporary leading figures in disability rights, the sciences, business, and the arts. NPG will expand its collection of time-based media artworks while also commissioning more original portraits in all media and continue working with the Digitization Program Office until its entire collection of two- and three-dimensional works is digitized. The Gallery will continue supporting the physical conservation needs of the national collection in all media and provide state-of-the-art analysis of works in the permanent collection.

NPG will continue to raise its visibility with a brand awareness campaign and to evaluate data to better understand visitors — both in person and online. Staff will accomplish these goals through data-driven evaluation and communications.

Also, in FYs 2025 and 2026, the Audience Engagement staff will implement the NPG strategic plan by expanding civic engagement programs and cementing 10 new partnerships for NPG. These partnerships will expand existing programs and exhibitions, and create deep, meaningful experiences for audiences across the United States. In addition, NPG will reimagine the physical design of its Education Center, the *Explore!* gallery, and the alcove that joins the two spaces, to offer visitors a true engagement experience with the Gallery's art. NPG will also reimagine its third-floor space to enhance the visitors' Museum experience. The Portrait Gallery will build on existing programs by looking to its strategic plan for guidance on the best way to expand its reach and use data evaluation to offer a more tailored and engaging experience for visitors. NPG will also explore options for creating spaces where visitors can participate in civil discourse and think about how to become more engaged citizens in our modern American democracy.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support essential positions and the costs of special events for exhibition openings, loan exhibition development, outreach, fund raising, management, and research. NPG must support exhibitions, publications, public lectures, gallery programs, symposia, and some collection acquisitions with donor/sponsor-designated funds. Private donations are thus critical to the Portrait Gallery's planning, programming, and ability to deliver on its public mission. It is through a public-private partnership that NPG achieves its goals and serves the Smithsonian's mission and the American people.

## NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	8	2,329	0	486	4	3,144	21	3,829	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	7	2,358	1	124	4	770	26	3,011	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the National Postal Museum (NPM) is \$2.4 million, which will support the world's largest museum collection of stamps and postal artifacts. NPM is dedicated to creating visitor experiences that educate, excite, entertain, and inspire. With more than six million objects, the Museum is responsible for the Smithsonian's second-largest collection. NPM dedicates its resources to developing new and innovative ways to explore the vital role of the postal system in American life, and to make its vast philatelic and postal collections available to all visitors — both in person and online. The Museum uses its collections in exhibitions and public programs to educate visitors on the history of America, transportation, communications, economics, and commerce.

NPM's strategic plan is designed to advance the core strategic directions of the Museum. Many of the strategic objectives involve Institution-wide cooperation to achieve shared goals. NPM seeks to develop new audiences and serve as a focal point for national and international philatelic history, collecting, and storytelling.

Social media and other digital platforms are an ever-increasing and helpful platform for broadening the curatorial impact on philately and postal history. In addition, the Museum will change how it greets and orients visitors, supports and staffs exhibitions, and creates new programs to attract and serve different audiences.

NPM plans to increase its reach and impact as a leader in the field of philately and teller of the special stories in American history.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

Through the prism of postal communications and philatelic heritage, NPM will contribute to the Smithsonian's vision of building on its unique strengths to engage and inspire more people, through conversations on issues affecting our nation and the world. These challenges will be met by partnering with other Smithsonian museums and using NPM's assets to contribute to large, visionary, interdisciplinary research, and scholarly projects.

In time for publication during America's semiquincentennial year, NPM is researching and writing a book that will focus on the development of the postal system

in colonial and early federal America. The book will examine and illustrate the history of mail and the formation of the postal system from the colonial settlements through the War of 1812, using objects from the collection of the Museum, along with analysis of the interplay of American and global history.

In honor of the nation's 250th birthday, NPM will also open the exhibition "*American Stories, American Stamps*" in late spring of 2026. Based on an exhibit first developed by United States Postal Service (USPS) art directors Antonio Alcalá and Greg Breeding, the stamps and stamp production art featured in the exhibit will showcase how stamps, and the artists who create them, tell the stories that shape our collective identity as Americans. Through these miniature works of graphic design, alongside the original artwork from the Postmaster General's collection used to create them, "*American Stories, American Stamps*" will celebrate the vibrancy of our nation.

In FY 2026, NPM's education and visitor experience department will continue to expand pre-K–12 educational programs and create and expand exhibit-related learning opportunities for both onsite and virtual learners. The Byrne Education Center will continue to support the Museum's enhanced learning opportunities for visiting groups. Using hands-on activities and civic connections to the Museum's collections, NPM is well-positioned to help learners make personal connections to Museum content. Throughout FY 2026, the Byrne Education Center will once again be used by NPM and the greater Smithsonian community for meetings and educational experiences for visitors of all ages. In FY 2026, the Museum also anticipates opening a children's space designed for infants and toddlers up to 6 years old where they will have engaging opportunities for informal learning and play.

NPM offers a suite of virtual field trips for students from pre-K through the 12th grade as well as recurring virtual programs for early learners and adults. Keeping accessibility practices and principles at the center of the department's work, nearly all virtual programs include live closed captioning, sign language interpreters, or visual descriptions of speakers and images. The education and visitor experience department has continued its efforts to amplify previously overlooked stories with objects in the Museum's collections. For FY 2026, NPM will have an additional focus on highlighting stories that celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding.

At NPM, federal resources are dedicated to improving the stewardship of the six million objects which represent the national collection of philatelic material and postal history. The Museum's collections team leads efforts to preserve and increase access to collection objects on site and online. On site, the collections team hosts visitors researching the collection and the archives and supports exhibition installations. Since 2020, through various digitization initiatives, the collections team has increased by 50,000 the number of object records available online.

In FYs 2025 and 2026, in anticipation of the United States' 250th celebration, NPM collections staff will focus their digitization efforts on American material in the Museum's collection, including thousands of U.S. stamps that the Museum receives and

processes on a quarterly basis. Never-before-seen early American letters, covers, maps, and ephemera will be preserved, catalogued, imaged, and published online for audiences around the world. The material will also be made available for programs and visitors to the Museum.

NPM will also use FY 2026 to increase public awareness of and access to the Museum's archival collection. The NPM Archives, established in 2024, collects materials to make the Museum a global leader and advocate for the research, study, and exhibition of postal operations history, philately, and the mail. To this end, the Archives appraises, acquires, describes, preserves, and makes accessible archival collections that document postal operations history, philately, the mail, and their roles in the United States and internationally.

The NPM collections team will continue to support collections management by developing, maintaining, lending, and preserving the national collections and making them more accessible to the public. For example, the team will continue to document and add collections-related information to NPM's database. The Museum's conservator will carry out conservation treatments on the permanent collection, ensuring that the objects are preserved for future generations. And finally, the team will process new acquisitions to enhance NPM's ability to tell philatelic and postal history stories.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

The USPS provides NPM with an annual contribution that supports more than 60 percent of the Museum's core functions and operational costs, including non-federal salaries and benefits, facility maintenance, exhibitions, education, and collection management programs. Fundraising initiatives generate resources from the private sector to develop and support new exhibitions, research opportunities, educational and public programs, and special events.



## NATIONAL ZOO AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	204	36,317	49	12,842	40	13,208	11	2,842	4	612
FY 2026 REQUEST	192	34,138	51	13,841	43	14,546	9	2,993	3	655

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (NZCBI) is \$34.1 million and will continue its mission of saving endangered species and the protection of our national and worldwide heritage. To ensure it continues to meet animal care and safety standards, NZCBI will work to reduce the size of its live collection of animals. Taking this action reflects both a commitment to fiscal discipline and to the health and safety of our visitors, staff, and the animals.

#### Enhance Animal Care, Safety, and Sustainability

The life, safety, and health of the animals in our care is core to NZCBI's mission of saving species and sharing knowledge. Federal funding is essential for meeting the fundamental, minimal needs of caring for the animals in our collection — resources that cannot be secured through philanthropy, grants, or partnerships. This includes our responsibility to comply with Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation standards, the gold standard in zoological care. Costs of animal care, medicines, animal food, as well as the cost to maintain habitats or replace and repair equipment generally increase faster than the annual rate of inflation.

The health, well-being, and safety of both the animals and staff of NZCBI are its highest priority. As the science of zoology and aquatic studies grows, so do our accepted standards or best practices for medical care, husbandry, animal welfare, and safety for zoo animals. Zoological facilities must continually improve in all areas to keep up with rising standards and expectations from oversight organizations as well as the visiting public. The AZA standards are updated annually, with the most recent updates emphasizing veterinary processes/procedures and safety, especially with regard to our SCUBA diving program, which is necessary to maintain marine mammal habitats in terms of both water quality and physical facilities. Continuing education and certification are required for staff to remain current in their respective disciplines and ensure the ongoing safety of our staff and animals.

Additionally, new veterinary medical procedures, diagnostics, and testing require increased medical equipment and expertise. Breeding and research protocols designed to save endangered species from extinction require cutting-edge, sophisticated management approaches to ensure the safety of both animals and staff. When every birth of an endangered animal may impact the survival of a species, new and labor-intensive

approaches are increasingly needed to provide life-saving veterinary care, medication, and hand-rearing that literally mean the difference between life and death.

As our understanding of animals' social and behavioral needs increases, so does our need for the size and complexity of their spaces and monitoring equipment to observe behavior overnight without the presence of humans. Maintaining appropriate animal habitats requires extensive investments in their environments to allow for more species-appropriate behaviors and social interactions. For example, despite decades of successful management of giant pandas in their former habitat, before receiving the new pair of giant pandas, many enhancements were made, including the addition of numerous climbing structures and installation of several new cameras to better monitor their activities. These enhancements will be even more important once the pandas reach breeding age.

Finally, the protocols and processes needed to enhance the safety of both the animals and the people who care for them are rapidly evolving and involve specialized equipment and additional staff to ensure best practices are followed. For example, the AZA recognized NZCBI for setting the industry standard with facility lock-out/tag-out systems and two-person rules for staff working with large, dangerous carnivores, which ensure humans and dangerous animals never unintentionally share space.

### **Fortify and Focus Science, Animal Care, and Collections Management to Advance Species Conservation and Sustainability**

By far the biggest event of the year for NZCBI was the successful return of giant pandas to the National Zoo. Using privately raised funds, staff made extensive modifications and upgrades to the giant panda habitats to both follow updated standards as well as to enhance our ability to monitor and care for the pandas. In mid-October of 2024, the Zoo added a young male and young female panda to the animal collection. NZCBI staff helped the pandas slowly acclimate to their new habitats by first restricting access and later by ramping up visitation rates to the panda exhibits. Their full public debut occurred on January 24th of this year. Given the ages of the pandas, no breeding is anticipated for the next several years so they can become comfortable in their new homes first.

As the nation's most prominent zoo, NZCBI is world-renowned for its excellence in using science to advance the conservation, management, and care of animals in captivity and in the wild. More than 370 species are exhibited at the National Zoo's Rock Creek campus, including giant pandas, tigers, and Asian elephants. One of NZCBI's key contributions to ensuring the survival of species is the work that occurs at the 3,200-acre site in Front Royal, Virginia. There, scientists study and manage the breeding program for more than 20 species, including some that were once extinct in the wild such as black-footed ferrets. Both locations house and care for some of the world's most endangered animals, such as clouded leopards, red pandas, and cheetahs.

NZCBI's researchers and staff continue to advance the standards and practices for the medical care, nutrition, husbandry, reproduction, and safety of Zoo animals. Much of this work involves developing tools to breed and maintain healthy animal populations in zoos

and these innovations benefit the broader conservation community. These animals often also serve as insurance populations that can support the reintroduction and restoration of species in the wild. NZCBI's recent accomplishments in animal breeding include developing assisted reproductive technologies, such as sperm cryopreservation in America's red wolf (critically endangered), artificial insemination in the scimitar-horned oryx (endangered), advancing fluid-chip technology to create artificial ovaries for endangered cat fertility preservation, and assisting the development of breeding techniques for the first cloned black-footed ferrets.

By working with partners at the Hawaii Marine Laboratory, NZCBI researchers are leading the way in pioneering coral cryopreservation to save coral reefs globally. Our scientists innovated techniques for freezing and banking live coral and their reproductive cells. These coral or cells can later be thawed and used to reseed coral reefs where needed and to facilitate assisted gene flow. This "genetic bank" approach will be critical for coral preservation as insurance to prevent extinction of the species. Cryopreservation supports conservation efforts to save genetic diversity, increase reproductive success, and facilitate the re-establishment of coral reefs. Cryopreservation may represent humanity's best opportunity for saving critical coral ecosystems over the long-term. This work is also essential because almost 25 percent of all marine life dwells on a coral reef at some point. Without coral, many species of fish that we eat would not exist. Corals also provide a natural barrier to protect our coastlines from tsunamis and they support people's livelihoods in the form of fishing and tourism.

Extending this conservation approach into the future, Smithsonian scientists at NZCBI are helping to design and implement a "passive" biorepository that would hold critical cryopreserved plant and animal cells necessary for life on Earth. A passive biorepository holds cells without additional energy or personnel; however, since there is no place cold enough on Earth for this repository, the research team is proposing to build it at the south pole of the moon. This biorepository could support future needs of exploration and the terraforming of other worlds as well as help bolster Earth's ecosystems in case of man-made or natural disasters, such as wars, fires, floods, and diseases.

One critical area for NZCBI's applied research is the Northern Great Plains of Montana. Our Great Plains Science Program focuses on reclaiming our national heritage through the management and restoration of healthy grazing lands. This also includes the conservation and reintroduction of some of the iconic American species of the west, including the bison, black-footed ferret, and swift fox. While developing these programs, NZCBI works closely with tribal communities to advance educational opportunities through science education and expanding technical capacity for long-term and effective land management. Recent program successes include the completion of a six-year reintroduction initiative for swift fox and new technological advances for the protection and conservation of remaining black-footed ferret populations. NZCBI scientists are at the forefront in integrating aerial monitoring via drones, with below-ground tracking of black-footed ferrets to better understand which factors influence their survival. To better analyze the data and facilitate real-time advances, Smithsonian scientists are developing ways to use artificial intelligence for automating wildlife monitoring and surveys.

NZCBI science and animal care is globally renowned, resulting in research and conservation partnerships in more than 37 countries. Frequently, these are focused to save some of the most endangered species and habitats, such as giant pandas in China, Asian elephants in Laos and Thailand, and giraffes across Africa. One highlight is our collaboration with the Sahara Conservation Fund and Environment Abu Dhabi for the successful reintroduction of scimitar-horned oryx, a species once extinct in the wild. This project resulted in the re-establishment of wild populations, thereby saving the oryx from extinction.

In May of 2025, the Smithsonian announced a new partnership with the Royal Commission of AlUla of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to explore bringing a breeding pair of critically endangered Arabian leopards to NZCBI and for scientific support to their breeding and reintroduction programs.

### **Strengthen Core Foundations of People, Places, and Fiscal Resources for Mission Success**

During FY 2024, NZCBI continued to experience the negative impacts of global inflation, which drove up costs for essential resources such as food, medicines, medical care, and hay production for the living collection. In response, NZCBI made strategic adjustments to its spending to maintain high standards of care and sustainability.

Despite the challenges, NZCBI achieved increased success within its membership and special events programs. A major highlight was the return of giant pandas to the National Zoo, which inspired the launch of the “District of Panda” campaign. This initiative not only created new revenue streams for NZCBI but also deepened community engagement and strengthened the National Zoo’s role as a cultural and conservation leader.

Additionally, NZCBI continued to work closely with local and District governments and organizations to enhance its positive impact on surrounding communities. Through these partnerships, the National Zoo reinforced its commitment to education, conservation, and public engagement, ensuring that its mission remains at the forefront of both local and national conversations. By focusing on financial resilience, innovative programming, and community collaboration, NZCBI is building a strong foundation for future success.

### **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

NZCBI’s highest priority continues to be the health, well-being, and safety of our staff, volunteers, visitors, and animals. To uphold this commitment, NZCBI must keep adapting to evolving industry standards, best practices, and safety protocols in animal care, husbandry, veterinary medicine, and nutrition. One example of these increasing AZA standards is the SCUBA program required to help staff ensure proper maintenance of marine mammal habitats, including water quality and facility upkeep. Additionally, NZCBI must respond swiftly to emerging challenges, such as the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, which constitutes a significant threat to our bird collection. Managing such threats requires rapid adjustments to veterinary and safety protocols, leading to increased costs for animal care (such as medicines, vaccines, testing, and personal protective equipment) as well as

operational safety measures (including crowd management, enhanced cleaning protocols, and long-term facility modifications).

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds, including onsite earned revenue (from parking, food, retail, etc.), support salaries and benefits of the NZCBI director and general operational requirements not fully covered by federal funds (for example, education, professional training, animal acquisitions, finance and administration, information technology, communications, exhibits, and animal care). Donor/sponsor-designated funds support the costs related to specific programs and projects for critically endangered species (such as antelope, amphibians, cheetah, giant pandas, Asian elephants, and tigers, etc.). Private donations help NZCBI implement multiple small- to medium-sized projects and support exhibit interpretive design and implementation. Government grants and contracts support a wide array of scientific studies on the ecology, biology, and habitats of wildlife species.

## SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	86	12,141	15	3,638	37	11,438	1	153	3	257
FY 2026 REQUEST	76	10,684	16	3,117	45	11,154	1	137	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) is \$10.7 million. SAAM is the nation's museum dedicated to the art and artists of the United States from colonial times to the present. It is home to the largest collection of American art in the world, and its holdings of more than 48,000 works, spanning three centuries of the nation's cultural development, tell the story of America through the visual arts. The Museum's programs make the collection available to national and international audiences, as well as to those who visit its two historic buildings in Washington, DC: the Donald W. Reynolds Center (DWRC) for American Art and Portraiture (shared by SAAM and the National Portrait Gallery) and the Renwick Gallery, dedicated to American crafts and decorative arts.

SAAM curators and research Fellows-in-residence use the collection and other resources to develop new insights into America's cultural and artistic legacy as well as current themes and explorations. The resulting knowledge drives collections development, exhibitions, associated award-winning catalogues and scholarly publications, and educational programs. The Fellowship program cultivates the next generation of professors and curators. SAAM has hosted more than 800 scholars who now work at academic and cultural institutions across the United States, Australia, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, and South America. The Museum's peer-reviewed journal, *American Art*, serves as a primary venue for groundbreaking scholarship in the field. In addition, SAAM hosts national and international symposia and seminars on topics of relevance in the field of American art and encourages a deeper understanding of American art's global connections.

Preserving our cultural heritage through the lens of American art is at the forefront of all collection activities. Scholarship and research help set acquisition objectives, while gifts of art and private funds pay for additions to the national collection. Conservators research methods and tools to preserve the artwork and share their knowledge through the Museum's Lunder Conservation Center. The Center is an important resource for conservation training and conferences of interest to the conservation community and the public.

## MEANS AND STRATEGY

The Museum continues to produce world-class exhibitions, educational opportunities, and public programs as it works toward our shared Smithsonian future. An ambitious schedule of exhibitions developed in-house and complemented by shows obtained from other organizations attracts new visitors and encourages repeat visits. At the DWRC, large spaces, shops, and a restaurant greet visitors with a broad range of activities to maintain their interest. The Lunder Conservation Center provides a window on preserving the national collections, and the Luce Foundation Center for American Art displays 3,500 collection objects in an inviting, visible storage center. SAAM's Renwick Gallery has additional space for exhibitions, public programs, and rotating displays of its permanent collection of American crafts. Some of the exhibitions SAAM is planning for FY 2026 include:

- *State Fairs: Growing American Craft*
- *Shahzia Sikander: The Last Post*
- *Nick Cave: Mammoth*
- *Isaac Julien: Lessons of the Hour — Frederick Douglass*
- *Grandma Moses: A Good Day's Work*

As part of its goal to make as much material as possible accessible to the public, the Museum regularly rotates artworks in the permanent collection galleries to show the many facets of American art and culture, as well as to encourage return visits. To supplement this ongoing effort, SAAM is renovating its galleries with new installations to showcase additional works of art for our audiences. Developed in collaboration with interpretation and curatorial colleagues, *American Voices and Visions* is the guiding interpretive framework for SAAM's permanent collection galleries throughout the Museum.

The Museum makes as much of its artwork and related data as possible freely available online to the public. Ninety-nine percent of SAAM's collection is now online. The Museum hosts dynamic websites for visitors, researchers, and educators, most notably through the popular website at [AmericanArt.si.edu](http://AmericanArt.si.edu). SAAM also participates in collaborative digital initiatives with other organizations, using powerful tools such as Linked Open Data (LOD). The publication of SAAM's collections data as LOD has established the Museum as a leader in promoting semantic web standards in the museum community. In FY 2026, SAAM will continue to expand digital technologies by offering activities to engage users both online and in galleries. The Museum takes full advantage of the latest technologies, with a focus on mobile-optimized websites, digital audio guides, digital visitor feedback capabilities, video production, and social media engagement. Three videoconference centers deliver the Museum's education programs to classrooms around the world. The digitization of SAAM's collections also continues, allowing the Museum to add new assets and media to support its vast online resources.

Further, SAAM maintains an active social media presence. The Museum's blog, *Eye Level*, engages the public in conversations about art-related topics. SAAM adds

dozens of educational videos and live streams to its non-profit YouTube channel each year and makes these assets fully accessible, regardless of the type of device used. Custom-built interactive exhibition components, apps, audio tours, and videos are used whenever appropriate to provide a richer learning experience for visitors.

Multiple traveling exhibitions are shared with other museums throughout the United States, enriching people's lives by giving them direct access to their nation's artistic and cultural heritage. National outreach includes the touring exhibitions *Fighters for Freedom: William H. Johnson Picturing Justice*; *Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas*; and *Unreal: Photo Realist Paintings* (working title). Interactive exhibition components keep pace with proliferating information streams. In addition, whenever possible, SAAM loans objects from the national collection to other museums nationwide.

National education programs directly reach K–12 teachers and students. These programs use the latest technologies to incorporate art into social studies, history, and language arts. Resident teacher institutes are supplemented by online/on-demand courses for the K–12 community. The Museum regularly collaborates with private and public organizations to provide teachers with new resources. In addition, students are brought into the Museum as often as possible to provide that direct experience with the transformative power of great art. The MacMillan Education Center, located in the galleries, serves students across the nation and on U.S. military bases worldwide. Specifically, SAAM continues to develop its highly successful distance-learning program with staff and 22 volunteers who create content that reaches classrooms worldwide. Contracts and partnerships with Government agencies such as the Department of Defense and the American Battle Monuments Commission, as well as Washington, DC public schools, also expand the Museum's reach.

In addition, the Museum created three virtual "Smithsonian Summer Sessions," which are interdisciplinary weeklong experiences taught online to model strategies for learning through art, history, and culture. Since 2020, SAAM has welcomed nearly 600 teachers from all 50 states, Washington, DC, two U.S. territories (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and nine foreign countries (including Barbados, Bolivia, Canada, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Taiwan, and United Arab Emirates) to this program. SAAM also turned the "Summer Sessions" content into three online courses which have enrolled more than 3,200 teachers.

Public programs enhance Museum exhibitions and highlight permanent collections with lectures, tours, and gallery talks, as well as craft and artist workshops. SAAM hosts lectures and artist talks in the McEvoy Auditorium, which is also equipped with state-of-the-art live streaming capabilities, allowing programs to reach audiences in Washington, DC and beyond. Additional programming, including family days and craft workshops, takes place in the Kogod Courtyard of the DWRC and the Renwick Gallery, respectively. In FY 2024 alone, SAAM hosted more than 100 programs and events.

Research on the collections and related American art topics by curatorial staff continues in support of exhibitions and the permanent collection. Endowments and



multi-year private support have allowed the Museum to hire curators with specialties ranging from sculpture, photography, and contemporary crafts to media arts. The Museum's award-winning journal, *American Art*, publishes three issues of new scholarship annually. SAAM also continues to host approximately 20 research Fellows every year, from throughout the country and internationally, to increase the number of scholars using the collections. The resulting discoveries and interpretations by staff and Fellows help Americans appreciate their cultural heritage as well as advance scholarship in American art. Research also feeds into educational programs and provides content for the Museum's website and new media.

The safe storage and display of collections objects remain a top priority. SAAM continues to develop public interest in, and awareness of, preservation issues through the Luce Foundation Center and the Lunder Conservation Center and their many public and professional programs. The Museum uses new tools and instruments to preserve its collection and has leased cool-storage space to ensure that photographic material is preserved in ideal conditions. Artworks will be acquired to fill gaps in the collection. Time-based media (that is, works exhibiting a changing observable state, such as film, videos, or lights) continue to receive special attention in our dedicated Time-based Media Gallery. Galleries in the DWRC have been converted to use light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, which is less damaging to the collection and more economical and energy efficient in reducing the costs of maintenance and utilities.

The Museum takes a multi-pronged approach to ensure that cost-effective and responsive administration supports its mission. Information Technology (IT) staff implement and maintain the information framework on which so many other efforts depend. This includes exhibition space screens and kiosks that provide access to information anywhere, on any device. Managers carefully plan, promote, protect, and conserve the Museum's resources. SAAM also has a robust safety program to ensure a safe and healthy environment for Museum staff and visitors.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

Nearly all SAAM's non-personnel costs, including those for exhibitions, educational and public programs, and purchases for the national collection, are paid with funds provided by individuals, foundations, and corporations. Donor/sponsor-designated funds support specific programs and projects. Additionally, trust funds support salaries and benefits for one-third of Museum staff, as well as all fundraising activities and related costs.

## SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	22	9,568	3	798	4	1,091	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	22	9,568	4	1,841	6	1,374	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum (SAWHM) is \$9.6 million.

Public Law (P.L.) 116-260, signed by President Trump on December 27, 2020, established the Museum within the Smithsonian Institution to be a women's history museum that documents the contributions women have made to the history of America; represents a range of viewpoints, experiences, and backgrounds; presents a more complete history of the United States; and enhances the public's understanding of American history through a focus on women's roles in shaping our nation. Executive Order 14253, "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History" further demonstrates the Administration's commitment to realize this vision. The Smithsonian is actively working with Congress to finalize a site for a building on the National Mall. In the meantime, the Museum is advancing its mission by serving audiences nationwide.

SAWHM expands the story of America through the often-untold accounts and accomplishments of women — individually and collectively — to better understand our past and inspire our future. The Museum fulfills this commitment through new scholarship, innovative exhibitions, digital experiences, educational programs, storytelling, and community participation. SAWHM highlights women's contributions across various fields, their roles in building communities, and their impact on the American experience throughout our nation's history.

SAWHM emphasizes collaboration with other Smithsonian museums and research and cultural centers, outside museums, and educational organizations; enhances the Smithsonian's capacity to reach audiences nationwide through digital resources and national partnerships; and creates exhibitions, programs, and digital experiences that reveal the many ways that well-known and everyday women have influenced our history and nation.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

In FY 2026, SAWHM will increase its educational impact, advance historical scholarship, expand its national reach, and undertake short- and long-term planning efforts. Early public and private investments have prepared the Museum to move into

its next stage of development — engaging the nation in learning about American women’s history while charting a course for SAWHM’s future.

To do this, in FY 2026, the Museum will provide world-class educational resources for K–12 classrooms throughout the United States and support the public’s interest in learning about historical women in their families, networks, and communities. During its initial development, SAWHM is creating online educational resources that can be distributed through the Smithsonian’s network of 250 affiliated museums across the country and curating inspiring digital exhibitions such as its award-winning *Becoming Visible: Bringing American Women’s History Into Focus*. As part of this effort, the Museum will also develop educational resources for families, the public, and K–12 classrooms to accompany the traveling exhibition *Women in Space*.

SAWHM will continue to establish partnerships and collaborations with national education and youth-serving organizations, state humanities councils, and national educational platforms and publishers. As the Museum’s capacity increases, it will expand these partnerships to engage rural communities, youth leaders, educators, and lifelong learning and digital education partners.

The Museum will continue to administer the American Women’s History Initiatives Pool (AWHIP) on behalf of the Smithsonian. The AWHIP provides financial support for researching, sharing, and amplifying American women’s history. It supports scholarship; collections acquisitions, care, and preservation; exhibitions and programs; and education and access, including digital access. Since 2018, AWHIP has funded 235 projects across 35 Smithsonian units. AWHIP also supports internships and opportunities for more than 80 undergraduate students from across the country. SAWHM will welcome its next cohort of interns in the summer of 2026.

In FY 2026, SAWHM will collaborate with the U.S. Mint and the National Women’s History Museum in Alexandria, Virginia, to recognize the 2025 honorees of the American Women’s Quarters™ program. In accordance with federal legislation, the Smithsonian has consulted with the U.S. Mint since January of 2021 to provide subject-matter expertise and advice on the selection of honorees. Additionally, the Museum hosts community-based educational events with various partners to celebrate each quarter’s release.

Scholarship is at the core of SAWHM’s work. Two new initiatives illustrate the Museum’s approach to advancing women’s history. In FY 2026, SAWHM will launch the Discoverability Lab. Since women’s history is often missing from textbooks, museums, and public discourse, and high-quality online resources can be difficult to find, this cooperative effort among historians, data scientists, and the public will leverage emerging technologies, data science, crowdsourcing, and collections to make women’s history more accessible in historical records and online. Initial efforts will include crowdsourcing the publication of online biographical references to women; highlighting the role of women as mathematicians in the aerospace industry from the 1950s through

the 1980s; using machine learning to reveal oral history repositories; and enhancing metadata to increase discoverability.

Also in FY 2026, SAWHM will continue work on *We Do Declare: Women's Voices on Independence*, a multi-faceted oral history project that focuses on when, how, and why women have sought economic power to gain independence in their own lives. Oral histories capture the experiences of women and vividly convey historical eras and moments. In FY 2026, the Museum will partner with a national organization to create and distribute financial education materials that complement the initiative for youth audiences. The initiative will culminate with commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

SAWHM has dramatically increased nationwide engagement over the last year and will continue to maximize its reach in FY 2026 by expanding its national volunteer program, the Making History Network. Volunteers strengthen the Museum's presence regionally and help forge connections between their communities and SAWHM. The group's stakeholders help identify local places of historical significance and the women who have been part of their community's history. The network also supports the Museum's outreach efforts by providing the infrastructure for nationwide community, volunteer engagement, and philanthropic support. The network is active in 11 states and is expected to double its size in FY 2026 as it moves to represent all 50 states and territories.

In FY 2026, the Museum will undertake strategic and interpretive planning efforts to guide its short- and long-term scholarly, educational, outreach, and programmatic agendas; approach to building collections; fundraising strategy; and long-term development. SAWHM will also identify future research agendas and curatorial focus areas, continue to refine its operational plans, and purchase needed equipment, supplies, and contractual support.

A key component of these planning efforts will involve identifying the staffing resources and creating the framework to design the Museum; advance scholarship, collecting, and curatorial and educational programming; and operate its future facility. Once the site for the building has been approved, SAWHM will use this framework to design a facility that best serves and supports the public, collections, research, and programs. This work will include conducting studies to prepare for future collections and collecting activities.

As part of its planning processes, SAWHM will engage people across the United States. The interpretive planning process will include a community engagement campaign to visit, listen to, and learn from stakeholders nationwide, including small towns, rural communities, major metropolitan areas, and America's heartland. Additionally, the Museum will convene representatives of the more than 300 women's history-focused organizations that have been identified as potential partners. These organizations, which met virtually in FY 2024 to meet SAWHM's founding director, will discuss how the Museum can catalyze national partnerships and provide visibility for

their work. Finally, the interpretive planning process will leverage the insights, participation, and national reach of the Museum's membership program across all 50 states, and the Making History Network.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support 50 percent of the salary and benefit costs for the Museum's founding director; salary and benefit costs for advancement operations staff; marketing and awareness campaign efforts; and costs associated with reaching SAWHM's fundraising goals. Donor/sponsor-designated funds support salaries and benefits for staff working on special projects to plan for building the new Museum and its online exhibitions; expenses for planning, design, and the eventual construction of the physical Museum; and costs related to specific programs and projects.

## SMITHSONIAN ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY

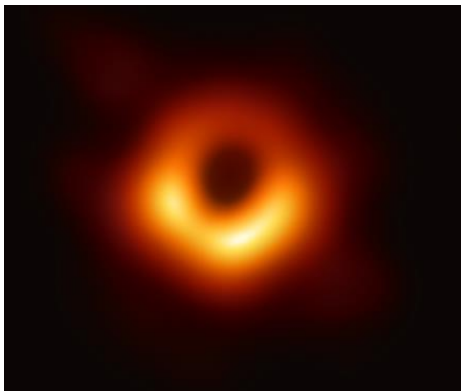
	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS <sup>1</sup>		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	88	31,110	96	25,837	10	9,687	245	89,887	1	217
FY 2026 REQUEST	66	23,448	96	25,837	10	9,687	245	89,887	1	217

<sup>1</sup>Includes funding for Major Scientific Instrumentation (MSI)

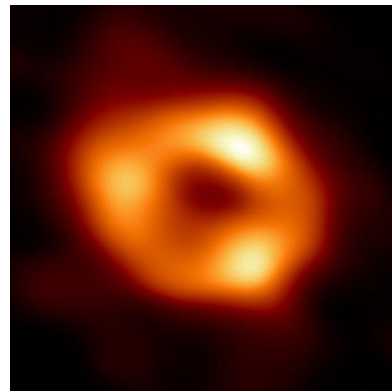
### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) is \$23.4 million. In line with other parts of the President's Budget, the request for SAO would streamline its operations and workforce and reduce activity on certain scientific initiatives.

Founded in 1890, SAO is the largest astrophysical research institution in the world. It has helped build and operate some of the world's most powerful and sophisticated astronomical instruments and space telescopes, with high resolution across the electromagnetic spectrum. Award-winning research led by SAO includes the first-ever image of the supermassive black hole at the center of our Milky Way Galaxy, captured by the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) collaborative team. This historic achievement confirmed theoretical predictions of black hole behavior and followed the EHT's Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics in 2020, which was also recognized for its earlier imaging of the black hole in the nearby galaxy M87.



[Left] Image of the black hole at the center of the galaxy cluster M87.  
Credit: Event Horizon Telescope Consortium.



[Right] Image of the black hole Sgr A\* at the center of the Milky Way Galaxy.

SAO has also played a key role in exoplanet discovery and characterization, using its telescopes in Arizona and Hawaii to follow up observations by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS).

Alone or in longstanding partnerships with the National Science Foundation (NSF), NASA, and the Department of Energy, SAO has pioneered the development of rockets, orbiting observatories, and large, ground-based telescopes. SAO operates the nation's premier flagship x-ray observatory, Chandra, and the Solar Wind Electrons, Alphas, and Protons (SWEAP) instrument on the NASA Parker Solar probe. SWEAP enables astronomers to model and predict the solar flares responsible for space weather that impacts satellites and communications systems in space and on Earth.

SAO also operates the Minor Planet Center, the world's official hub for tracking asteroids, comets, and other small bodies in the solar system, forming a crucial part of the Earth's planetary defense network to detect and track potentially killer asteroids. SAO also leads the world in the use of artificial intelligence applied to astrophysical data, through AstroAI.

Observational data are gathered at SAO's premier facilities: the Greenland Telescope at the Pituffik Space Base in Greenland; the Submillimeter Array (SMA) in Hawaii; the 6.5-meter-diameter Multiple Mirror Telescope (MMT) in Arizona; and the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) in Arizona — operated on behalf of all astronomers worldwide; as well as specialized planet-finding telescopes at the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory (FLWO).

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

The mission of SAO is to (1) advance the public's knowledge and understanding of the universe through research and education in astronomy and astrophysics; and (2) serve the national and international astronomical communities and society in areas associated with the Observatory's primary mission. Therefore, SAO directly supports the Smithsonian's mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge."

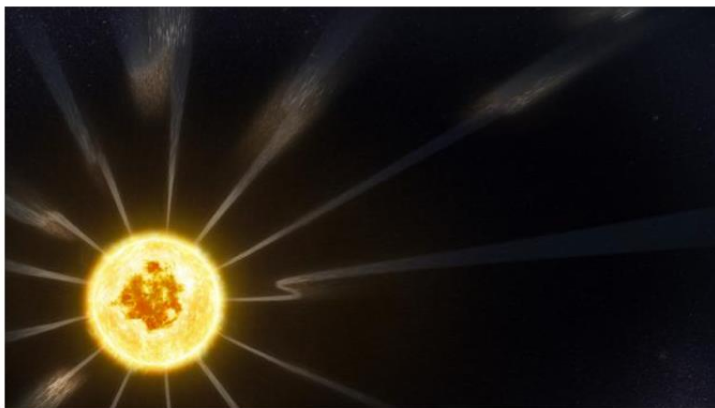
## **SAO Operations**

For decades, SAO astronomers and their colleagues have made revolutionary discoveries that have changed our fundamental understanding of the universe and our place in it. SAO scientists have discovered and examined planets in orbits around other stars, watched as new stars are born, and discovered bizarre remnants of dead stars that emit vast quantities of x-rays. Our researchers have determined that the universe is 13.7 billion years old and populated with billions of galaxies, most of which have supermassive black holes at their centers. We have also found convincing evidence that most of the matter in the universe is a mixture of some kind of unseen "dark matter," with normal matter making up less than four percent of the total; and that the expansion of the universe is accelerating, driven by a mysterious and invisible "dark energy."

At the same time, SAO astronomers conduct the vital basic research that seeks to understand the sun and explain its x-ray-emitting corona, which is essential for understanding space weather that affects Earth and space-based communications, the nature of our solar system, and the prospects for life on the moon and other planets, the

search for habitable worlds outside our solar system, the chemical elements in our Milky Way Galaxy, the gas and dust between the stars, dark energy and dark matter, the formation and evolution of galaxies, and the large-scale structure of the universe. Today, SAO continues to use advanced technologies to make discoveries that will tell a coherent story of the cosmos, from the Big Bang to the origins of life on Earth and other planets. This broad range of activities creates the distinctive, fertile research environment that drives SAO's success and makes it a recognized global leader in astrophysics, with more than 1,000 peer-reviewed publications per year in astronomy, astrophysics, and closely related disciplines.

SAO leads the SWEAP experiment, one of four instrument suites on board the NASA Parker Solar Probe mission. The Parker probe completed its seventh and final planned Venus gravity assist maneuvers to set it on its closest trajectory toward the sun. In FY 2024, SAO scientists discovered how the sun's solar wind gains energy as it moves



Credits: Image background: NASA Goddard/CIL/Adriana Manrique Gutierrez, Spacecraft images: NASA/ESA

away from the sun through magnetic "switchbacks" — large kinks in the sun's magnetic field — that are responsible for powering the fastest and most difficult to predict solar winds for their impact on Earth communications. This discovery was made possible by the alignment of NASA's Parker Solar Probe and the European Space Agency (ESA) Solar Orbiter, allowing sequential solar wind measurements as the wind flies away from the sun. The findings confirm that these switchbacks, associated with Alfvén waves, significantly contribute to the heating and acceleration of solar wind, offering new insights into solar activity and its effects on the solar system and beyond.

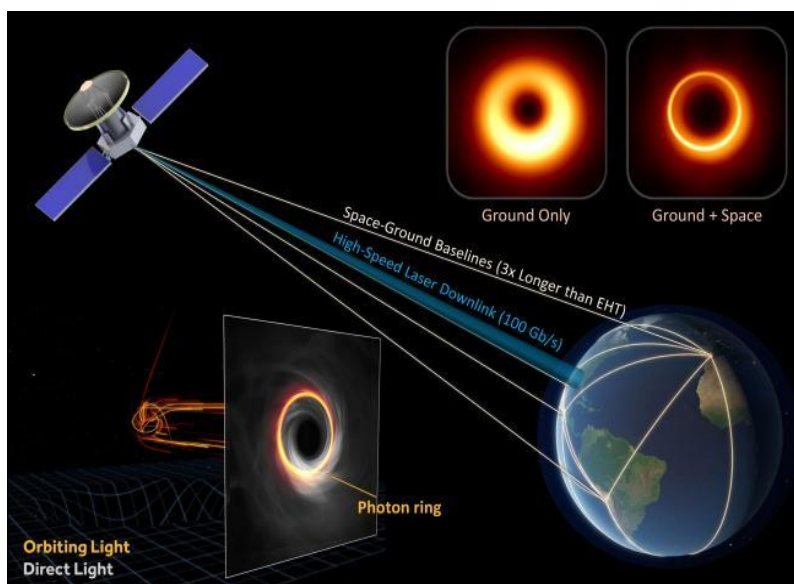
SAO scientists have shown that the sun's atmosphere and solar winds are energized by magnetic jets, operating like waves of very small solar flares that sweep across the sun. Among other firsts, the SAO team also studied a major coronal mass ejection — an eruption that would produce strong aurorae and technological disruptions if directed at the Earth — by flying through it during the eruption. They identified the magnetic structures and the origins of energetic particle radiation in these types of eruptions, which are key for forecasting hazards in space to prepare for future manned missions.

SAO astronomers confirmed and characterized planet candidates identified by NASA's TESS probe. The FLWO played a key role in these follow-up observations. As a result, SAO staff and partners characterized the exoplanet LP 791-18, showing that it could be "carpeted" with volcanos. As of 2025, TESS has found more than 7,000 planetary candidates and around 600 confirmed exoplanets.



In addition, SAO astronomers are leading the Next Generation Event Horizon Telescope (NGEHT) project, which will greatly expand the telescope's capabilities and eventually allow scientists to watch black holes evolve in real time. In FY 2024, SAO astronomers achieved unprecedented resolution in black hole imaging by observing at 345 Gigahertz (GHz), resulting in images 50 percent sharper than those previously captured at 230 GHz. This advance allows for more detailed and multi-color views of supermassive black holes, enhancing our understanding of their properties. SAO's success at this higher frequency was made possible through improvements in instrumentation and overcoming atmospheric challenges. Future plans include a new tri-band receiver at the Greenland Telescope, the SMA, and next-generation radio telescopes around the globe which will yield unprecedented resolution and sensitivity and make high-fidelity movies of plasma-fueled black holes possible.

SAO is leading the Black Hole Explorer (BHEX), a satellite-based telescope enabling even higher-resolution images. This initiative aims to enhance the capabilities of the EHT by integrating ground-based radio antennas with a space-based telescope that has next-generation laser data downlink capabilities, enabling the most detailed images of supermassive black holes to date, measurement of black hole spin for the first time, and a new rigorous test of Einstein's theory of relativity under extreme gravitational conditions.



*BHEX Mission Concept [from The Black Hole Explorer: Motivation and Vision, SPIE, 2023]*

SAO scientists make optimal use of astronomical observatories, including the ground-based optical and radio telescopes owned and operated by SAO in Arizona, Hawaii, and Greenland, as well as space-based telescopes such as the Chandra X-ray Observatory, which SAO operates on behalf of NASA. SAO scientists and engineers are leading the science operations team and using the VERITAS telescope to carry out a vital scientific research program in very high-energy astrophysics. VERITAS is the world's premier gamma-ray observatory, and its data is available to all U.S. astronomers. In addition, SAO scientists will continue their work on future space missions, collaborating with NASA and industry partners on missions to study the sun, the universe, and the outer solar system.

Long-term, nationwide education programs serve as a cornerstone for engaging children in science nationally. However, access to quality hands-on science opportunities remains unequal across the United States. In 2023, one-third of all U.S. schools were located in rural areas, with one in five students attending these schools. Geographical isolation limits students' access to excursions, summer programs, and after-school science enrichment more commonly available in urban areas. There is an urgent need for creating hands-on experiences in rural schools, which benefit from some of the clearest night skies in the country. SAO is bridging this gap by launching a nationwide program, Scientists Taking Astronomy to Rural Schools (STARS). STARS aims to revolutionize science education for youth in America's rural schools through immersive, hands-on learning about the universe with a program to provide the schools with telescopes, teacher training sessions, educational materials, and observing sessions with professional astronomers. Additionally, STARS will offer YouTube videos and teacher project ideas to further enrich the schools' science curriculum. While STARS is primarily supported with private funding sources, some federal funding is requested in FY 2026 for the program.

### **Major Scientific Instrumentation (MSI)**

SAO uses its no-year funding from the Major Scientific Instrumentation (MSI) line to develop large-scale instrumentation projects with advanced technologies. The Smithsonian's criteria for proposing and selecting MSI projects are: 1) the instrumentation will enable compelling scientific advances that would not otherwise occur (either at SAO or anywhere else in the world) for decades; 2) the instrumentation is ground-breaking, novel, technically advanced, and would not be developed without SAO's contribution; and 3) the science enabled by these innovative instruments significantly advances the Smithsonian's founding mission for "the *increase and diffusion of knowledge*."

Three SAO projects are included in the FY 2026 MSI request: 1) the SMA on Mauna Kea, Hawaii: a cornerstone facility in the ngEHT; 2) the Greenland Telescope at the Pituffik Space Base in Greenland, which will be the sole high-latitude facility for the ngEHT; and 3) AstroAI.

#### Submillimeter Telescope Array (SMA)

The SMA is a pathfinder telescope operating between radio and infrared wavelengths and plays a major role in exploring the cool universe. In recent years, scientific studies have continued to focus on the study of the distant universe, planet-forming disks, and star formation. The SMA is a key element of the EHT and the ngEHT.

SAO engineers and scientists are improving the sensitivity of the SMA and enabling unique wideband capabilities in receiver and digital systems to allow studies of transient phenomena. With FY 2026 MSI funding, SAO will build and test the third new wideband receiver for the SMA array.

### Greenland Telescope

Positioned at the northernmost extreme of the EHT network, the Greenland Telescope provides an essential vantage point for capturing high-resolution images of supermassive black holes. Operated in collaboration with SAO's Submillimeter Array in Hawaii, the international Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) in Chile, and additional global observatories, this telescope enables unprecedented studies of the event horizon surrounding the supermassive black hole in the center of our Milky Way and neighboring galaxies. Its strategic placement enhances the ability to resolve fine details of black hole accretion and relativistic jets of matter black holes produce. Advanced instrumentation has significantly improved the telescope's sensitivity, expanding its capabilities for high-frequency observations.

The Greenland Telescope's Arctic location provides a special advantage to Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) networks, extending the spatial resolution achievable with the EHT. FY 2026 funds will continue the development of a wideband receiver for the Greenland Telescope, which is critical for the ngEHT. The Greenland Telescope strengthens partnerships with international radio observatories and deepens insights into the physics of black hole event horizons and interstellar media, as operated jointly with the SMA, ALMA, and other telescopes, to make unprecedented observations of the event horizon of the supermassive black hole at the heart of giant nearby galaxies. In FY 2026, the telescope will continue to be an essential resource for new observations of M87\*, our nearest neighbor galaxy.

### AstroAI

SAO is leading in Artificial Intelligence (AI) development for astrophysics. In that capacity, SAO founded and operates the first and largest AI program in astrophysics. AstroAI is an innovative initiative that leverages and develops new artificial intelligence techniques in collaboration with industry partners to advance astronomical research, enhancing the ability to analyze vast amounts of cosmic data and uncover new insights about the universe and extrasolar planets.

The next generation of telescopes — including the Vera C. Rubin Observatory and the ngEHT — will generate unprecedented volumes of data, requiring advanced computational infrastructure to process, store, and analyze petabyte-scale data sets. SAO, through its AstroAI initiative, is preparing for this data influx by developing cutting-edge artificial intelligence techniques, high-performance computing systems, and specialized hardware to support real-time astrophysical discovery.

AstroAI is building the computational tools and facilities necessary to extract meaningful insights from these massive data sets. The FY 2026 investment will complete a graphics processing unit (GPU)-accelerated computing cluster for deep learning model training, central processing unit (CPU)-based systems for preprocessing and data filtering, and next-generation receiver technology to optimize data acquisition.

These AI-driven tools will enable the analysis of exoplanet atmospheres, the detection of cosmic transients, and the refinement of black hole imaging at unprecedented resolutions.

AstroAI's infrastructure supports data-intensive projects such as real-time analysis of transient astronomical events, automated spectral classification, and AI-assisted telescope scheduling. These tools not only enhance astrophysical research but also establish methodologies that can be applied across scientific disciplines and in fields as diverse as medical imaging and national security operations.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds come primarily from overhead charged on grants and contracts. SAO uses these funds to support administrative functions approved in the Indirect Cost Proposal submitted to the Department of the Interior, as required by 2 *Code of Federal Regulations* 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. Donor/sponsor-designated funds come primarily from restricted gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations, which are earmarked for specific purposes; restricted endowment funds; and non-Governmental grants and contracts. Government grants and contracts come from Government agencies for research in areas of SAO's expertise. SAO often conducts this research in cooperation with governmental, academic, and research institutions in the United States and abroad.

## SMITHSONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	34	5,195	6	992	21	3,796	33	4,306	30	3,004
FY 2026 REQUEST	26	3,956	9	1,200	21	4,000	35	5,000	35	4,000

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is \$4.0 million. In line with other parts of the President's Budget, the request for SERC would streamline its operations and workforce and reduce activity on certain scientific initiatives.

SERC is a national leader in research and public engagement programs on ecosystems and environmental processes in the coastal zone, where most of the world's population lives and most economic activity occurs globally. SERC research and programs promote education and economic prosperity and inform policy and management decisions for natural resources globally, such as healthy bays and increased fisheries, productive forests and farmland, habitat and shoreline restoration, resilience to environmental changes, including storm protection, and reducing the negative impacts of invasive species.

SERC scientists use the Center's 2,654-acre site on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary, as a model system for long-term research and unique experiments not conducted elsewhere. SERC researchers incorporate other sites nationally and internationally, including Smithsonian field stations, to investigate connections among aquatic, terrestrial, and atmospheric components of complex ecosystems through comparative studies on regional, continental, and global scales. In addition, SERC is a vital partner in key Smithsonian research initiatives, including ForestGEO, and MarineGEO (Global Earth Observatories). SERC also leads collaborations with other federal research networks, such the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse (NBIC) funded by the U.S. Coast Guard.

SERC's translational programs engage thousands of people with a wide range of activities, including virtual evening lectures, Science Saturdays for families, nature hikes, and guided facility tours. SERC's highly successful citizen-science program engages more than 500 volunteers in research across a wide spectrum of projects. The Center's vigorous professional training program for interns, graduate and postdoctoral Fellows, and visiting scientists produces the next generation of scientists and natural resource managers.

In addition, SERC is a Smithsonian leader in energy and water efficiency through energy conservation and renewable energy for reduced costs and increased self-reliance and strengthening the regional grid.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

In addition to federal appropriations, SERC achieves its research mission by successfully applying for extramural grants and contracts and by revenue generated from cost-center activities associated with visiting scientists. With these public and private resources, SERC stewards its 2,654-acre Chesapeake Bay site as a model for long-term research and experiments on land-sea interactions. The site's landscape of streams, shorelines, forests, and agricultural fields now provide data sets going back almost 60 years, and host large-scale experiments, instrument arrays, and remote sensing. SERC leverages its local infrastructure and global research platform to understand dynamic changes over both short and long timeframes as they relate to land use, freshwater runoff of chemicals and sediments, fisheries, invasive species, habitat restoration, and other environmental changes that impact the human experience and economic prosperity in coastal zones. To observe and interpret changes in near-shore marine ecosystems and terrestrial environments, SERC serves as the headquarters for the MarineGEO program, leads long-term studies of ForestGEO's temperate forest plots, and is a base for the NSF-funded National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) forest tower and ground-based sampling array. SERC also supports the efforts of other federal agencies and collaborators (such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Department of Energy, as well as many universities and state agencies).

SERC's research, education, and translational activities support the Smithsonian's Strategic Plan by informing the natural resource management decision process and engaging the public in hands-on science. SERC uses its Chesapeake base to test and inform new national and international approaches to habitat restoration of forests, streams, wetlands, and shorelines that promote ecological resilience. SERC convenes teams of business leaders, policy makers, educators, and scientists from across the nation to find innovative solutions to the difficult environmental problems facing our nation that work for both people and nature. SERC is a premiere off-the-Mall location for the diffusion of knowledge that complements the Smithsonian's many offerings in Washington, DC. SERC is open to the public 364 days a year for visitors to explore the Center's many trails through forests, fields, and more than 15 miles of shoreline along the Chesapeake Bay.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

Extramural Government grants, contracts, and interagency agreements amounting to approximately \$10 million annually support most (70 percent) of SERC's scientific research program, including the NBIC as established by Congress under the National Invasive Species Act of 1996. In addition, indirect cost recovery derived from

these extramural research and education awards provides core administrative support for 6 FTEs, service contracts, and some facilities expenses. Other resources include donor/sponsor-designated funds which provide essential operating support for specific programs and projects in research, public education, and professional training.

## SMITHSONIAN LATINO CENTER

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED <sup>1</sup>	0	0	3	988	6	2,347	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST <sup>1</sup>	5	5,800	7	1,576	6	5,806	0	0	0	175

<sup>1</sup>Nonappropriated funds listed above are currently allocated to NMAL

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The President's FY 2026 request does not fund the development of the National Museum of the American Latino (NMAL). Instead, the FY 2026 request returns the Smithsonian to the integrated approach previously used to share the collections throughout the Institution that chronicle American Latino history and culture.

That approach was led by the Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC), which promoted the Latino presence within the Smithsonian's collections, programs, and educational content. The FY 2026 request for the SLC is \$5.8 million.

Similar to the Asian Pacific American Center, the SLC will not be represented in one physical location; rather, it will work to provide greater exposure of the Institution's collections to a wider audience. It will work collaboratively with the Institution's museums and research centers, ensuring that the contributions of the Latino community in the arts, history, national culture, and scientific achievement are explored, presented, celebrated, and preserved. The SLC will support scholarly research, exhibitions, public and educational programs, web-based content and virtual platforms, and collections and archives. It will also manage leadership and professional development programs for youth, emerging scholars, and museum professionals.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

The SLC's public and educational outreach, in collaboration with Smithsonian units and partner organizations, will include developing exhibitions and programs on Latino history, art, culture, and scientific achievement; support Latino research, collections, exhibitions, publications, online content, and related projects; promote professional development opportunities for Latino youth leaders, emerging scholars, and museum professionals; and continue innovation in new media, social media, mobile applications, and educational games. The Center will continue to illuminate the story of the United States by featuring:

- Latino contributions to the early history of what is now the United States of America and all its territories;



- Latino service in the armed forces from the earliest days of the American Revolution to current military deployments in defense of our freedoms;
- Latino contributions to the freedom, well-being, and economic prosperity of all people in the United States through historical movements;
- the entrepreneurial and charitable activities of Latinos; and
- the study and appreciation of Latino life, art, history, and culture, and their impact on U.S. society.

The Center will make research and other program content available to the public through multiple media, including film, video, audio, and photographs, and on multiple platforms, including physical exhibitions, digital platforms, and through partner organizations.

In FY 2026, the SLC will continue efforts to install a new exhibition in the *Molina Family Latino Gallery* that explores the historical journey of salsa music.

The Center will continue the work of the Latino Initiatives Pool, which provides funding for projects that support programs that focus on U.S. Latino contributions to science, history, and culture. Pool funds have been used to support exhibition and collections development, public and educational programs, research and publications, digital content, and Fellowships and internships. Since its creation in 1995, the Latino Initiatives Pool has provided more than \$45 million in funding for more than 600 Smithsonian programs and projects. These funds ensure that Smithsonian content is available to more visitors throughout the country and the world, including new audiences using digital platforms.

Center funding will also continue to support Smithsonian leadership and professional development programs, such as the Latino Museum Studies Program (LMSP). The LMSP has a national alumni network of more than 400 museum and museum-adjacent professionals and scholars, some of whom are employed at the Smithsonian. Such programs play an important role in creating an extensive pool of qualified museum professionals and a network of cultural specialists at universities, museums, and cultural centers, many of whom also collaborate with the Smithsonian. The LMSP also has undergraduate internship supported by The Andrew Mellon Foundation and predoctoral and postdoctoral opportunities for graduate students and scholars. The undergraduate internship focuses on areas of museum work such as museum conservation, digital humanities, museum education, and exhibition design.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds currently support some NMAL operations and administrative costs. External private funding also currently supports NMAL operations and programs.

## SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	191	16,405	33	3,105	57	8,620	11	2,311	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	169	14,436	39	3,572	63	10,926	6	1,237	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) is \$14.4 million. STRI is the principal U.S. organization dedicated to advancing fundamental scientific discovery and understanding of biological and cultural diversity in the tropics and its contribution to human welfare. As such, STRI plays an important role for the U.S. Government and the Smithsonian by maintaining world-class research facilities in Panama, where each year approximately 1,400 resident and visiting international scientists and university students come to conduct research.

In 1910, Smithsonian Secretary Charles Walcott received a request from President William Howard Taft to send a scientific expedition to Panama to study the environmental impact of the Panama Canal. The President of Panama, Pablo Arosemena, invited the Smithsonian to extend its study to the entire isthmus (1910–1912), establishing a relationship that more than 110 years later continues to be a remarkable scientific investment for both countries and the world at large.

STRI serves as the official custodian for the Barro Colorado Nature Monument (BCNM), under the terms of the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, as ratified by the U.S. Senate in April of 1941 and codified in the Panama Canal Treaties. The Barro Colorado Nature Monument is the only mainland tropical reserve under U.S. stewardship since it first served as the original base of operations for the 1910 expedition. STRI also owns and administers Coibita Island, which was bequeathed to the Institution to preserve and use for research, and is part of Panama's Coiba National Park, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site.

The rise of the Isthmus of Panama, about three million years ago, changed the world. It connected North and South America and separated the Atlantic from the Pacific Ocean, setting into motion a global change that dramatically impacted marine and terrestrial life. STRI is located at the ideal spot to study this event. Its 13 research facilities and field stations, situated throughout Panama's diverse ecosystems, serve as an unparalleled field research platform to investigate the groundbreaking events that shaped the modern world and its tropical diversity.

## **Scientific Productivity**

A visiting committee of outside experts regularly evaluates the relevance, quality, and performance of STRI scientists. In their last review, the visiting committee used National Research Council criteria to measure the productivity and impact of STRI science compared to 142 of the best university research departments in the United States. STRI scientists ranked first in all measures of scientific relevance (such as publication citations), quality (in terms of scientific honors), and productivity (including publication numbers). In addition, the number of young scientists who choose STRI as the base for their graduate and postgraduate research training provides another annual measure of the relevance and quality of STRI science to the future of tropical biology and policy. STRI's staff share their research platform with scientists from the United States and international organizations. This collaborative effort has produced more than 16,745 scientific publications to date and currently results in an average of one new scientific publication every day.

STRI's annual scientific achievements include the following:

- Hosting approximately 1,400 scientific visitors, from undergraduates and interns to postdoctoral investigators and tenured research associates;
- Helping to manage 350 research projects; and
- Publishing more than 400 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals.

The research is not only shared widely with the global scientific community, but also reaches policy makers in Panama and beyond, receives worldwide media coverage, and forms the foundation for an outreach and training program that touches hundreds of teachers and tens of thousands of school children every year.

As part of its mission to help recruit the next generation of biologists and researchers, STRI has been very successful in seeking private funds for new fellowships, such as the Resilience Fellows and the Behavior Fellows programs.

## **Scientific Directions**

The long-term research conducted by STRI scientists and collaborators is an essential contribution to the Smithsonian Institution's Strategic Plan. During FY 2024, STRI celebrated the Barro Colorado Island (BCI) Research Station's 100th birthday. The event was very successful, with the participation of more than 400 scientists from around the world. The 10-day celebration included activities such as field trips, a three-day symposium with more than 140 scientific presentations and 80 posters, and a three-day workshop with international scientists to address the future of tropical biology. It was also an amazing opportunity to celebrate and recognize generations of scientists who helped build BCI and STRI during the past century.

STRI also continues to participate in the Institution-wide Ocean Strategy, with a clear focus on applying marine science to develop solutions that benefit both people

and nature. This strategy will focus new and existing resources on four integrated research pillars which are critical for resolving the future of ocean environments in the face of global change: drivers of reef resilience; blue carbon and ecosystem co-benefits; marine biodiversity and sustainable fisheries; and urbanized coasts.

Looking forward, STRI is aligning priorities and creating more efficient structures for its operation. To that end, staff completed the first phase of a five-year strategic planning process and continue working on the implementation phase. This includes assessing scientific priorities and reviewing current processes to improve operational efficiency at all levels.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

STRI is the world's premier scientific center focused on the ecosystems of the tropics, with modern scientific instrumentation and facilities located at the edges of tropical forests and coral reefs. Institute staff lead internationally recognized research programs and assist scientific visitors with obtaining visas, collecting permits, transportation, housing, computing, and library needs. STRI staff are also mentors for students from universities across the United States and around the world. Panamanian staff and the support of the Government of Panama, including rent-free use of multiple properties, have fostered Smithsonian research in Panama for more than a century and STRI has been an exceptional ambassador of goodwill for the United States in Panama and throughout Latin America. As part of its core mission, STRI will continue to enhance the Smithsonian's scientific platform for long-term research on biodiversity, ecosystems, and the impacts of environmental change. This will be done through novel research, cutting-edge application of technology to data collection and analysis, educating the next generation of scientists, and disseminating scientific findings to its global audiences.

Natural systems, such as forests and oceans, undergo long term (often decades long) fluctuations in productivity, diversity, and the services provided to people (such as carbon storage, water filtration, and fisheries). Tracking these changes is critical to our ability to predict changes in these systems, and because these changes affect economies at home and around the world (through their impacts on food supplies, weather, disease transfer, and more), the continuous collection and management of long-term data is critical to inform policy decisions that affect the security and well-being of Americans. STRI has been providing this information to U.S. policy makers for more than a century, and supports the longest, largest, and most valuable data on changes in tropical systems in the world.

In addition, the Institute shares knowledge, experience, and expertise with the next generation of tropical scientists. STRI typically hosts more than 800 pre- and postdoctoral students each year, half of whom come from the United States. For many, their experience at STRI is their first real opportunity to be scientists in field conditions. Furthermore, the Institute supports education by working with science teachers to inspire critical thinking skills in the classroom. In Panama and through digital

partnerships with U.S. school districts, STRI explains field and laboratory science and makes complex environmental research readily accessible to teachers and students.

### **Enabling STRI's Mission Through Organizational Excellence**

The Institute continues to advance the vision detailed in the decadal plan for upgrading its facilities, some of which date back to the pre-World War II era of Panama Canal defense. STRI also continues developing its Coibita facilities as required by its benefactors. In addition, the Institute offers important facility resources for federal agencies and universities. For terrestrial research, STRI serves as the headquarters for ForestGEO and GEOTREES, the Smithsonian's Global Earth Observatories focused on forests. For coastal areas, the U.S. Geological Survey partnered with STRI to establish seismic monitoring equipment on BCNM as part of its Caribbean Tsunami Warning System. Moreover, the Continuously Operating Caribbean GPS Observational Network (COCONet) project, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), has partnered with STRI to develop large-scale geodetic and atmospheric monitoring infrastructure in the Caribbean.

STRI's two marine facilities in the Atlantic (Bocas del Toro and Galeta) and two in the Pacific (Naos and Coibita Island) permit scientists to move between experiments in the eastern Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea in a few hours. This recurring two-ocean theme in marine science at STRI has resulted in landmark studies of the evolution and ecology of tropical marine species and communities, and research funded by the NSF and the National Institutes of Health for the ecologically guided discovery of new pharmaceutical compounds with the potential to advance modern medicine.

### **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support salaries and programmatic expenses for a small percentage of STRI employees involved in research, public outreach, and fund raising. Donor/sponsor-designated funds support discretionary research needs and specific programs, projects, and positions, including donor-designated support for an endowed chair for the director, an endowed staff position in tropical paleoecology, an endowed chair for the director of ForestGEO, and private funds to support the Institute's Agua Salud program that studies carbon sequestration and tropical reforestation, as well as a 10-year staff position in terrestrial microbiology. Funding from the Rohr Foundation, board members, and an emeritus scientist has enabled the Institute to fund six postdoctoral Fellows.

STRI also received a \$3 million NSF award with Global Sustainability Scholars. These funds have allowed STRI to host 36 post-baccalaureate scholars from the United States and assign them to work for one-year fellowships with STRI scientists in the next three years.

Finally, STRI's successful fundraising efforts have resulted in more than \$20 million to support the new GEO-TREES project that will create a reliable global carbon

verification system by addressing the uncertainties in satellite estimates of forest carbon levels. This initiative leverages existing collaborations among scientists at forest research sites worldwide to provide accurate, on-the-ground carbon measurements. This will enable STRI scientists to provide much more accurate data to help guide future research and inform policy makers concerned with managing environmental resources.

## ADMINISTRATION

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	199	42,177	207	30,534	12	15,495	1	803	0	75
FY 2026 REQUEST	176	39,502	247	40,737	15	15,145	2	906	0	75

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian Institution's Administration program is \$39.5 million. Administration includes executive leadership provided by the offices of the Secretary and Board of Regents; the Deputy Secretary/Chief Operating Officer; the Under Secretary for Museums and Culture; the Under Secretary for Science and Research; the Under Secretary for Education; and the Under Secretary for Finance and Administration/Chief Financial Officer. Other central activities include human resources, equal employment opportunity, digital transformation, financial and contract management, and legal services. This funding supports the vision, leadership, policy, and oversight associated with managing and operating the entire Institution, including all of its museums and cultural and research centers.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

The Smithsonian will continue to use best practices in management to advance its mission for the increase and diffusion of knowledge and achieve the Institution's goals while translating James Smithson's 19th-century vision into a modern 21st-century reality. The Administration program is cross-cutting and central to accomplishing the Smithsonian's mission and helps promote innovation, research, and discovery. It:

- Ensures the financial strength of the Smithsonian and provides the Institution with effective and efficient financial, contracting, and management support services, including reliable financial evaluation, auditing, and reporting.
- Provides oversight of the Smithsonian budget process as it is developed and executed to support the operating and Facilities Capital programs of the Institution, establishes and enforces budgetary policies and procedures, and ensures that sufficient resources are available to allow the Institution to achieve its goals.
- Establishes and maintains a comprehensive enterprise risk-management program to identify, monitor, and mitigate risk at all levels.

- Provides leadership and guidance for Institution-wide collections initiatives, policies, and programs to ensure the proper stewardship of the national collections.
- Supports the Institution's Board of Regents and its committees.
- Develops and implements necessary internal controls as recommended by the Board of Regents' Governance Committee, which involves strengthening non-collections property management and meeting increased demands for the acquisition of goods and services.
- Provides legal counsel to the Board of Regents and the Institution on issues such as museum administration, intellectual and real property, collections management, contracts, privacy and cyber-security, finance, employment, ethics, conflicts of interest, international agreements, and requests for information.
- Manages human resources, hires a skilled workforce in a timely manner, and aligns human capital with the Institution's goals and performance objectives. This includes conducting ongoing workforce and performance gap analyses, strengthening training and leadership policies and programs, developing succession planning, and evaluating and improving assessment tools for better human resources performance.
- Provides leadership and oversight for all policies, programs, and activities of the Institution's museums and cultural and research centers by attracting, recruiting, and retaining leaders with superior talent.
- Provides leadership, support, and resources to enable educators across the Institution to share the depth and breadth of the Smithsonian's collections and research, connect with different audiences, invite dialogue and exchanges of different viewpoints, and build on and contribute to best practices in teaching and learning.
- Establishes and maintains partnerships with various Administration agencies, colleges, universities, and professional organizations to support the necessary public outreach to enhance the Smithsonian's presence in these communities.
- Provides leadership, technology, and support for the Institution's digital ecosystem by managing and making accessible its digital collections and assets, enhancing how the Institution engages and serves its audiences, and driving innovation and new discovery through emerging technologies. This includes overseeing Institution-wide policies that ensure proper data governance and stewardship of Smithsonian digital assets.
- Coordinates the efforts of the Office of Human Resources and the Office of Equal Opportunity to ensure compliance with federal Equal Employment Opportunity



Commission mandates, promote the Smithsonian's equal employment opportunity policies, and advocate for the use of small businesses throughout Smithsonian contracting and procurement activities via the Institution's programs.

- Supports the provisions of Section 8147(b) of Title 5, *United States Code* by budgeting for the Workers' Compensation bill for FY 2026 of \$2,606,000, based on a Department of Labor invoice for costs incurred from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support salaries and benefits of personnel and other related costs, as well as administrative activities, information dissemination, outreach, publications, and fund raising. Donor/sponsor-designated funds support costs related to programs and projects such as scientific research, family days, and leadership development.

## COMMUNICATIONS

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	18	3,118	28	4,501	0	50	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	16	2,744	31	4,413	0	0	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for Communications is \$2.7 million. The Office of Communications and External Affairs (OCEA) consists of four departments and a front office: the Office of Public Affairs (OPA); the Office of Government Relations (OGR); the Office of Visitor Services (OVS); and the Office of Special Events and Protocol (OSEP). In addition, the OCEA front office hosts the Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs, Marketing and Branding and direct reports.

Through a combination of trust and federal funds, OCEA leads communications and outreach to external and internal facing audiences, including but not limited to the general public and visitors, media organizations, government stakeholders, volunteers and guests. The office is responsible for how the Smithsonian communicates and engages key primary stakeholders. Office resources support the Smithsonian Strategic Plan by elevating and building awareness about the Institution's brand, priorities and objectives, and informing various stakeholders about important initiatives, thereby enabling the Smithsonian to better execute its mission and amplify its efforts. Accordingly, OCEA is responsible for helping the Institution reach and engage more people with its mission via varying platforms. By improving external and internal communications and more effectively and efficiently informing external stakeholders and staff of Institution-wide policies, initiatives, and events, OCEA leads and supports Institution-wide and cross-unit collaborations to help the Smithsonian better achieve its strategic goals and core mission.

OPA leads and coordinates public relations, media relations, internal communications, social media, and web content with museums, research centers, cultural resource centers, and offices to present a consistent and positive brand of the Institution. The Office supports the Strategic Plan by advancing the Institution's objectives, connecting the public with Smithsonian experts, research, exhibitions, and public programs, and by working with a wide range of media outlets, web and social media platforms. OPA connects to online and external audiences by overseeing the development of web content such as Visitor Information, Events, Exhibits, and *Encyclopedia Smithsonian* on the Institution's central website. The Office also develops and provides content on Newsdesk, the Smithsonian's online newsroom, and on central Smithsonian social media accounts. OPA also leads the development of content for internal platforms such as the Smithsonian's intranet, all-staff meetings, information sessions, town halls, and internal publications. In addition, OPA works with units

throughout the Institution to establish and maintain professional communications guidelines and consistent quality standards.

OGR is the liaison between the Smithsonian Institution and the federal Government. This includes members and staff of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, appropriations and oversight committees, congressional offices, the White House, the Executive Office of the President, and various federal agencies. This Office supports the Institution's overall Strategic Plan by demonstrating the value and impact of the Smithsonian, and the relevance, and wealth of the Smithsonian's offerings to the Congress and the current Administration. OGR also works with other Smithsonian offices, informing them of federal-sector priorities, activities, tracking legislation pertinent to them, showcasing their exhibits, programs, and discoveries for interested congressional offices, and managing their requests for high-ranking Government officials to participate in official Institution events in accordance with Smithsonian policies.

OVS is the central Office dedicated to informing, understanding, supporting, and improving visitors' experiences across the Smithsonian, both in person and online. The Office advances the Smithsonian's mission as the primary point of contact for visitors and volunteers. Office resources support the Strategic Plan by leading, developing, and implementing initiatives that broaden visitor access to Smithsonian museums, public programs and activities, and enhancing the visitor experience. The Office is responsible for providing general information, tours, and educational programs. The Office also manages and responds to public inquiries and visitor feedback and works quickly to proactively address and resolve challenges with the visitor experience. In addition, the Office is responsible for communicating clear and timely information during crises or special events to the public.

OSEP leads, manages, and coordinates Smithsonian-wide and individual museum public and private events. The Office is responsible for event planning, coordination, logistics, permitting, vendors, event policies, protocol and procedures. The Office serves as the central point for all Smithsonian events and organizers and acts as a liaison between event organizers and external stakeholders to ensure that large and small-scale events run smoothly, safely, and are aligned with Smithsonian standards and objectives. The Office also manages and guides formal and diplomatic procedures and visits, particularly in government and international settings. In addition, the Office supports and coordinates events for the Secretary and the senior leadership of the Institution.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

OPA allocates resources for national and international media coverage and expands relationships through targeted media outlets. As the Smithsonian Office with primary responsibility for communicating with internal and external audiences online and in-person, OPA develops and manages content on the Institution's central website [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu), Newsdesk, and on central Smithsonian social media accounts. In addition,

OPA also produces *Smithsonian Science*, an online platform devoted to scientific innovation and research. OPA also leads and produces the Smithsonian's flagship podcast, *Sidedoor*, in addition to supporting individual Smithsonian museum podcasts with best practices and standard guidelines. OPA also initiates and responds to all media inquiries in a timely manner with accurate, concise information, and generates story ideas for the media, featuring Smithsonian experts, exhibitions, research, and programs.

OVS designs and manages systems used by visitors to plan their trips to the Smithsonian and supports systems which enable Smithsonian staff to better serve visitors both in person and online. OVS manages content on the Smithsonian's Virtual Visitor Center, the outdoor visitor information kiosks near all museums and galleries, online platforms, apps and selected publications. In addition, OVS oversees a comprehensive visitor feedback system that includes the general Smithsonian email address and call center.

OVS also works with relevant units to deliver products and services which help their staff understand and meet the needs of their specific audiences. Most especially, the Office supports the Smithsonian's ability to be accessible to all, ensuring visitors have access to resources and support services for individual needs. In addition, OVS systematically analyzes visitor behavior, trends, and insights, and delivers pertinent findings to museum and research center teams whose projects will affect how visitors experience the Smithsonian and get the most out of their time in our public buildings. OVS recruits and trains motivated volunteers to engage with visitors and help Smithsonian staff conduct research projects.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support salaries and benefits of personnel and other related costs. In addition, these funds support dissemination of information, outreach, publications, and general operations.

## FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	455	116,558	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	455	105,602	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for Facilities Maintenance is \$105.6 million. The Facilities Maintenance program is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Institution's physical infrastructure. The Smithsonian maintains approximately 13 million square feet of owned and leased facilities, including 21 museums, nine research centers, and the National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. The Institution is responsible for more than 680 buildings and structures, ranging from historic, one-of-a-kind landmarks and museums to state-of-the-art laboratories conducting cutting-edge science and research. The Smithsonian oversees more than 25,000 acres of land encompassing roadways, bridges, pedestrian pathways, fencing, and utilities. The task of maintaining this vast and varied set of facilities and infrastructure is substantial and requires a proportional investment to maintain building systems, correct deficiencies, prevent further degradation, and support the Smithsonian Institution in trust for the American people.

The primary roles of the Facilities Maintenance program are to provide proper stewardship of the infrastructure required to support the Smithsonian mission and to mitigate risks which could adversely impact the Institution's operations or the preservation of our national treasures. At the core of this program is a team of skilled maintenance staff committed to ensuring the facilities operate efficiently and safely, fulfilling a wide range of requirements, from constantly operating utility and heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems, to performing routine repairs and managing deferred maintenance. The program's focus is to provide proper lifecycle asset management to sustain facilities and infrastructure and prevent failures which could adversely impact Smithsonian operations, collections, or visitor experiences.

The Facilities Maintenance program maintains all facilities and building systems, including HVAC; fire and life-safety; electrical and plumbing systems; elevators/escalators; and roofing; as well as site infrastructure, utilities, grounds, and landscapes associated with Smithsonian properties. The program also maintains systems related to electronic security, including access control and intrusion detection, visitor/staff screening equipment, intercom systems, and perimeter barriers. The program provides proper infrastructure stewardship by operating and maintaining a safe, secure, and healthy environment to support the Institution's mission and enhance the Smithsonian experience for all visitors and staff.

The Facilities Maintenance program benchmarks its staffing and service levels with other cultural institutions, federal agencies, and industry standards to assess financial and personnel resources and ensure they are being effectively applied. The requested funding is needed for a minimally acceptable level of maintenance for the Smithsonian's facilities and infrastructure.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

The Smithsonian continues to pursue an effective life-cycle facilities maintenance and repair program by incorporating a cost-effective mix of planned, preventive, and predictive maintenance as well as corrective actions and a centrally managed program of maintenance and repair projects. With the requested funding, the Smithsonian's goal is to prevent worsening of its facilities conditions and deferred maintenance (DM) backlog through the coordinated efforts of its Facilities Maintenance and Facilities Capital programs. Proper maintenance funding prevents the accelerated degradation of building systems and components and reduces the need for costly major repairs. Through proper preventive maintenance, and by addressing identified deficiencies in a timely manner, the Institution can realize the anticipated useful lifespan of facilities systems and avoid the accelerated degradation of infrastructure and resulting higher costs as well as the adverse impacts on collections and operations.

Starting in FY 2021, the Smithsonian began implementing an improved methodology for completing Facilities Condition Assessments (FCAs). As a result, our assessments have become more accurate, additional facility deficiencies have been identified, and lower condition ratings and scores were initially reported. Identifying deficiencies earlier enables the Institution to address such problems before the cost of corrective action grows even higher, as long as required resources are available.

To further improve the overall management of our facilities assets, starting in FY 2022, the Smithsonian began consulting with a third-party expert to conduct updated real property valuations. Thus far, more than 90 percent of the Smithsonian's real property values have been updated. As a result, the overall Current Replacement Value (CRV) of the Institution's real property assets has grown by more than 44 percent, providing a more accurate reflection of the actual cost to replace and repair our facilities assets. Our efforts to improve facilities management and more accurately identify the conditions and value of our facilities increased the calculated DM backlog. However, improved facilities conditions and lower inflation in FY 2024 resulted in a slight reduction of the Smithsonian's DM backlog to the latest reported level of \$3.1 billion.

The Smithsonian will continue to identify and implement process improvements to more effectively use available resources and try to maintain the level of service in the most cost-effective manner possible. In addition, the Smithsonian has implemented a security risk assessment process that identifies and improves electronic security systems and integrated physical security measures, striking an effective balance between providing for the safety and security of visitors, staff, collections, and buildings while ensuring a welcoming visitor experience.

## FACILITIES OPERATIONS, SECURITY, AND SUPPORT

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	1,192	259,288	5	4,400	3	310	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	1,193	270,963	4	3,606	3	497	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for Facilities Operations, Security, and Support is \$271.0 million. The program operates, prepares, secures, and supports the Institution's physical infrastructure in partnership with Smithsonian museums, research centers, and offices. Funding in this area will be used to ensure that the Smithsonian visitor experience, especially for the museums on the National Mall, will be maintained and will support Smithsonian activities associated with America's 250th anniversary celebration.

Facility Operations, Security, and Support funding provides facilities services, operational security, and support services for approximately 13 million square feet of owned and leased facilities, including 21 museums, nine research centers, three cultural centers, and the National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. This program also stewards 180 acres of gardens which are free and open to the public 24 hours a day, and a greenhouse facility showcasing almost 28,000 living collection items. This funding is required to prepare and provide a safe, secure, clean, healthy, and welcoming environment for Smithsonian staff and nearly 20 million onsite visitors each year, to the best extent practicable.

Resources within the Facilities Operations, Security, and Support program enable facilities preparedness and operations, including security services; emergency management activities; custodial work; fire protection; building system operations; gardens and grounds care and landscaping; snow removal; pest control; refuse collection and disposal; vehicle fleet operations and maintenance; and safety, environmental, and health services. The program also supports facilities planning, architectural and engineering (A/E) design, and real-estate services, as well as postage, utilities, and central rent costs.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

The Facilities Operations, Security, and Support program will focus its resources on meeting the growing operational requirements of the Institution's property and programs. The Smithsonian will continue to effectively use its resources to prepare, operate, and secure facilities and grounds, and strive to provide safe, healthy, clean, and appealing spaces to meet program needs and public expectations.

## **Facilities Operations (\$70.6 million)**

To accomplish these goals, the Smithsonian will further benchmark the Institution's custodial staffing, processes, and service levels with other museums, educational institutions, and federal facilities. The Smithsonian's Facilities Management organization will refine work schedules and practices to improve efficiencies and outcomes to the best extent practicable with available resources and staffing. The program will assess and apply contract support where clear and cost-effective advantages can be achieved. In addition, supervisors will increase their use of information technology to better manage cleaning tasks, reporting requirements, and otherwise improve efficiencies and outcomes.

The Smithsonian will continue its commitment to ensure that employees have a safe and healthy workplace by focusing on risk mitigation to minimize the number of incidents and injuries; providing professional services to promote a culture of health and wellness; and ensuring that all Smithsonian facilities comply with local building codes, fire-protection and life-safety requirements, environmental regulations, and best management practices.

Further, through the Institution's emergency management program, staff continue to work across the Smithsonian to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate different types of emergencies and disasters.

## **Security (\$107.0 million)**

The Smithsonian has the solemn obligation and responsibility to provide adequate security for our staff, visitors, and collections. The Office of Protection Services (OPS) represents our front line of defense, staffing more than 650 posts at entrances, loading docks, control rooms, exhibitions, and high security collection areas across 22 SI locations in Washington, DC, Virginia, Maryland, and New York.

The FY 2026 request includes a \$9.2 million increase in funding for security that will provide the Smithsonian sufficient funding to continue its current level of operations and maintain the current level of protection for the Smithsonian's staff, visitors, and collections. OPS will be able to adequately respond to security, safety, and emergency incidents and effectively evacuate or shelter-in-place during emergencies. This funding will also prevent reductions to museum, public, and unit operations.

## **Utilities and Postage (\$54.4 million)**

The request includes funding to support the projected annual fixed costs for the Institution's utilities and postage requirements. Specifically, utilities funding supports Institutional needs related to electricity, chilled water, steam, natural gas, water and fuel oil.



- **Electricity:** The major use of electricity is for air-conditioning that provides essential climate control to protect the priceless national collections as well as ensure the comfort of visitors and staff.
- **Chilled Water:** Supports chilled water usage as supplied by the General Services Administration's (GSA) central plant to the Smithsonian's South Mall facilities.
- **Steam:** The Smithsonian uses steam for heating and humidification, and to produce hot water for facilities on the National Mall and in New York City.
- **Natural Gas:** The Smithsonian uses natural gas and propane for heating and generating steam.
- **DC Water and Sewer:** Covers the costs of both water and sewer services provided by the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DCWSA).
- **Other Water and Fuel Oil:** These funds provide water service for facilities outside of Washington, DC, and fuel oil used in dual-fuel boilers and generators for emergency power.
- **Motor Fuel:** Funds provide motor fuel that powers the Smithsonian's motor vehicle fleet and scientific research vessels.
- **Postage:** Provides for all official domestic and international mail services.

### **Central Rent (\$39.0 million)**

The Smithsonian's Central Rent funding supports approximately 900,000 square feet (SF) of leased space and about 380,000 SF of owned office space. This includes support for about 600,000 SF for long-term collections storage, about 540,000 SF for office and laboratory space, about 90,000 SF for museum space, and about 50,000 SF for data center space. The data center lease will be terminated in 2025 and replaced by a service agreement at a colocation facility. The existing leases are required based on the most cost-effective available space to support museum and research unit requirements.

## INSTITUTION-WIDE PROGRAMS

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	0	14,909	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	0	7,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for Institution-wide Programs is \$7.0 million. Beginning in 1993, Congress approved the creation of Institution-wide funding programs for the Smithsonian Institution to support certain priorities. Collectively, these programs are referred to as “federal pools.” Each program is managed by an office that determines how the funds should be distributed to support projects according to current needs and priorities. The pools are designed to be flexible to meet current Smithsonian needs and priorities specific to the purposes for which the programs were established.

Federal pools have been used to fund various activities as determined by leadership through a selective process based on institutional priorities and criteria established by the managing office. Some programs issue an annual call for proposals and use a multi-step competitive review process as the primary means to determine how funding should be distributed or “awarded.” Others select and fund proposed projects in strategically targeted efforts according to the Institution’s most important priorities, and some programs use a combination of methods to select projects for funding, as appropriate for the circumstances.

The FY 2026 request shifts the Information Resources Management (IRM) Pool funding previously allocated and requested in the Institution-wide Programs area to the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). The funding shift specifically supports network operations and server administration, including the Institution’s Enterprise Resource Planning financial system. The funds support OCIO and information technology (IT) operations for the Institution and the shift ensures greater efficiency.

The FY 2026 request also eliminates the Research Equipment Pool. Projects previously funded by that pool can be considered for funding support through either the Collections Care and Preservation Fund or the Research Program Initiatives Pool, which are outlined in greater detail below.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

#### Collections Care and Preservation Fund (\$4.5 million)

Collections stewardship is a key component and core priority of the Smithsonian’s Strategic Plan. Assembled throughout the Institution’s 179-year history,

the national collections are fundamental to carrying out the Institution's mission and serve as the intellectual base for scholarship, exhibition, and education.

Currently, Smithsonian collections total 157.5 million objects and specimens, 154,400 cubic feet of archives, and 2.3 million library volumes, which include irreplaceable national icons, examples of everyday life, living collections, and scientific material vital to the study of the world's natural and cultural heritage, covering subjects from art to zoology. The proper stewardship of the national collections is essential for America's artistic, scientific, and education infrastructure, enabling researchers to address challenges facing society.

To achieve our strategic goals, the Collections Care and Preservation Fund (CCPF) provides essential resources to make targeted improvements in the accountability, documentation, care, preservation, storage, and accessibility of the Institution's vast and varied collections. With this funding, the Smithsonian continues to strategically address important Institution-wide collections care needs in a pragmatic and systematic manner, based on sound collections assessment data, innovative collections care methodologies, economies of scale, and project-driven activities, including collections moves, re-housing, and digitization. These funds have enabled staff to correct specific collections management deficiencies identified in the Smithsonian's Inspector General audit recommendations; enable collections moves from substandard facilities and conditions; replace obsolete, substandard storage equipment and housing materials; improve the preservation, management, and accessibility of fragile and at-risk collections across the Institution; and strengthen Institution-wide collections emergency management and professional development.

An effective strategy for addressing the national collections challenges depends on having a coordinated, Institution-wide approach. Holistic collections-level management enables comprehensive improvements that benefit the greatest number of collection items and collecting units in an efficient, practical, and cost-effective way. In FY 2026, the Smithsonian will continue to implement collections initiatives and strategically address the critical preservation, storage, and digitization needs of collections, based on the results of Institution-wide collections assessments.

### **Research Program Initiatives Pool (\$1.25 million)**

The funding requested will continue to support the innovative research pool that is managed by the Under Secretary for Science and Research. The Research Program Initiatives Pool (RPIP) fosters a research environment conducive to scientific innovation and provides the essential financial support necessary to execute world-class science. Priority is given to high-risk, high-reward activities that lead to new ways of collecting and analyzing data, build the Smithsonian digital data collections, and incorporate new technical capabilities within the Smithsonian's areas of research. This program helps the Institution recruit the finest scientific talent, support postdoctoral researchers, and retain a multi-faceted science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce.

The funding criteria are flexible enough to respond to unique research opportunities that could change our understanding of how Earth systems operate, as well as new discoveries beyond Earth. The funds are distributed through both competitive and more targeted efforts. The Under Secretary for Science and Research expects to continue allocating funds in several tracks; for example, by using internally competitive seed grants and innovation grants, and start-up funds for new researchers.

The funding is also prioritized to projects using cutting-edge data analysis tools to analyze large data sets produced by Smithsonian research in numerous areas, including genomics, species populations and ecosystems science, and astronomy and planetary science. There is a definite need for expanded capabilities to analyze the enormous amounts of data in our collections and generated by our scientists. This request will provide resources to address the Smithsonian's strategic goals for digitization; STEM education through citizen science; and support large, visionary, interdisciplinary research projects using large data sets. These funds will help build and support the data platform that can connect collections, research, and global data, making the platform more interoperable and useful for scientists answering complex research questions that impact people and nature. The goal is to develop a collaborative knowledge platform that connects collections and research data and links it to global data resources drawing on the largest natural history collection in the world.

In the areas of astronomy and planetary science, the research explores the origin and evolution of black holes, how to find evidence of life on other planets, what conditions lead to habitability, and what physical-chemical processes lead to the great diversity among planets in our solar system and beyond. We also use these funds to help communicate these results to the public as only the Smithsonian can, through public programs, exhibits, and educational materials.

### **Digital Support Pool (\$1.25 million)**

The Institution's Strategic Plan lays out ambitious goals for the Smithsonian's future, including tools to leverage data and technology to transform the Smithsonian into a digitally empowered Institution that is accessible to every home, classroom, and community in America. As a leader in history, art, culture, and science, it is essential for the Smithsonian to continue expanding its reservoir of knowledge and increasing public access by adopting new technology and use of digital channels.

One area of particular focus for the Smithsonian involves accelerating the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) effectively and innovatively to enhance its work and enable mission delivery. This includes expanding initiatives that use AI techniques to digitize the Institution's collections at scale and to extract information from the digitized collections to help the public better discover and explore the Smithsonian's digital assets. Additionally, the Smithsonian seeks to deploy AI strategies such as machine learning to assist curators and researchers in distilling new knowledge that otherwise would be impossible due to the massive scale of the national collections. The Institution

also supports AI training programs for employees to ensure they responsibly leverage the full potential of these innovative methods.

These requested pool funds support Institution-wide digital platforms and programs for sharing Smithsonian collections and digital content with the public, harnessing the potential of AI centrally and within units, the digitization and digital stewardship of collections, the digital transformation program, and digital engagement programs such as the Transcription Center, which attracts thousands of volunteers nationwide every year to enhance the Institution's digital records. Finally, the funding supports the Smithsonian's data science and analytics efforts, and the infrastructure needed to accelerate the use of advanced technologies that can further the Institution's mission for the increase and diffusion of knowledge.

## MUSEUM CONSERVATION INSTITUTE

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	22	3,861	0	18	1	249	0	7	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	23	3,970	0	3	4	1,144	0	18	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) is \$4.0 million. The MCI's mission is to preserve cultural heritage. MCI was created in 1963 to address the need for an institution at the national level that would set the highest standards for the preservation and care of our nation's historic, artistic, and cultural collections. For the past 62 years, MCI has provided state-of-the-art technical and scientific research, hands-on conservation expertise, and professional training focused on the preservation of the Smithsonian's priceless collections, while also sharing-in-house expertise nationally and internationally. In FY 2025, the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI) was merged into MCI, enabling the Institute to assist more communities with preparing for and responding to disasters that impact their local cultural heritage.

In addition to collaborating with nearly all of the museums and research centers across the Smithsonian, MCI has worked in partnership with numerous outside organizations, including the White House, the U.S. Congress, the Architect of the Capitol, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. military, the Department of the Interior, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as well as other state, federal, museum, and academic organizations. MCI and SCRI are combining their international work to bring expertise and capacity building training to many countries in Europe, Central and South America, the Middle East, and Asia. Together, MCI and SCRI are training thousands of cultural heritage specialists and practitioners who work in communities across the nation and around the world.

The main MCI facility is in Suitland, Maryland at the Smithsonian's Museum Support Center. MCI laboratories are equipped with cutting-edge scientific instrumentation and conservation equipment needed to address questions about the documentation and research, care and preservation, and storage and exhibition of the Smithsonian's national collections. The broad range of available scientific instrumentation techniques includes spectrometry, including biomolecular mass spectrometry, analytical microscopy, and digital imaging. MCI's Suitland facility includes custom-built conservation laboratories for the specialized care of historic, artistic, and cultural collections which include paintings, textiles, objects and sculpture, paper, and photographs. This facility is also regularly used to help train a wide range of

constituents, from emerging professionals, specialist researchers and practitioners to allied professionals in law enforcement and emergency response operations.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

In FY 2025, the SCRI functions and six positions (four federal and two trust) were realigned within MCI. Joining forces has formed a new, merged organization that best positions the Smithsonian to continue its leadership role in supporting the care, research, and conservation of the nation's historical, artistic, and cultural heritage, and increases its capacity to help local communities preserve their heritage when under threat from disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires, and floods. In FY 2026, the expanded MCI will continue its transformation into an integrated unit through the completion of a mission, vision, and strategic plan that will guide the Institute's work throughout FY 2026 and beyond. MCI will accomplish these goals by reorganizing to best deploy its staff expertise, maximize its financial resources, and identify how to function more efficiently through interdisciplinary research, training, and programming.

In FY 2026, MCI will continue to play a vital role in the technical study and scientific analysis of the national collections through its collaboration with many of the Smithsonian's museums and research centers. This builds on MCI's established track record of using technical research to reveal otherwise unknowable stories about our nation's history. In addition to sharing these recovered stories in scholarly publications and talks, MCI will focus on creating programs, digital content and educational resources that will make this information and knowledge available to a broad range of people as the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary. MCI will also continue to use its expertise in identifying the material and technical components of collections; this highly specialized work is critical for identifying the origin of items, determining their potential degradation risks, and developing techniques to stop or slow the deterioration of such historically significant objects. This expertise also positions us to continue our robust cultural property anti-trafficking training that has reached over 1,000 law enforcement and customs personnel to date.

Furthermore, MCI will continue to partner with other Smithsonian units in the identification of best practices for the storage and exhibition of items so that these collections can be shared with this and future generations of Smithsonian visitors. Building on years of previous research, in FY 2026, MCI plans to explore advancements in artificial intelligence and big data analyses to identify more energy-efficient and cost-saving approaches to the storage and display environments for museum collections. In addition, MCI will test the feasibility of developing toolkits that enable more people to identify and document the collections, buildings, and sites vital to local communities; these will include training in digital documentation and imaging as well as regional mapping that uses crowdsourced and open-source data.

MCI will also focus on developing scaled approaches to training in several key areas by collaborating with broader SI initiatives such as the Rural Initiative and the Regional Collaboratives. In the area of disaster preparedness, MCI will determine how

to scale existing work that trains local heritage practitioners and stewards alongside emergency management specialists to proactively prepare so they can minimize the potential loss of important local collections, buildings, and places. The Institute will explore ways to scale and leverage both MCI's and the broader Smithsonian's staff and resources to assist communities in the salvage and recovery of their local cultural heritage in the wake of disasters and extreme weather events.

MCI's research, tools, and training will be made available to a broad public audience through a new digital strategy in FY 2026. This work will first involve merging the websites of both MCI and SCRI to make all the combined digital offerings accessible and easily searchable. In addition, public programs will be further developed to share MCI's work with a wide range of people, from specialists in the conservation and preservation fields to the broader public. We will explore approaches to sharing our work with K-12 audiences by seeking collaborations with SI educators including with the Smithsonian Science Education Center. MCI will also develop specific in-person and online programming to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

MCI receives annual nonappropriated resources from gifts and endowments, grants and contracts, discretionary income, and business ventures. These sources provide funds for the salary and benefits of the MCI's non-federal (trust) employees; support specific programs and projects in research, education, and outreach as designated by the donor/sponsor; and support general activities at the discretion of the director of the MCI. The MCI director's endowment, supported in part by an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation challenge grant, provides the salary, benefits, and travel and research funds for the MCI director.



## MUSEUM SUPPORT CENTER

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	13	2,056	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	11	1,809	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Museum Support Center (MSC) is \$1.8 million. The MSC is the Smithsonian's principal offsite collections preservation and research facility that is located in Suitland, Maryland. The facility houses more than 77 million objects, or 55 percent of the Institution's irreplaceable national collections, primarily from the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH). Other Smithsonian museums and research centers using the facility include the National Museum of American History, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the National Museum of Asian Art, the National Museum of African Art, the National Postal Museum, the Museum Conservation Institute, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and the National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. External agencies storing collections at MSC include National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Institutes of Health. In FY 2025, MSC will also welcome the National Gallery of Art (NGA) as a partnering museum in the new collections storage Pod 6.

The collections at MSC are used to support scientific and cultural research for essential Government functions in areas as broad as species identification and distribution, natural and other disasters, food and transportation safety, border security, criminal investigations, forensics, national defense, cancer research, and more.

MSC accommodates the care, preservation, and use of many types of collections with a variety of state-of-the-art equipment including dried specimens in archival cabinets; biological specimens preserved in alcohol; meteorites in a nitrogen atmosphere; film and genetic collections in mechanical and nitrogen-vapor freezers; high-bay storage for oversized objects such as totem poles, boats, mounted mammals, and artworks.

The facility consists of multiple structures, including many laboratories and oversized storage areas in addition to the main building. The laboratories focus on molecular systematics, ancient DNA, conservation, and other specialized research. MSC supports contracted maintenance services and required calibration for special collections preservation, laboratory equipment, and safety systems, such as environmental chambers, freezers, nitrogen systems, reverse-osmosis water systems, and oxygen-detection systems. The MSC staff provides project planning and

construction coordination, collections care, safety and emergency management, access and logistical support, as well as administrative and shipping services.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

MSC will remain flexible and nimble while improving collections storage and services as well as focusing on pest management and the safe preservation of collection materials. Additionally, MSC will prioritize logistical support of collections access, care, and transport, as well as shipping. MSC will also support other Smithsonian units with their pest-management issues as well as collections access and care, shipping, space planning, and general management. Furthermore, MSC will maintain and replace older collections' equipment and monitoring systems to ensure the continued stewardship of the national collections that are kept in the building.

In FY 2026, the Smithsonian will continue the move of collections into the new storage Pod 6, which was constructed in partnership with the NGA. As part of this effort, MSC management office will assist with the logistics associated with the new collections storage space, including planning and assisting with collections moves, and coordinating pest management. The MSC management office will also continue to coordinate and implement temporary and permanent programmatic changes due to the construction of Pod 6. Finally, MSC staff will help prepare for large movements of collections and integrate new staff and activities into the Pod 6 building as the new space becomes available.

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	110	65,526	21	3,841	0	66	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	111	69,917	27	3,841	0	0	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and to support digital innovation throughout the Institution is \$69.9 million. These funds will support the vision, leadership, policy, applications, services, and oversight associated with managing and operating leading-edge information technology (IT) solutions for the Institution's strategic priorities, as well as for the Smithsonian's many museums and research and cultural centers.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

The OCIO will continue using best practices in the implementation, management, and operations of information technology to enhance the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The OCIO accomplishes its mission by collaborating with industry partners, cultural organizations, academia, and the public to develop innovative solutions for research and digitization challenges, and to realize the vision of creating a virtual Smithsonian to serve 21st century audiences.

The following strategies are cross-cutting and central to the Smithsonian's Strategic Plan and mission of connecting Americans to their history and heritage, as well as to promote innovation, research, and discovery in science:

- Leverage commercially available and open-source technologies to provide online platforms for the Institution to increase public access to digitized collections and research data;
- Enhance how the Institution engages and serves its audiences while driving innovation and new discovery through emerging technologies, including by overseeing Institution-wide policies that ensure proper data governance and stewardship of Smithsonian digital assets;
- Use state-of-the-art, secure information systems to modernize financial, human resources, facilities management, collections, education, and research processes;

- Replace network equipment, servers, desktop computers, and scientific workstations on an industry best practice life cycle to increase reliability and improve the security of information systems and the data they contain;
- Maintain and enhance the Institution's telecommunications infrastructure to provide reliable, secure, and cost-effective voice and data communications systems in support of the Smithsonian mission;
- Meet federal requirements for providing timely and accurate financial information;
- Increase the use of data science and artificial intelligence to drive innovation in research and collections management in a cost-effective manner;
- Invest strategically in creating a standard mass-digitization process that enables replicable, cost-effective, high throughput, and high-quality 2D digitization for all the Smithsonian's high-priority collections. Digitization efforts to implement this process have produced digital images for 7.7 million collections objects to date, thereby doubling the rate of digitization at the Smithsonian;
- Develop automation processes to scale up 3D digitization efforts while ensuring that 3D data models remain durable over time;
- Continue to improve and refine the Institution's IT Security Program by effectively detecting malicious activity; monitoring and protecting sensitive data; defending the Institution against sophisticated threats; investigating suspicious activity; and managing risk both internally and from the cyber-supply chain.; and
- Expand and refine offerings to support digital content production.

This request also shifts the Information Resources Management (IRM) Pool funding previously allocated and requested in the Institution-wide Programs line-item to OCIO. The funding specifically supports network operations and server administration, including the Institution's Enterprise Resource Planning financial system. The funds support OCIO and IT operations for the Institution and the shift ensures greater operational efficiency. Specifically, the requested funds are used for:

- Upgrades and enhancements to the Smithsonian's information technology (IT) infrastructure;
- Contractor support in the Network Operations Center;
- Services of Active Directory and desktop migration technicians;
- Network hardware/software maintenance; and

- Delivery of Smithsonian digital assets to the public.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support salaries and benefits costs of personnel and other related costs of the OCIO. Donor/sponsor-designated funds cover IT costs related to 3D digitization projects, a portion of the biennial Digitization Fair, first offered to the public in FY 2017, and the Transcription Center that was launched in 2013 as a volunteer and crowdsourcing platform that transcribes historical content within the Smithsonian holdings, making them more readable, accessible, and searchable by the public.

## OUTREACH

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	51	10,863	27	5,183	25	6,542	3	1,107	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	46	9,677	30	5,618	31	7,848	0	127	0	0

## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

As the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, the Smithsonian Institution holds an unparalleled responsibility to connect with and inspire a broad audience. We are dedicated to transcending traditional museum walls, reaching individuals wherever they are — whether through immersive digital experiences in their homes, innovative learning activities in their schools, or dynamic community engagements. Our robust outreach initiatives are the vital conduits that extend the Smithsonian's national treasures and groundbreaking research far beyond the Washington, DC metropolitan area, bringing the power of knowledge and discovery to every corner of the United States. The Smithsonian's comprehensive Outreach and Education Strategy is meticulously designed to: 1) provide relevant and timely learning experiences that reflect and resonate with the rich tapestry of our nation; 2) empower learners nationwide by providing teachers access to high-quality professional learning; and 3) cultivate the next generation of leaders in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) and museum professions through world-class Fellowships and internships, thereby fortifying a robust workforce pipeline for our nation's future.

As one of the nation's most trusted resources for learning, the Smithsonian is at the forefront of opening pathways to knowledge for anyone, anywhere. Our centers encompass every part of the human experience, including art, history, culture, and science, and work at intersections of these disciplines to spark imagination and encourage discovery between art and nature, space exploration and history, cultural traditions, and the evolving American story. Whether in museums or communities, Smithsonian educators and experts invite conversation, collaboration, and the mutual exchange of ideas. The Smithsonian provides multiple formal and informal educational experiences to reach people where they are locally, nationally, and globally.

In an average year, the Smithsonian's education and outreach efforts reach more than 15 million people. Additionally, more than 16 million educator-created resources are distributed each year. Through our more than 200 Smithsonian Affiliate members, we reach an additional 30 million visitors across 46 states. In addition, our traveling exhibits reach approximately 156 U.S. communities in 41 states each year. To enhance our national outreach strategy in 2022, the Smithsonian launched the rural initiative which commits to serve rural and tribal communities and raise the visibility of their unique stories.

This line item includes the programs that provide the critical mass of outreach and educational programming to support national engagement.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

### **Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and Smithsonian Affiliations (SITES | Affiliations) (\$5.2 million)**

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) serves as the Institution's ambassador and emissary through traveling and virtual exhibits that bring curiosity, discovery, and experiences to communities across America. The goal of Smithsonian Affiliations is to share the Institution's resources with Americans in their own communities by developing collaborative relationships with museums, cultural, and educational organizations. Together, these efforts bring the Smithsonian, in all its scope, to local communities and create lasting experiences that broaden perspectives on science, history, culture, and the arts.

With its broad appeal, SITES | Affiliations reaches all 50 states with exhibitions, programs targeted to adults, families, youth, and classrooms, professional development for museum professionals and classroom teachers, and loans from the Smithsonian's national collections.

### **Educational Outcomes and Academic Programs (EOAP) (\$1.1 million)**

This outreach function exists organizationally within the Office of the Under Secretary for Education (OUSE), which is charged with developing a comprehensive strategy for the Smithsonian's educational mission that builds external partnerships and solidifies and extends the Smithsonian's position as one of the world's leading education champions. OUSE engages in a national strategy to work with state education agencies, school districts, schools, and out-of-school educators to reach students, caregivers, teachers, librarians, and technology and media specialists, to support and enhance learning experiences and opportunities across the nation with an emphasis on reaching rural communities. OUSE also supports Institution-wide education and outreach initiatives and links the outreach measures with outcomes reported to the Under Secretary for Education so the programs can be fine-tuned for maximum impact. Smithsonian education includes the creation of teacher professional learning, design of relevant instructional resources, development of student-centered interactives, in-person engagement, and structured out-of-school experiences.

Since the launch of the Rural Initiative in 2022, expanded programming and services and strategic collaborations with organizations around the country are meeting the needs of rural communities nationwide. By partnering with rural stakeholders, including tribal communities and local leaders, the initiative engages with and amplifies the voices of rural Americans to raise the visibility of their cultural stories.

## **Office of Educational Technology (OET) (\$0.9 million)**

OET leads the Smithsonian's pre-K–12 digital educational strategy. The Office connects educators and educational communities to the Smithsonian's digital educational resources, with the goal of placing the Smithsonian at everyone's fingertips regardless of location. The central vehicle for realizing this mission is through the Smithsonian Learning Lab, a digital platform that reaches more than 600,000 users annually.

The Smithsonian is creating new digital services and platforms for scholars, educators, and students to better access and use the national collections, research, and educational resources. The Smithsonian Learning Lab is a free, Web-accessible toolkit for educators and students that enables everyone to find and customize millions of digitized resources for educational use and share them with others. Based on research and evaluation with pre-K–12 audiences and museum educators, the Lab provides services aligned to the needs and realities of its global audiences. OET also develops standards-aligned resources for classrooms and provides professional development to museum educators and classroom teachers to help them get the most out of digital museum resources for learning.

OET also serves as a resource for internal Smithsonian educators, providing guidance and support on best practices in educational technology to expand and amplify the reach of their content to the public. Within the Institution, the Office uses digital tools to develop strategies for connecting Smithsonian resources with classrooms across the country. It offers services and technical support to other units on the use of technology, content strategy, and data-driven decision making to achieve unit objectives.

In FY 2026, OET will re-envision the Learning Lab to launch an enhanced platform pilot project that will coincide with the nation's 250th anniversary. This work will involve continued research and development to ensure that the versatility and flexibility of the platform serve educators today and in the future.

## **Office of Academic Appointments and Internships (OAAI) (\$1.8 million)**

Housed under the Office of the Under Secretary for Education, OAAI programs provide the central management and administrative capacity for the Institution's research Fellowships, internships, and other scholarly appointments. One of the Smithsonian's primary objectives is to facilitate academic interactions with students and scholars at universities, museums, and other research institutions. These programs administer Institution-wide research support and assist Smithsonian museums, research centers, and offices with diversifying and developing additional Fellowships and visiting scholarly appointments.

In particular, the Institution offers Fellowships to provide opportunities for graduate and pre-doctoral students, and for postdoctoral students and senior



investigators to conduct independent research, with Smithsonian professional research staff offering advice and guidance. These appointments allow for more effective use of staff, collections, and facilities. They also help train the next generation of researchers and scientists and maintain the Smithsonian's level of expertise in the research community by continuing to attract the best scholars. The Smithsonian offers approximately 1,500 internships each year that provide workplace-based, guided learning opportunities that offer participants direct experiences in a wide range of fields. Through our internship experiences, we strive to transform future generations of leaders, museum professionals, and consumers of culture.

### **Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press (SISP) (\$0.7 million)**

SISP advances the scholarly record and, more specifically, research and education activities of the Smithsonian related to programming and the National Collections. SISP produces and publishes research results of Institution staff in the Smithsonian Contributions Series, continually published since 1875, and as interdisciplinary monographs, scholarly books, and conference proceedings. Federal funds help produce first-class research results in a wide range of core subject areas, including anthropology, art and art history, botany, cultural and heritage studies, education, history, marine sciences, museum and collections studies, object conservation, paleobiology, and zoology. Federal funds also support dissemination of SISP's publications in digital format through a direct access online portal and in print, as well as to libraries, universities, and education and research organizations. Finally, federal resources enable SISP to facilitate increased public access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications authored by Smithsonian employees.

### **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds defray the costs of staff salaries and benefits, fund raising, exhibition design and production, publications, materials, outside specialists, and contractual services. Donor/sponsor-designated funds cover costs related to specific projects and programs.

## SMITHSONIAN EXHIBITS

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	25	3,662	15	(528)	0	16	0	0	1	188
FY 2026 REQUEST	22	3,223	18	(600)	0	0	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian Institution Exhibits (SIE) office is \$3.2 million. SIE is a full-service exhibit planning, design, and production operation supporting Smithsonian public exhibitions that connect the American people and international audiences with the richness of the Institution's content and collections. SIE is the exhibit resource available to all Smithsonian museums, research centers, and Affiliates. In partnership with colleagues throughout the Institution, SIE consistently delivers the highest quality accessible exhibit design, interpretive writing, editing, project management, graphic production, fabrication, installation, and 3D services to help support the Smithsonian's mission.

In FY 2026, SIE will continue to focus on planning, designing, and producing exhibitions for the Institution, including in support of events planned throughout 2026 to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America. Colleagues with full, limited, or no design or production capabilities can use SIE for complete or partial exhibition services, including exhibit development, design, refurbishing, signage, acrylic casing, cabinetry, model making, crating, and artifact mounting.

SIE fosters collaboration among units by providing expert consultation, especially in the early stages of exhibition planning. Drawing on their broad array of skills, the SIE exhibit specialists work across the Smithsonian to help create more compelling exhibits that connect the American people to their history as well as their cultural and scientific heritages.

For colleagues seeking specialized exhibition-related services, SIE will continue to develop digital interactive and multi-media services and expand its expertise in computer-controlled production and automated modeling technologies such as 3D scanning and printing. In addition, SIE will provide opportunities for Smithsonian colleagues to take advantage of its state-of-the-art facility, allowing trained staff to work with the specialized equipment and produce needed resources.

SIE's Object Storage Facility (OSF) offers secure, climate-controlled storage for artifacts during production. SIE will continue supporting exhibitions in the S. Dillon Ripley Center concourse and throughout the Smithsonian's many other facilities.

In addition, SIE conducts forums for exhibit staff throughout the Smithsonian to inspire creativity, innovation, and collaborations which result in cutting-edge exhibitions and technological advances. Toward this end, SIE is expanding its skills in exhibit creation, interpretive master planning, and exhibition development services to include prototyping and interactive development for diverse design projects.

## **MEANS AND STRATEGY**

As the Institution's most comprehensive producer of exhibits, SIE provides its Smithsonian colleagues with first-class accessible exhibition design, interpretive writing, editing, content development, production, and installation services. Each year, SIE plans, designs, and produces approximately 100 projects, large and small, for almost every office and museum in the Smithsonian. In FY 2026, most SIE resources will stay focused on:

- serving as a learning center within the Smithsonian, which shares its expertise in exhibit planning, design, and production with community partners, exhibit colleagues at the Smithsonian, and at the national/international museum level,
- cross-training staff within SIE to share expertise and maximize efficiencies while also advancing environmental sustainability in exhibits,
- demonstrating new sustainable and accessible exhibition design technologies to Smithsonian units,
- developing and implementing techniques for greater accessibility and inclusivity of exhibition elements across the Smithsonian Institution,
- promoting exhibition excellence, unit sharing of resources, and advancement of exhibitions as an interpretive medium throughout the Smithsonian Institution; and
- leveraging its expertise in working with electro-mechanical interactive components and tactile experiences to deepen audience engagement in all Smithsonian exhibits.

SIE will accomplish these objectives by focusing exclusively on exhibit-related work, freeing up SIE staff with specialized experience to concentrate on the planning, design, and production of museum exhibits. By building on well-established, collaborative relationships with other Smithsonian design and production staff, SIE will continue to play a strong role in sharing its expertise with other Smithsonian units. These initiatives will result in a more informed and expert staff that can do more to maintain the Institution's leadership in the field of exhibition design and production.

## **NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES**

General trust funds support SIE salaries and benefits for project management, design, and exhibit specialists, as well as general operations, equipment services, and maintenance requirements.

## SMITHSONIAN LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	114	17,025	5	1,309	9	1,132	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	83	10,000	8	2,038	11	2,326	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives (SLA) is \$10.0 million. SLA is a research and collecting unit of the Smithsonian Institution that exists to 1) document the history of the Smithsonian Institution by collecting, preserving, and making available the official records of the Institution and related archival collections; and 2) acquire, preserve, and make available library research materials, such as monographs, journals and serials, microforms, maps, scores and sound recordings, audiovisual materials, digital resources, and special collections. SLA is a critical component of the intellectual core of the Smithsonian Institution, providing reference and research services informed by the current and future needs of Smithsonian staff. SLA's collections provide a broad and deep foundation for research, scholarship, and museum initiatives for public outreach, education, and exhibitions.

The Smithsonian is actively evaluating ways that we can update our library operations to reflect the changing use of physical and digital assets. In FY 2026, we plan to increase our use of technology, which will allow us to reduce SLA's funding, and the number of staff needed to perform its core library functions of reference and research services. Moving forward, SLA will continue to develop efficiencies and modernize library operations and its organizational structure to reduce future costs. We will continue to evaluate whether moving more library volumes to remote storage, where they can still be accessed by the public, is feasible.

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

Extensive groundwork has been laid to develop a new integrated SLA culture and redeploy staff in an effective and logical organizational structure. A primary goal in the creation of SLA was to leverage existing capacities and scale SLA expertise to meet strategic initiatives of the Institution. Providing SLA services and collections to support the development of new Smithsonian museums is a significant example in this area. SLA is quick to pivot and redirect resources to support new Smithsonian initiatives, interdisciplinary programs, and research areas. Detailed below are key areas of focus for SLA in FY 2026:

- **Digital Strategies and Infrastructure:** In addition to re-factoring and envisioning a sustainable, robust digital infrastructure that addresses the critical needs of the SLA collections and services, the improved digital infrastructure will advance its

ability to deliver more modern and expanded online modes of research, scholarly communication, and public engagement. Key areas of focus will include 1) a web portal that integrates content and services from multiple systems to provide a seamless experience for SLA patrons, researchers, and visitors; and 2) the replacement of aging collections information systems to digital platforms that also support research data management, data science, and knowledge sharing, such as through Linked Data, and digital preservation. Linked data systems and technology will further facilitate SLA's ability to significantly contribute to the broader national and international knowledge communities. SLA will continue participating in the Smithsonian Open Access Initiative. SLA will strategically align its digital infrastructure to develop and deliver the information environments that enhance and broaden engagement opportunities with audiences in and outside of the Smithsonian.

- **Collections, Services, and Stewardship:** Both library and archives collections have long been a core component of scholarly research and knowledge creation. The official records of the Institution under the stewardship of trained archivists also provide depth to Smithsonian history as well as fulfill legal requirements. The Smithsonian community is supported in the increase and diffusion of knowledge by librarians and archivists who select, interpret, and guide the staff on leveraging our extensive collections and the information ecosystem available throughout the world for the benefit of research and the public. Scholarly research at the Smithsonian requires both physical and digital collections, along with archival research collections. SLA must be selective and effectively steward the acquisition, access, and digitization of research resources. SLA will balance access needs with the increasing costs of online journals and databases, along with the staff, equipment and hosted resources required to create digital collections. Copyright law significantly restricts the materials available in our collection to digitize. Therefore, we expect that physical and primary source collections will remain vital to conduct deeper, complex research. As stewards of our collections, SLA follows Smithsonian Directive (SD) 600, the principal document guiding Smithsonian collections management. Like every museum and collecting unit at the Smithsonian, SLA adheres to this directive for collections management, including acquisition and accessioning, deaccessioning and disposal, preservation, documentation, life-cycle management, inventory, risk management, safety and security, access, storage, loans, and intellectual property management. Making electronic and print content discoverable requires the staff and technology to support effectively stewarding the collections. SD 600 also addresses specific legal and ethical issues that pertain to collections, including shared stewardship and ethical returns, Native American and Native Hawaiian human remains and objects, cultural property, biological material, and objects unlawfully appropriated during the Nazi era.
- **Public Programs, Educational Engagement, and Communications:** The Strategic Initiatives and Programs department aligns SLA programmatic priorities and goals for communication, exhibitions, internships and fellowships, public

programs, and events to create administrative efficiencies and maximize impacts within SI and outside with broader audiences of students, scholars, educators, researchers, and the general public. Existing SLA internship and fellowship programs will benefit from a renewed effort to coordinate opportunities across SLA's departments management and provide funding for all internships.

- **Operational Culture of Excellence and Leadership:** SLA will foster enhanced communication between its technology staff inside and with those across the Smithsonian. SLA will build upon SI's collaborative environment and to continue to introduce staff across the Institution to relevant data sets and digital tools and services. SLA will also renew efforts to streamline and develop more effective communication about the array of services offered to different stakeholders by convening discussions to review SLA knowledge sharing and determine where SLA information should be shared. SLA will support and provide central training and resources for staff in essential work, software and workplace knowledge that enhances utilization of library and archive resources.
- **Finance and Administration:** SLA will leverage and extend existing financial resources for maximum value to the Smithsonian by streamlining financial services and providing Smithsonian administrators with clear spending plans and resource needs. SLA will seek to develop and sustain a skilled and engaged workforce that can succeed and thrive in an ever-changing environment; it will nurture and foster the development of talented archivists, librarians, and staff as well as develop an organizational culture of innovation, service, and collaboration.
- **External Collaborations:** SLA will build on existing national and global networks to promote Smithsonian resources for the public and the scholarly community. Robust involvement with organizations such as the Digital Public Library of America, the Society of American Archivists, the Biodiversity Heritage Library, the Coalition for Networked Information, Wikidata information, and others not only promote SLA collections and services but also provide a gateway for the Smithsonian to reach a broader community.

## NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES

General trust funds help defray the costs of providing archival and information services to Smithsonian units, support outreach (including publications, social media, and public programs), and fundraising efforts. The funds also support the work to manage and preserve the collections of the Institution and efforts to provide professional conservation expertise throughout the Smithsonian, to other institutions, and to the public. In FY 2026, SLA will continue raising funds for general operations and specific projects that increase access to our collections through cataloguing and digitization, as well as programs, including fellowships and internships, that share our resources with a global community.

## OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES									
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS		INTERAGENCY	
	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s	FTE	\$000s
FY 2024 ENACTED	23	4,618	0	134	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY 2026 REQUEST	21	4,364	1	372	0	0	0	0	0	0

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FY 2026 request for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is \$4.4 million. The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, requires the OIG to conduct and supervise audits and investigations relating to programs and operations of the Smithsonian Institution that are, in the judgment of the Inspector General, necessary or desirable. Furthermore, the Act requires the Inspector General to transmit a budget submission specifying the aggregate amount of funds requested for the operations of the OIG, including the amount needed to satisfy training requirements, as well as any resources necessary to support the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE).

### MEANS AND STRATEGY

The Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations conducts engagements that review the Smithsonian's programs and operations to help improve their efficiency and effectiveness. To align its oversight responsibility with available resources, this office develops an annual oversight plan by conducting a comprehensive risk assessment of the Institution's programs and operations and seeking input from Smithsonian stakeholders and Congress. The annual oversight plan also includes mandatory audits, such as the annual financial statements audit that the OIG oversees.

The Office of Investigations pursues allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, gross mismanagement or misconduct, and violations of law that affect the Smithsonian's programs and operations. It refers matters of concern to federal, state, and local prosecutors for action whenever the OIG has reasonable grounds to believe there has been a violation of criminal law. The Office of Investigations also presents any evidence of administrative misconduct to Smithsonian senior management for appropriate disciplinary action.

### NONAPPROPRIATED RESOURCES

The FY 2026 trust budget includes \$371,576 for necessary pay and other related salary costs for OIG trust staff.

**TAB 3**  
**FACILITIES CAPITAL**



## FACILITIES CAPITAL

Account (\$000s)	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
Facilities Capital	197,645	197,645	120,000

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Smithsonian requests **\$120.0 million** for the Facilities Capital Program in FY 2026 to improve the Facilities Condition Index (FCI) of many essential facilities and preserve and maintain our national treasures and cultural properties for generations to come. Approximately 55 percent of the FY 2026 funding within the Facilities Capital account is dedicated directly to projects on the National Mall, a major priority for the Institution and the Administration.

The Facilities Capital program supports the Smithsonian's mission and represents an investment in the long-term interest of the nation. It provides modern facilities, often within our country's national historic and culturally iconic buildings, to satisfy public programming needs, facilitate world-renowned research efforts, and house the priceless national collections.

While funding for the routine maintenance and minor repairs of facilities is included in the Institution's Salaries and Expenses request, the Facilities Capital Program's revitalization projects support major repairs or replace declining or failed infrastructure to address the problems of advanced deterioration in the Smithsonian's aging physical plant. Once completed, these projects mitigate the failures in building systems which can create potentially hazardous conditions for visitors and staff, harm animals, damage collections, or cause the loss of precious scientific data.

The Institution uses the National Research Council's facility condition assessments to calculate a FCI rating. The FCI is the industry standard for analyzing the condition of a facility or group of facilities that may vary in terms of age, design, construction methods, and materials. The FCI is calculated by dividing the sum of the deferred maintenance (based on the assessed condition ratings) of eight building systems (roofs, electrical, plumbing, HVAC [or heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning], conveyance equipment — such as elevators and escalators — interior fixtures, exterior features, and structure) by the Current Replacement Value (CRV) of the facilities.

The estimated overall CRV for the Smithsonian's facilities is \$16.9 billion. As stated in the S&E section, the Smithsonian's Deferred Maintenance (DM) backlog is estimated at \$3.1 billion. This results in an estimated FCI of 81.3 percent, putting the Smithsonian's FCI score in the "fair" condition range. The current conditions of many Smithsonian facilities require attention to mitigate the risk of adverse impacts to Smithsonian operations, collections, and visitor experiences.

## EXPLANATION OF CHANGE

Facilities Capital funding is essential to realize the intended design life and full economic value of Smithsonian facilities and to protect the Institution's previous investments in revitalizing its physical infrastructure. This budget request will enable the Institution to support the following projects as part of the Facilities Capital program:

- Upgrade the sanitary and storm systems at the National Museum of Natural History as well as continue to repair and/or replace windows;
- Install a new emergency generator and improve site drainage and flood protection at the National Museum of American History as well as other important projects, including repairing/replacing the exterior soffits, and improving humidity control at the Dibner Library;
- Support improvements at the National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, including renovations of the Cheetah Conservation Center, the beaver/otter/raven habitat, and renewing the Veterinary Hospital in Front Royal, Virginia;
- Renovate the loading dock at the National Air and Space Museum;
- Replace the underwater power and communication infrastructure and modernize and renovate laboratories and buildings at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama;
- Replace old air-handling units, as well as continue decontamination efforts at the Suitland Collections Center;
- Upgrade the electronic security system at the Quadrangle;
- Renew the summit bowl dormitory at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory;
- Modernize passenger elevators at the National Museum of the American Indian; and
- Address other safety and security hazards as well as collections housing risks throughout the Institution.

The following chart summarizes the Institution's FY 2026 budget request for the highest priority Facilities Capital projects:

<b>SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION</b> <b>Federal Facilities Capital Program Summary</b> <b>FY 2024 and FY 2026</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> <b>(\$ in millions)</b>	<i>Federal Enacted</i>	<i>Trust Estimate</i>	<i>Federal Request</i>	<i>Trust Estimate</i>
	FY 2024		FY 2026	
<b>REVITALIZATION</b>				
National Museum of Natural History	4.2		21.0	
National Museum of American History	6.8		17.0	
Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute	27.2		14.0	4.7
National Air and Space Museum (NASM-NMB & NASM-UHC)	5.5	25.7	11.5	68.6
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	7.6		9.0	
Suitland Collections Space and Support Program	5.0		7.5	
Quadrangle	0.5		5.0	
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory	2.5		4.0	
National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI-DC & NMAI-NY)	3.0		0.9	
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden	35.0	22.8	0.0	
National Museum of Asian Art	5.3		0.0	
Historic Core: Smithsonian Institution Building (SIB)	2.5		0.0	
National Museum of African American History and Culture	0.8		0.0	
Donald W. Reynolds Center	0.5		0.0	
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center	0.4		0.0	
Multiple Site Projects and General Capital Support	17.7		13.1	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>124.4</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>73.3</b>
<b>PLANNING AND DESIGN</b>	36.2		17.0	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
MSC Pod 6 Collections Storage Module	37.0			
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>197.6</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>120.0</b>	<b>73.3</b>

## FACILITIES CAPITAL SUMMARY TABLE

The FY 2026 Budget Request supports investments in revitalization projects that provide for the replacement of failing or failed major building systems and equipment, and for major renovation projects to sustain existing buildings and sites. Approximately 55 percent of the funding within the Facilities Capital account is dedicated directly to projects on the National Mall, a major priority for the Institution and the Administration.

The Facilities Capital revitalization program addresses critical deficiencies in the exterior envelope, heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC), electrical, and other utility systems at the Smithsonian's older buildings. Projects also ensure compliance with life-safety regulations, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and other code-compliance requirements. In addition, this program supports restoration, preservation, weather protection, energy efficiency best practices, repair of historic features, living collections infrastructure, and modernization of the buildings needed to support current programs and sustain the viability of the Institution's physical plant. Projects listed in the Multiple Locations line cover several facilities or have a total cost to the Museum and/or research center of typically less than \$1.0 million. These projects usually involve capital repair or replacement of individual systems or components.

Facility	Project	\$000
National Museum of Natural History	Upgrade Sanitary and Storm Systems	19,000
	Repair and Replace Windows	<u>2,000</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,000</b>
National Museum of American History	Install Emergency Generator on Roof	9,000
	Improve Site Drainage and Flood Protection	4,000
	Improve Humidity Control at Dibner Library	2,000
	Repair/Replace Exterior Soffits	<u>2,000</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17,000</b>
Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (NZCBI)	Renovate Cheetah Conservation Station	4,100
	Renew Veterinary Hospital (NZCBI-VA)	4,000
	Revitalize Beaver/ Otter/ Raven Habitat	4,400
	Upgrade High Voltage Panels and Equipment	<u>1,500</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,000</b>
National Air and Space Museum	Renovate Loading Dock	<b>11,500</b>
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	Replace Underwater Power & Comm. at BCI	5,000
	Replace Naos Buildings 352, 359 and 330	<u>4,000</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,000</b>

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>\$000</b>
Suitland Collections Center (multiple facilities)	Decontaminate Collections — Building 16	6,500
	Replace Lab and Storage Pod Air-Handling Units (AHUs)	<u>1,000</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,500</b>
Quadrangle	Upgrade Electronic Security, Quad and FGA	<b>5,000</b>
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory	Replace Summit Bowl Dormitory, SAO-AZ	<b>4,000</b>
National Museum of the American Indian	Modernize Passenger Elevators 1,2,3,6 & 7	<b>900</b>
Multiple Locations	Building Projects Less than \$1,000,000 and Miscellaneous Repairs	5,100
	Construction Supervision and Administration, (Multiple Projects)	<u>8,000</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,100</b>
<b>TOTAL, REVITALIZATION PROJECTS</b>		<b>\$103,000</b>
<b>TOTAL, FACILITIES PLANNING AND DESIGN</b>		<b>\$17,000</b>
<b>TOTAL, FY 2026 BUDGET REQUEST</b>		<b>\$120,000</b>

## **REVITALIZATION PROJECTS**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Upgrade Sanitary and Storm Systems  
**INSTALLATION:** National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$19,000\*

ESTIMATED FUTURE-YEAR FUNDING: \$41,000\*

Total \$60,000\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The NMNH building was designed by architects Hornblower and Marshall, with contributions by Charles McKim, and opened to the public in 1910. The East and West Wings were added in the early 1960s. Two building infills were constructed in the original building's East and West courtyards in the late 1990s. In addition to its wide array of public exhibits, the 1.3-million-square-foot building houses more than 147 million specimens and artifacts (used by resident and visiting researchers), supports educational, scientific, and administrative facilities, and serves approximately 1,200 staff and support personnel. The NMNH is one of the most visited museums in the world and typically hosts between seven and eight million visitors annually.

### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

The storm and sanitary drainage systems at the NMNH, constructed during each phase of building, are well past their useful life and require extensive repair and replacement. Most of these systems within the main building date to the early 1900s, while the East and West wing storm and sanitary drainage systems were constructed in the early 1960s. The remainder were added with the installation of the chiller plant and East and West Court in the early 1990s.

A feasibility study completed in 2019 uncovered widespread code deficiencies. The numerous dissimilar piping material and pipe connections, resulting from the multiple emergency repairs, accelerate corrosion and increase pipe bursts. Dissimilar materials also prevent tight seals contributing to frequent leaks. Other system problems include damaged pipes, cracking, and improper installation.

Many of the storm and sanitary sewer lines run above critical areas such as operational areas, laboratory, collection storage, exhibits and other public areas. Due to the extensive deteriorated conditions of the sanitary and storm sewer systems, the Museum has experienced frequent leaks and interior flooding, which threatened collections, negatively impact the ability of the Museum to operate and conduct research. Furthermore, these leaks pose safety and health risks for Museum personnel and visitors. The leaks and minor floodings will, over time, cause deterioration to the structure of the Museum.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$19.0 million in FY 2026 to replace the sanitary and sewer systems; reroute the lines away from critical areas to the existing chases; and rerun the piping in the utility tunnel. The project will also consolidate some office sinks to reduce future maintenance, replace waste lines in various restrooms, and modify the restrooms to comply with ADA requirements.

#### PROGRESS TO DATE:

A feasibility study, completed in 2019, confirmed the gross deficiencies within the sanitary and storm systems. An implementation study was completed in 2022, providing a workable approach and phasing for the systems replacement with the goal to minimize disruptions to ongoing NMNH operations. The project design contract was awarded in May of 2023. The 35 percent design was received in November of 2024 and the 65 percent design is expected mid-2025. Final design is expected in the first quarter of FY 2026 with a construction award by the fourth quarter of FY 2026.

#### IMPACT OF DELAY:

The NMNH sanitary and storm drainage systems are well beyond their expected service life and present multiple risks. Delaying the project will exacerbate the deterioration of the already unreliable systems and further undermine the protection for collections, exhibits, ongoing operations and pose threats to safety and health of Smithsonian employees and visitors.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Repair and Replace Windows  
**INSTALLATION:** National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$2,000\*

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING: \$2,000\*

Total \$4,000\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

The NMNH building was designed by architects Hornblower and Marshall, with contributions by Charles McKim, and opened to the public in 1910. The East and West Wings were added in the early 1960s. Two building infills were constructed in the original building's East and West courtyards in the late 1990s. In addition to its wide array of public exhibits, the 1.3-million-square-foot building houses more than 147 million specimens and artifacts (used by resident and visiting researchers), supports educational, scientific, and administrative facilities, and serves approximately 1,200 staff and other personnel. The NMNH is one of the most visited museums in the world and typically hosts between seven and eight million visitors annually.

**PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:**

The windows are mostly original to the facility's 1910 construction and additions, and many contain lead paint. The windows in the wing sections were installed in the 1960s as part of the building's additions. These windows need repair and retrofit to restore the integrity and appearance of the building envelope, but more importantly, the repair requires hazardous material abatement for the safety and health of Museum personnel and visitors. In addition, there is a need to incorporate new security measures and energy conservation within the guidelines for repairing and preserving historic buildings, as recommended by a 2017 survey of the NMNH physical plant.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Smithsonian requests \$2.0 million in FY 2026 to continue repairing the most critical windows at the north side of the main building to include applying blast resistance, and other security protection measures. These windows are original to the building and are historic so any repairs and retrofit action must be reviewed and approved by a historical consultant to ensure the historic integrity of the Museum is maintained.

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**

The Smithsonian design contract was awarded in September of 2023. The final design is expected by summer of FY 2025. A construction contract award is anticipated in the fourth quarter of FY 2025.

**IMPACT OF DELAY:**

Many of the windows contain lead paint, which had been known to flake off in the past and become friable. Lead paint chips were found on the workspace floor and the



exterior lawn, creating safety and health hazards. During driving rain, the Museum experiences extensive leaks which damage the exterior granite, interior walls, and the window structures.

A delay in repairing or replacing these windows poses a serious health hazard. The structures of the windows will continue to deteriorate, further damaging the interior infrastructure and possibly resulting in damage to the valuable artifacts and collections, as well as damage to the Museum's historic integrity. A delay in applying blast-proof material to windowpanes will result in the Museum failing to meet security policies and directives, placing Museum personnel and visitors in dangerous situations, and putting the Museum's precious collections and artifacts at risk.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Install Emergency Generator on Roof  
**INSTALLATION:** National Museum of American History (NMAH)  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

<u>FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars):</u>	\$9,000*
<u>PRIOR-YEAR FUNDING:</u>	\$5,000*
<u>ESTIMATED FUTURE-YEAR FUNDING:</u>	\$11,750*
Total	\$25,750*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The National Museum of American History (NMAH), *Kenneth E. Behring Center*, opened to the public in 1964 and is one of the Smithsonian's most visited museums. This classic modern building (752,000 gross square feet) contains various exhibitions that explore America's technological, scientific, cultural, and political history. A 2006 master plan generated a series of public space renewal projects, clarifying circulation, modernizing building systems and finishes, and incorporating innovative black-box galleries for exhibit installations. To date, renewal of public floors one, two, and three, totaling approximately 240,000 square feet in the center core and West Wing of the Museum, is complete. The future East Wing public space renewal project is expected to begin in FY 2026. An updated master plan, completed in 2018, provides recommendations for continued modernization of building systems, revitalizations of the spaces on the remaining floors of the building, primarily containing workspaces, collections storage and food service, and improvements to the extensive grounds surrounding the Museum, including better flood protection.

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

The 2006 master plan (updated in 2018) noted that the 300-kilowatt (KW) lower-level, diesel-fueled generator needed to be replaced with a 1,000KW natural gas-fueled generator to support the Museum's critical life-safety and security systems. In 2023, the generator failed and needed to be re-built, requiring the NMAH to bring in a temporary generator to provide emergency service. Since the generator is in the lower level and subject to high water during storms, the replacement needs to be located on the roof of the Museum.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$9.0 million in FY 2026 to continue the generator replacement. The work will consist of demolishing the lower-level generator and installing a new one on the roof by an existing generator that manages the rest of the loads. The electrical, mechanical infrastructure, and the architectural repairs to enable the relocation are part of the scope. The new generator is expected to increase the total emergency load capacity for the Museum and supply a more reliable source of power to the emergency loads, while ensuring a more resilient operation. Replacing the existing diesel-fueled, lower-lever generator with a natural gas-powered generator will reduce the NMAH's carbon footprint.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

The design contract was awarded in March of 2023. The construction documents are expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of FY 2025. The full-and-open construction solicitation will follow, with contract award in the first quarter of FY 2026 and the construction work expected through 2027.

IMPACT OF DELAY:

The NMAH lower-level generator has reached the end of its useful life. Generator failure could result in loss of power, putting the collections, staff, and visitors at risk and could result in closure of the Museum. In addition to mechanical failure, the location of the generator in the lower level, which is subject to flooding, adds a safety risk to any delay of this project.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Improve Site Drainage and Flood Protection  
**INSTALLATION:** National Museum of American History (NMAH)  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

<u>FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars):</u>	\$4,000*
<u>PRIOR-YEAR FUNDING:</u>	\$2,000*
<u>ESTIMATED FUTURE-YEAR FUNDING:</u>	<u>\$116,000*</u>
Total	\$122,000*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The National Museum of American History (NMAH), *Kenneth E. Behring Center*, opened to the public in 1964 and is one of the Smithsonian's most visited museums. This classic modern building (752,000 gross square feet) contains various exhibitions that explore America's technological, scientific, cultural, and political history. A 2006 master plan generated a series of public space renewal projects, clarifying circulation, modernizing building systems and finishes, and incorporating innovative black-box galleries for exhibit installations. To date, renewal of public floors one, two, and three, totaling approximately 240,000 square feet in the center core and West Wing of the Museum, is complete. The future East Wing public space renewal project is expected to begin in FY 2026. An updated master plan, completed in 2018, provides recommendations for continued modernization of building systems, revitalizations of the spaces on the remaining floors of the building, primarily containing workspaces, collections storage and food service, and improvements to the extensive grounds surrounding the Museum, including better flood protection.

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

The 2006 master plan (updated in 2018) included site projects to respond to stormwater management concerns and ADA requirements. Since then, more flooding and drainage issues have been found. The NMAH is the most vulnerable building on the National Mall. The Museum's lower level and the first floor are within the 100-year floodplain. Additionally, parts of the site are difficult to access and keep maintained.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$4.0 million in FY 2026 to continue this project that will mitigate near-term flooding and drainage problems. The project will include repairing the site's collapsed drainage pipe and creating temporary flood barriers to moderate the risks to the building and collections. These strategic solutions are expected to reduce the current risks while the long-term solutions are designed.

#### PROGRESS TO DATE:

The project concept design and construction cost estimates for both near- and long-term solutions were completed in early FY 2023. Final design for near-term scope was completed in February of 2025. The first near-term solution scope is expected to be awarded for construction in the fourth quarter of FY 2025. Additional near-term solutions

are expected to be awarded in FY 2026. Design and construction for the long-term solutions will occur in later years.

**IMPACT OF DELAY:**

Until the projects are completed, the Museum building, collections, and the surrounding site are at risk. The basement artifacts are in danger. In addition, floods could cause electrical and ventilation systems in the lower level to fail, which would put the collections at risk due to environmental factors such as humidity and temperature extremes. The risks are only increasing. More immediately, increasingly heavy rainstorms threaten the Museum and its priceless holdings, particularly since many of the collections are stored in basements. The current flooding, and the drainage problems, will continue to require immediate action to protect the most vulnerable areas with sandbags and other labor-intensive methods. Additionally, the building site, including some of the life and safety egress paths, are not ADA compliant. Until proper site access for staff and equipment is installed, site maintenance will remain difficult and may pose a risk of injury to staff and the visiting public.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Improve Humidity Control at Dibner Library  
**INSTALLATION:** National Museum of American History (NMAH)  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$2,000\*

Total \$2,000\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The National Museum of American History (NMAH), *Kenneth E. Behring Center*, opened to the public in 1964 and is one of the Smithsonian's most visited museums. This classic modern building (752,000 gross square feet) contains various exhibitions that explore America's technological, scientific, cultural, and political history. A 2006 master plan generated a series of public space renewal projects, clarifying circulation, modernizing building systems and finishes, and incorporating innovative black-box galleries for exhibit installations. To date, renewal of public floors one, two, and three, totaling approximately 240,000 square feet in the center core and West Wing of the Museum, is complete. The future East Wing public space renewal project is expected to begin in FY 2026. An updated master plan, completed in 2018, provides recommendations for continued modernization of building systems, revitalizations of the spaces on the remaining floors of the building, primarily containing workspaces, collections storage and food service, and improvements to the extensive grounds surrounding the Museum, including better flood protection.

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

The Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology is located on the first level of the NMAH. The library envelope does not provide an adequate barrier for migration of humidity into the space. The air conditioning (AC) unit does not provide the required environmental conditions for humidity or temperature control. The location of the unit inside the collections room does not meet fire codes or Smithsonian collections standards. The unit has failed in the past few years, creating a smoke incident in the collections reading room.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$2.0 million in FY 2026 to relocate and replace the Dibner Library AC unit within a code-compliant fire and smoke enclosure. This new AC unit will ensure appropriate and stable temperature and humidity conditions for the rare books collection while improving maintainability of the AC system equipment.

#### PROGRESS TO DATE:

The final design documents will be completed in third quarter of FY 2025. The construction contract award is expected in 2026.

#### IMPACT OF DELAY:

Should the AC unit fail again, it will put the Dibner Library collections housed in the NMAH at risk. The library houses 35,000 volumes of rare books and 2,000 manuscripts.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Replace/Repair Exterior Soffits  
**INSTALLATION:** National Museum of American History (NMAH)  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$2,000\*

Total \$2,000\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The National Museum of American History (NMAH), *Kenneth E. Behring Center*, opened to the public in 1964 and is one of the Smithsonian's most visited museums. This classic modern building (752,000 gross square feet) contains various exhibitions that explore America's technological, scientific, cultural, and political history. A 2006 master plan generated a series of public space renewal projects, clarifying circulation, modernizing building systems and finishes, and incorporating innovative black-box galleries for exhibit installations. To date, renewal of public floors one, two, and three, totaling approximately 240,000 square feet in the center core and West Wing of the Museum, is complete. The future East Wing public space renewal project is expected to begin in FY 2026. An updated master plan, completed in 2018, provides recommendations for continued modernization of building systems, revitalizations of the spaces on the remaining floors of the building, primarily containing workspaces, collections storage and food service, and improvements to the extensive grounds surrounding the Museum, including better flood protection.

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

During a recent survey and inspection of the soffit panels that surround the exterior of the NMAH building, a contractor identified stones with cracks and significant displacement in four areas beyond the ones previously identified for immediate and urgent repair. The cracks may cause the stones to separate from the supporting anchors, potentially resulting in stone detaching and falling from the building. Given the scope of the problem and potential for an overhead hazard around the perimeter of the building and near Museum entrances and exits, the Smithsonian is prioritizing inclusion of this repair as part of this request.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$2.0 million in FY 2026 to address a newly identified and emergent repair and replacement of the exterior soffits on the building. Work will include erecting scaffolding at each location, removing compromised panels, and installing new matching stone. The work will require temporary enclosures at the south entrance of the Museum and building emergency exits.

#### PROGRESS TO DATE:

Design documents were completed in July of 2024. A structural engineer performed a hands-on survey of NMAH exterior soffits in April of 2025 and found significant cracking and end spalls. The engineer recommended "intervention as soon as practicable" in correspondence with the Smithsonian in May of 2025. A contract was awarded in May of

2025 to remove the most critical areas and to perform testing and analysis of stone and anchors. A final report is expected in the fall of 2025.

IMPACT OF DELAY:

A delay would allow further deterioration from weather and movement that could result in significant increased overhead impact to the public entering the building or occupying the surrounding plaza.



**PROJECT TITLE:** Renovate Cheetah Conservation Station (CCS)  
**INSTALLATION:** National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (NZCBI)  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$4,100\*

PRIOR-YEAR FUNDING: \$19,850\*

Total \$23,950\*

\*Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

Since 1891, various architects, including Olmsted Associates, created the National Zoological Park (NKP) as we know it today. In contrast with earlier zoos which focused on displaying caged animals to the public, the NKP in Rock Creek Park was formed for the care and conservation of endangered species in a more naturalistic habitat. For this purpose, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (of New York City's Central Park fame) was chosen to plan a system of paths winding gently through the steeply sloped, verdant park. Fellow Boston architect William Ralph Emerson designed a few of the early animal houses, such as the Buffalo Barn and the first Lion House. These buildings, made of rustic, local stone or wood, reflect the natural features of Rock Creek Park and were meant to evoke images of the American wilderness.

The NKP's 2008 Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan (CFMP) calls for a series of major capital renewal projects to be executed in order of priority during the six to 11 years the plan is in effect. Much progress has been made with renewing the failing buildings, but there are several facilities which remain a priority for renewal, including the Cheetah Conservation Station (CCS).

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Much of the CCS area has old and failing infrastructure. The site's failing stormwater and sanitary utilities are harming animal welfare, with standing water and sanitary water backups. Over time, these conditions have damaged adjacent systems and structures, requiring a full building and site revitalization, including replacement of sidewalks and shelters. The mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems can no longer be repaired, and their dilapidated condition is causing significant issues with plumbing backups and insufficient heating, cooling, and humidification. In addition, the public and staff areas are deteriorating, causing unsafe working conditions. The animal habitats and housing are also inadequate, causing animal welfare and safety concerns. The current habitat interferes with appropriate animal behaviors and reproduction of the living collection. In many areas, erosion has caused tripping hazards and unsafe working conditions. This work is necessary to keep the facilities code-compliant with the constantly evolving animal care standards required to maintain accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and by the United States' Department of Agriculture (USDA).

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$4.1 million in FY 2026 to continue renovating the CCS with mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) system upgrades, security and related building infrastructure improvements, stormwater management and yard renovations, added

containment fencing, and pedestrian surface repairs. As part of this project, nearly all site and building infrastructure will be revitalized, which will restore operational functionality and support animal care needs. In addition, this project will address problems due to erosion caused by intense storm run-off, which requires replacing and raising the structural foundation for the station to prevent future deterioration. The containment fence, visitor barriers, and security systems will be replaced in response to AZA inspections and recommendations, and to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog. Structural improvements will be made to address the safety of maintenance workers and support best practices in animal welfare and management of their habitats and housing.

#### PROGRESS TO DATE:

The initial design report was completed in November of 2021. The 100 percent design documents were submitted in May of 2023. Additional scope was included in a revised set of design drawings that were completed in December of 2023. Construction is under way. The early construction package contract for the Kudu yard was awarded in September of 2023. The Hornbill Hut phase was awarded in June of 2024.

#### IMPACT OF DELAY:

A delay in renovating the CCS could threaten the NZCBI's future AZA accreditation and damage the Institution's reputation and mission. System failures will result in unnecessary operational emergency responses which are costly, disruptive, and preventable. Conditions for animal welfare and safety in the yards are currently unacceptable and, if left at current standards, the CCS will have to be shut down. The impact of design delays would prevent the project from coordinating the movement of animals and negatively affect the visitor experience.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Renew Veterinary Hospital  
**INSTALLATION:** National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (NZCBI)  
**LOCATION:** Front Royal, Virginia

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$4,000\*

PRIOR-YEAR FUNDING: \$12,700\*

Total \$16,700\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) is a 3,200-acre facility located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Front Royal, Virginia. This campus houses between 30 to 40 endangered species at any given time and includes a Geographic Information System (GIS); endocrine and gamete labs; veterinary clinic; radio tracking lab; 14 field stations; biodiversity monitoring plots; as well as a conference center, dormitories, and education offices. The SCBI was originally a remount station providing horses, mules and dogs to U.S. Army units. Construction began in 1911 and by 1916 the complex contained officers' quarters, barns, and stables on vast acreage. Primarily used to breed horses for use by the U.S. Army, the complex served as a prisoner-of-war camp for captured German soldiers during World War II. Many of the original structures still stand and have been repurposed to accommodate research in rare and endangered animals.

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

The Veterinary Hospital supports research and care for various species of zebras, onagers, Przewalski's horses, maned wolves, cheetahs, red pandas, and clouded leopards. It has not been renovated since it was constructed in 1985 and lacks adequate fire protection, compliance with ADA requirements, and modern electrical and mechanical distribution systems. The rehabilitation of the Veterinary Hospital at the SCBI is an integral part of the 2008 Front Royal Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan and will provide optimal operation of laboratory space, operating theaters, office space, animal quarantine area(s), and the pharmacy.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$4.0 million in FY 2026 for the rehabilitation of the 13,250-square foot Veterinary Hospital at the SCBI to support a modern facility that will allow state-of-the-art veterinary care for the animals. In addition to extensive interior upgrades, this project creates an exterior fenced animal enclosure to facilitate observation of the animals after they are treated. Also, the existing ambulance discharge area will be covered to protect animal care staff from snow and rain, which is needed when they must maneuver large animals from the transportation unit into the facility.

#### PROGRESS TO DATE:

Design began in FY 2022. The early design package for the predecessor Endocrine Lab relocation scope was completed in the third quarter of FY 2023, construction awarded in September of 2023, and relocation of the Endocrine Lab was completed in February of 2025.

Final design for the remaining renewal was completed in May of 2024. Construction procurement and award is anticipated by the end of the fourth quarter of FY 2025.

IMPACT OF DELAY:

Delaying the renewal and rehabilitation of the Veterinary Hospital at the SCBI could result in lack of proper care to the animals, including the potential emergency situations that could harm the animals in the care of the Smithsonian. Such emergency situations would incur additional, preventable, and unnecessary higher costs. A delay might also cause a loss of vital scientific research essential to the survival of rare and endangered species.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Revitalize Beaver / Otter / Raven Habitat  
**INSTALLATION:** National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (NZCBI)  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$4,400\*

ESTIMATED FUTURE-YEAR FUNDING: \$1,650\*

Total \$6,050\*

\*Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

Since 1891, various architects, including Olmsted Associates, created the National Zoological Park (NZP) as we know it today. In contrast with earlier zoos which focused on displaying caged animals to the public, the NZP in Rock Creek Park was formed for the care and conservation of endangered species in a more naturalistic habitat. For this purpose, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (of New York City's Central Park fame) was chosen to plan a system of paths winding gently through the steeply sloped, verdant park. Fellow Boston architect William Ralph Emerson designed a few of the early animal houses, such as the Buffalo Barn and the first Lion House. These buildings, made of rustic, local stone or wood, reflect the natural features of Rock Creek Park and were meant to evoke images of the American wilderness.

The NZP's 2008 Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan (CFMP) calls for a series of major capital renewal projects to be executed in order of priority during the six to 11 years the plan is in effect. Much progress has been made with renewing the failing buildings, but there are several facilities which remain a priority for renewal, including the Beaver / Otter / Raven Habitat

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

In May of 2020, NZCBI commissioned a study on the condition of existing artificial or faux rocks at 10 exhibits throughout the Washington, DC campus. Many of the faux rocks found in animal enclosures and along public pathways were installed decades ago. The study team's evaluation and analysis resulted in a conclusion that the faux rocks at the Beaver / Otter / Raven exhibit are in a "critical" condition. Critical is defined in the study as needing replacement because it represents a safety hazard to visitors, staff, and animals due to visible deterioration of concrete and severe deterioration of structural integrity or outright structural failure. A follow-on study in November of 2020 once again prioritized the Beaver / Otter / Raven exhibit for replacement based on safety concerns.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$4.4 million in FY 2026 to remove and replace all the faux rock at the exhibit. The faux rock is beyond its useful life and shows signs of deterioration, such as structural cracking at joints; severe spalling; punch-through holes; exposed and rusted rebar; and moisture intrusion, as documented in the two NZP-DC wide faux rocks assessment studies undertaken in 2020.

The project will eliminate portions of the faux rocks and replace them with new natural landscaping; repair existing pathways; and expand public viewing areas.

Demolition of the faux rock will require infill of the stacked stone veneer walls and replacement of the non-compliant railing system along the visitors' pathway.

The shotcrete log and branch dam that bridges the Beaver Pool will be replaced, while a stream channel in the Otter exhibit will be extended up to a new viewing window for visitors. A sloped visitors' pathway along the perimeter of the Otter exhibit will be assessed for greater accessibility.

The Raven Aviary requires upgrade or full replacement of the animal holding area, depending on estimated construction cost. It will be designed to incorporate the existing water feature and hold the existing topography to the extent possible, while creating a safe environment for staff to operate.

#### PROGRESS TO DATE:

Building upon a 2020 preliminary design report with multiple options for revitalizing the Beaver/ Otter/ Raven habitat exhibit, a new design contract was awarded in July of 2024. Final design documents are anticipated by the first quarter of FY 2026 with a construction contract award expected by the fourth quarter of FY 2026.

#### IMPACT OF DELAY:

A delay in renovating the Beaver / Otter / Raven exhibit could not only damage the Institution's reputation and mission but threaten the NZCBI's future AZA accreditation. AZA standards include a commitment to quality that require faux rocks to be in good repair and have proper drainage. Further, conditions in the outdoor yards present a safety and liability risk for both the animals and staff. Therefore, design and project delays may also expose NZCBI to preventable liability concerns as the faux rock continues to deteriorate, not to mention the unsightly environment visible to guests.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Upgrade High-Voltage Panels and Equipment  
**INSTALLATION:** National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (NZCBI)  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$1,500\*

Total \$1,500\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

Since 1891, various architects, including Olmsted Associates, created the National Zoological Park (NHP) as we know it today. In contrast with earlier zoos which focused on displaying caged animals to the public, the NHP in Rock Creek Park was formed for the care and conservation of endangered species in a more naturalistic habitat. For this purpose, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (of New York City's Central Park fame) was chosen to plan a system of paths winding gently through the steeply sloped, verdant park. Fellow Boston architect William Ralph Emerson designed a few of the early animal houses, such as the Buffalo Barn and the first Lion House. These buildings, made of rustic, local stone or wood, reflect the natural features of Rock Creek Park and were meant to evoke images of the American wilderness.

**PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:**

While much of the Washington, DC campus electrical distribution has been upgraded, the Veterinary Hospital on the DC campus still has the original electrical distribution system that was installed during its construction in the 1970s. Due to the age of the electrical components of the distribution system, a study was undertaken to evaluate the Veterinary Hospital's entire electrical system, which resulted in the recommendation to replace the building's high-voltage panels and electrical equipment.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Smithsonian requests \$1.5 million in FY 2026 to complete upgrades to the Veterinary Hospital's electrical distribution system. All non-compliant National Electrical Code (NEC) issues will be addressed. In addition, this project will eliminate the need to request a power shutdown from PEPCO whenever routine servicing and maintenance of the existing switchboard is required.

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**

Design was awarded in July of 2024. Metering is ongoing to provide current electrical load information throughout the seasons. Design is complete. Construction procurement is planned for FY 2026.

**IMPACT OF DELAY:**

The existing electrical equipment and distribution system of the NZCBI-DC Veterinary Hospital is significantly past its useful life. Given the often-critical nature of services provided at the Veterinary Hospital, including quarantining of animals when needed, failure of the building's electrical system would require immediate, emergency repair, which would be both costly and highly disruptive.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Renovate Loading Dock  
**INSTALLATION:** National Air and Space Museum (NASM) — National Mall Building  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$11,500\*

PRIOR-YEAR FUNDING: \$11,500\*

Total \$23,000\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The NASM was built in 1976 to commemorate the national development of aviation and space flight. The 747,877-gross-square-foot building (including approximately 161,145 square feet of exhibit galleries) preserves and displays artifacts, aeronautical and space flight equipment, significant historical data, and related technologies. The exhibit galleries hold the largest collection of historic air and spacecraft in the world. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Museum received an average of more than seven million visitors annually. The original loading dock built in 1976 was reconfigured in the 1980s as part of the East End restaurant addition.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

The loading dock does not meet current blast, life-safety, and fire-protection codes. In addition, the loading dock and its access ramp provide limited overhead clearance, forcing delivery trucks to unload on the ramp to the basement or park illegally on the street or sidewalk, creating a safety hazard.

A revitalization project at the NASM-National Mall Building is well under way. The renovation effort is occurring in two main phases to allow continual, partial operation of the Museum throughout the project. During the second main phase of the major revitalization project, which started in April of 2022, access to areas in and around the restaurant were closed to allow for safe renovation efforts within and around the eastern sections of the Museum. These closures enable the Museum to renovate the loading dock and make code-related updates identified in the 2013 NASM Facilities Master Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$11.5 million in FY 2026 to complete the renovations of the loading dock. The multi-year project will update life-safety and fire-protection equipment systems, including the infrastructure to bring the loading dock up to current life-safety and blast requirements. In addition, this project will improve height clearance, where possible, to allow for access by larger trucks, and create separate areas for restaurant deliveries, trash disposal and pick-up, and for moving Museum collections. This upgrade will also provide code compliance, greater security, increased safety, and efficiency of Museum operations.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Architect/Engineering (A/E) design services were awarded in May of 2023 and concept design was completed in October of 2023. Final design is completed. The



construction delivery method for this project will be Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc), which will allow the Smithsonian to align design efforts with construction expertise in advance of final design delivery. The CMc pre-construction services contract was awarded in September of 2024, with construction award planned for the fourth quarter of FY 2025.

IMPACT OF DELAY:

A delay in renovating the NASM loading dock would increase the risk to its safe and efficient operations in support of the Museum. Any system failures will result in unnecessary emergency responses which are costly, disruptive, and preventable.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Replace Underwater Power and Communication Infrastructure  
**INSTALLATION:** Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI)  
**LOCATION:** Barro Colorado Island, Panama

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$5,000\*

Total \$5,000\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

Barro Colorado Island (BCI) is STRI's original and founding site for biological research in the tropics. The BCI forest and its animals, fungi, and bacteria together comprise of the best-studied tropical ecosystem in the world. BCI's extraordinary biodiversity, its 100 years of collections and research, and its 50 years of monitoring create extraordinary ongoing scientific opportunities. Ongoing research will continue to break new ground, as the modern infrastructure on BCI allows STRI scientists the opportunity to bring cutting-edge technology into the heart of a tropical forest and build on a long history of research.

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

To provide essential electric power and telecommunications systems to the island's facilities, power and telecommunications cables were laid underwater in the Panama Canal from the mainland up to BCI. Since the Panama Canal's expansion, bigger vessels are allowed to navigate the canal, causing a threat to this underwater infrastructure. Both the electrical and telecommunications main cables have been impacted by anchors dropped by ships progressing out of the main navigation channel. In some situations, these anchors have hit the power cables, cutting them and causing a suspension of services, including the loss of electrical power that took several months to repair. This left the island's operations depending solely on diesel-operated generators. To provide uninterrupted electrical power required to protect the research and sensitive scientific equipment, the maintenance and marine operations team members had to supply fuel to the generators around the clock, which involved using STRI's cargo boats to transport the fuel back and forth on the Panama Canal. While not impacted for long periods of time, communications systems have also been damaged, resulting in partial to total loss of the network while repairs are performed.

Upon advice from the Panama Canal Authority, the Panamanian Government's agency that manages and administrates the Canal, both the underwater power and telecommunications cables will need to be relocated to a longer but safer route, away from potential ships' anchors.

The existing 15-kilovolt (KV) underwater cable that provides primary electric power to BCI is deteriorated in several spots. Currently, a contractor is performing repairs on the cable that includes repairing existing splices and replacing 300 meters of the damaged cable. In addition to the damage caused by the vessels, old age and submerged tree trunks left in place during the construction of the artificial Lake Gatun have ripped apart the protective covers of the cable. These cables are a mission-critical piece of infrastructure

that provides essential services for the continuity of research and administration efforts at the BCI site.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Smithsonian requests \$5.0 million in FY 2026 to replace and move the existing underwater power and communications cables. The project will involve the Smithsonian working with the Panama Canal Authority to design the electric components of the new cable run. The main power source of BCI is the Frijoles Electric Substation, owned and operated by the Panama Canal, making this coordination essential. In addition, external connection points for fiber-optic interconnections to external providers of voice and data services for the telecommunications phase of the project will need to be installed. The feasibility of installing two cables to provide redundancy in case of future breakdowns will need to be determined.

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**

STRI is collaborating with the Panama Canal Authority to determine the requirements and procedures for the project, including confirming the route for the new underwater infrastructure and determining the connection points at the Frijoles Electric Substation, the source of the primary power for BCI's facilities, from which the new underwater cables will need to be connected. Completion of project pre-planning and the scope of work is targeted for fourth quarter of FY 2025. The construction contract award is anticipated by the fourth quarter of FY 2026.

**IMPACT OF DELAY:**

The underwater infrastructure provides mission-critical services to Barro Colorado Island, the center of essential and long-lasting scientific programs and research. Delaying the project will endanger continuity of these programs due to the potential for long power outages and loss of internet network services. Several facilities on the island need to maintain consistent access to power for climatization (chiller plant), cold rooms, and ultra-low-temperature freezers, among other scientific equipment station at the site. Maintenance, administrative, and public outreach operations could also be significantly impacted with the loss of power service at BCI.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Replace Naos Buildings 352, 359, and 332  
**INSTALLATION:** Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI)  
**LOCATION:** Naos Site, Panama

<u>FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars):</u>	\$4,000*
<u>PRIOR-YEAR FUNDING:</u>	\$4,000*
<u>ESTIMATED FUTURE-YEAR FUNDING:</u>	\$16,500*
Total	\$24,500*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

Located in Panama City, the Naos Marine and Molecular Laboratory site provides facilities for Pacific Ocean marine research, behavioral research in intertidal zones, archaeology, and studies of the evolutionary speciation of terrestrial plants and animals. The laboratories house a seawater system that uses molecular biology tools to study marine organisms, their behaviors, ecology, and physiology, as well as their interaction with invasive species. Among many other research activities, environmental monitoring programs study the impact of human activities on coral reefs and other marine ecosystems.

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

With the renewal of the Contract with the Nation of Panama, STRI will continue to occupy the current Naos Laboratories well into the future, allowing it to continue focusing research on the biological diversity of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean. To continue to fulfill STRI's mission, the buildings need to be modernized and spaces reconfigured, and the electrical and mechanical installations need updating. The old laboratory building structures, Buildings 359 and 352, which were built, in some cases more than 100 years ago, will be demolished and replaced with new and reconstructed buildings that meet current building codes and standards. These new installations will house essential and long-term experiments, along with several marine biology and archeological collections assembled by STRI scientists through the years.

Additionally, Building 332, a mostly unoccupied structure that houses the existing seawater filtration system, will be demolished for the construction of a new parking lot and a guard booth. The enhanced seawater filtration processing system will be moved to another location. The reconstruction and repurposing of old buildings will fully enable the modernization of the site for current and future research, an efficient use of space, and the overall renovation of the Smithsonian presence in the prime Panama City location where Naos is located.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$4.0 million in FY 2026 to continue Tower A of the new Naos Laboratory building. Tower A will be built in an existing parking lot at the Naos site, to prevent mobilization of any research program to a temporary location. Once completed,

personnel currently in Building 359 will move to the new laboratory space at Tower A until Tower B is built. The requested funds will also enable STRI to demolish Building 359 in preparation for the next step, which includes the construction of the Tower B laboratory building.

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**

The 35 percent design submission for the full project scope was received in January of 2025. Final design completion is expected in November of 2025. This will enable the project to move into construction procurement in January of 2026 and award a construction contract in the fourth quarter of FY 2026.

**IMPACT OF DELAY:**

The construction contract is expected to be awarded in 2026. Once the project has started, the subsequent funding is essential for its continuity.

Modernizing STRI's laboratory spaces at the Naos site is a high-priority project. The design phase identified that the structural systems in Buildings 359 and 352 are beyond their useful life and are decaying due to the exposure of the highly corrosive seafront environment, and therefore need replacing. Additionally, much of Building 332 has also deteriorated and requires demolition. Delaying the project will leave the existing buildings to further deteriorate, increasing the risk of occupational safety hazards within these premises.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Decontaminate Objects in Building 16  
**INSTALLATION:** Building 16, Silver Hill Facility (SHF)  
**LOCATION:** Suitland Collections Center (SCC), Suitland, Maryland

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$6,500\*

PRIOR-YEAR FUNDING: \$3,000\*

ESTIMATED FUTURE-YEAR FUNDING: \$4,200\*

Total \$13,700\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

A study of the Smithsonian's collections storage space has identified the SCC, specifically, the Garber collections storage site, as having almost half of the Smithsonian's below-acceptable collections space. Much of the more than 230,000 square feet of space, including Building 16, is compromised by hazardous materials in and around the collections.

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Building 16 contains collections which have been contaminated with asbestos from the interior building insulation. Encapsulation systems to shield the objects from the asbestos have failed and only a few highly trained and qualified Smithsonian staff are permitted in the building. The collections within the building are not available for research, exhibition, display, or loan, and are off limits to academia and the public. Funds received in FY 2017 and earlier were used to build temporary collections storage swing space and to decontaminate collections in other buildings. Building 16 is the next logical phase in this sequence. This project will decontaminate the collections objects in Building 16 and move them to a suitable storage location at the recently decontaminated and renovated Building 15. The collections will then be accessible for inventory, condition assessment, rehousing, research, and exhibition.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$6.5 million in FY 2026 to continue with the next scheduled phase of work. The project involves three phases of work and Phase 3 (the largest) is segregated into three discrete sub-phases consistent with the three storage bays (A, B, and C). This labor-intensive process includes accounting and inventory assessments, stabilizing the collection, and moving cleaned collections into a temporary swing space (Building 15) at the Garber facility. This swing space will serve as the staging area for emergency conservation and treatment, as well as packing and crating, until the items can be permanently moved into the Museum Support Center's new Pod 6 when that facility is completed.

#### PROGRESS TO DATE:

The contract for Phase 1 of the project was awarded in FY 2021. Work on site began in February of 2022 and was completed in June of 2022. Phase 2 of the project was awarded in June of 2022 for the decontamination of objects in aisles A and C of Building 16

and this work is completed. Phase 3.1 (Bay B Racks) is expected to be substantially completed by June of 2025. A task order for Phase 3.2 (Bay A Racks) will be awarded in the summer of FY 2025. Phase 3.2, including decontamination, is planned to be completed in the first quarter of FY 2026. Phase 3.3 (Bay C Racks) of the project is expected to be awarded by the third quarter of FY 2026 to continue the decontamination effort.

IMPACT OF DELAY:

Given that Building 16 was constructed as a 10- to 15-year temporary building in 1959, a delay in decontaminating the collections objects and moving them to a suitable storage facility will perpetuate the substandard care and inaccessibility of important objects and slow implementation of the Institution's Collection Space Framework Plan and the SCC master plan. A delay of Phase 3.3 will interrupt the current project schedule. Additionally, failure to complete Phase 3.3 in a timely manner will delay the planned demolition of Building 16 in 2029. Demolition of Building 16 is part of the SCC master plan.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Replace Laboratory and Storage Pod Air-Handling Units  
**INSTALLATION:** Museum Support Center (MSC)  
**LOCATION:** Suitland Collections Center (SCC), Suitland, Maryland

<u>FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars):</u>	\$1,000*
<u>PRIOR-YEAR FUNDING:</u>	\$28,880*
<u>ESTIMATED FUTURE-YEAR FUNDING:</u>	<u>\$10,520*</u>
Total	\$40,400*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Museum Support Center (MSC) at the Institution's SCC is the Smithsonian's largest collections storage facility. Opened in 1983, the three-story structure has six separate storage areas (pods), as well as laboratories and office areas to support the care and analysis of the Institution's valuable collections of objects and documents. The storage pods and labs/offices are separated by an access corridor (known as the "Street") that allows movement of objects within the building.

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Eleven of the air-handling units (AHUs) supporting the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system in Pods 1, 2, and 4, the "Street," and the lab/office areas are original to the building and have exceeded their useful lives. They urgently require replacement. This is the fourth of four phases associated with the AHU replacement program established in 2017. The AHU units 13 and 14 service Pod 2 and Pod 4 and maintain stable environmental conditions, providing critical collection space requirements. The existing units are approximately 40 years old and have far surpassed their life expectancy of 25 years. In addition to improving system reliability, serviceability, and controllability, the modern units will reduce energy consumption and total operating costs while improving the comfort of occupants and indoor air quality. Environmental benefits include the use of modern Environmental Protection Agency-approved refrigerants (having lower ozone-depletion potential) and reduced total carbon emissions.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$1.0 million in FY 2026 to continue replacing AHUs, specifically Phase 4 AHUs 13 and 14 serving Pod 2 and Pod 4 collections space. This is the fourth and final phase of AHU replacements. Each phase of the multi-year projects has been funded over approximately two years. The AHUs are replaced sequentially to ensure that the controlled collections environment is maintained in the facility throughout the process.

#### PROGRESS TO DATE:

The design for the replacement of the pod AHUs was completed in June of 2017 and design for the replacement of the Lab/Office and "Street" AHUs was completed in January of 2020 and then refreshed in 2023 to ensure they were accurate relative to existing conditions and building codes. The contract for construction of the first project (in



Labs 3 and 4), funded in FYs 2020 and 2021, was awarded in September of 2020 and is now complete. Phase 2 in the sequence was awarded in FY 2022 and was substantially completed in November of 2024. Phase 3 construction was awarded in June of 2024. The project is expected to be in construction through mid-2026. Phase 4 specifically replaces the AHUs serving Pod 3 and Pod 4 and is the final phase of the project, with funding requested in FYs 2026 and 2027. The Phase 4 construction contract will be awarded in FY 2026.

IMPACT OF DELAY:

Failure to continue replacing the AHUs in a timely manner will put the facility's collections environment, and the priceless objects contained in the facility, at risk. The existing units are unreliable, maintenance intensive, and inefficient. Continued operation of these units diminishes the reliability of the MSC's facilities and increases total operational costs (in terms of repairs, energy consumption, and limited controllability).

**PROJECT TITLE:** Upgrade Electronic Security System  
**INSTALLATION:** Smithsonian Quadrangle  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$5,000\*

PRIOR YEAR FUNDING: \$5,500\*

ESTIMATED FUTURE-YEAR FUNDING: \$4,000\*

Total \$14,500\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

The Smithsonian Quadrangle building, which includes the National Museum of African Art, the National Museum of Asian Art, and the Ripley Education Center, is a three-story, underground building that opened to the public in 1987. There are pavilion entrances to the three facilities located in the Haupt Garden, the structure's green roof. The 389,000-square-foot building was designed by the architectural firm of Shepley, Bullfinch, and Abbott.

**PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:**

The building's electronic security systems are reaching the end of their expected useful life and need to be upgraded to meet current Smithsonian security standards.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Smithsonian requests \$5.0 million in FY 2026 to begin upgrading the electronic security systems to meet current security standards. The electronic security systems' modernization project will include installing security infrastructure, data-gathering panels, network video recorders, access readers, cameras, intercoms, and intrusion-detection devices. This project also includes replacing the existing guard booth at Independence Avenue, the construction of new offices for the Smithsonian's Office of Protection Services (OPS), and a state-of-the-art security operations center, including a security server room and uninterrupted power supply (UPS) room. The project also includes miscellaneous upgrades to improve the security of the windows and stair doors.

**PROGRESS TO DATE:**

The design was completed in FY 2022. The design documents of the electronic security upgrade have been issued for construction procurement and the first phase is expected to be awarded in the third quarter of FY 2025. The second phase is expected to be awarded in FY 2026 when additional funding is received.

**IMPACT OF DELAY:**

Delaying this project will leave the Quadrangle with security devices which are near the end of their useful life, making them more prone to failure. It will also leave the building out of compliance with current Smithsonian and industry best-practice security standards, posing a potential risk to onsite staff and their data and work.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Replace Summit Bowl Dormitory  
**INSTALLATION:** Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO)  
**LOCATION:** Amado, Arizona

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$4,000\*

PRIOR-YEAR FUNDING: \$7,000\*

Total \$11,000\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The SAO's Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory (FLWO) in Arizona conducts world-renowned astrophysical research from the Multiple Mirror Telescope (MMT) building on the summit of Mt. Hopkins as well as many other telescope sites on the peaks around the FLWO campus. The Summit Bowl Dormitory was designed in 1979 as a two-story structure with an exterior corridor on both floors and is located just below the MMT Observatory at the summit of Mt. Hopkins. SAO is required to provide sleeping quarters for visiting scientists and the current dormitory provides those quarters for the observers who work during nighttime operations at the summit.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

The dormitory is constructed with combustible materials, primarily plywood siding and wood framing, and does not meet current code compliance and fire-protection standards. The ever-increasing frequency of wildfires in the area puts the Summit Bowl Dormitory at risk. A 2005 fire approached within one mile (1.6 km) of the summit, forcing evacuation. Since then, there have been additional fire incidents in 2017, 2022, and 2023.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$4.0 million in FY 2026 to continue with the project, which includes demolishing the existing 40-year-old dormitory and replacing it with a new dormitory that meets current fire-protection and life-safety codes, as well as the Smithsonian's sustainability policy. The new dormitory will be attached to the existing Commons Building, allowing staff to have direct interior access to shared services. As a result, this project also includes enhanced fire-protection and security systems for the Commons Building. In addition, the quantity of bedrooms will be increased, and privacy between units will be enhanced by incorporating sound dampening systems.

PROGRESS TO DATE:

Final construction documents were completed in January of 2025 and the contract solicitation will be issued by the summer of FY 2025. Construction award is expected in the fourth quarter of FY 2025.

IMPACT OF DELAY:

Located in an extreme-risk wildfire zone, the existing dorm is made of combustible materials, has no shelter-in-place capabilities, and no fire-notification system. Firefighting response time is more than an hour at the remote location, so a fire could consume the entire structure before help arrives. Delaying this project puts SAO staff and visitors at risk.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Modernize Passenger Elevators #1, 2, 3, 6, and 7  
**INSTALLATION:** National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI-DC)  
**LOCATION:** Washington, DC

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars): \$900\*

ESTIMATED FUTURE-YEAR FUNDING: \$1,350\*

Total \$2,250\*

\* Does not include funding in Facilities Planning and Design.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The curvilinear asymmetry of the National Museum of the American Indian provides a strong visual contrast to the regularity of the rest of the National Mall. Designed through consultations with the diverse Native groups and tribes of the Americas, the building reflects the broad commonalities in Indian tradition which emerged from those meetings. The incorporation of nature is seen throughout the structure of the Museum, which was designed by Douglas Cardinal of the Canadian Blackfoot tribe and the Philadelphia-based architectural firm GBQC and Polshek Partnership. In its sculptural form, the building illustrates the force of nature's energy through its effect upon the Kasota sandstone. In addition, the exterior of the building reflects traditional Indian culture. The landscaping contains indigenous plants from areas where Indians once lived. Water flows around three sides of the building, adding to the illusion of water-worn limestone on the curved exterior. More than 40 boulders surround the Museum, representing ancestors of the Native Americans. The building faces east toward the rising sun, reflecting Native American tradition. The Museum opened to the public in 2004 and was launched with a week of festivities attended by more than 20,000 Indians from tribes across the Americas.

#### PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

The elevator systems are original to the building and have exceeded their expected service life. They require frequent maintenance to keep operating. Unreliable elevator service causes concern for life-safety and occupant accessibility. The original elevator manufacturer is no longer in operation, which makes it difficult to find replacement parts for the old elevators, as is finding trained technicians who can maintain and repair such equipment, resulting in higher maintenance and repair costs than for modern units.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Smithsonian requests \$900,000 in FY 2026 to modernize the existing elevators and associated power systems. The existing cabs will be reused; however, all other systems will be updated with modern equipment, including door controls, pumps, pistons, cabling, fans, and a new emergency call system. Work will be limited to a single elevator at a time, allowing the other elevators to keep operating. All work is expected to be completed in a single phase of about 12 months. Because this is a refurbishment project, limited engineering design may include a code review to ensure compliance with all applicable and relevant industry codes.

#### PROGRESS TO DATE:

The project will be executed under the existing elevator maintenance and service contract. Work elements include necessary modernization of the elevator units to meet current life-safety and building codes. A scope of work will be issued to the contractor, and a formal cost proposal for the elevators is expected in 2025. The contract for this project is expected to be awarded in the first quarter of FY 2026.

#### IMPACT OF DELAY:

The 20-year-old elevator systems have surpassed their expected service life. Failure of the old equipment and systems presents a life-safety concern that includes rider entrapment, failure of cable/brake systems, and failure of emergency call systems. Reduced reliability of the elevators presents an accessibility issue for impaired occupants. Costs associated with continued maintenance and repairs of the outdated units exceed those of modern units so a delay would result in the NMAI-DC incurring higher maintenance expenses.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Building Projects Less than \$1,000,000 and Miscellaneous Repairs  
**INSTALLATION:** Multiple Locations  
**LOCATION:** Institution-wide

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars):

\$5,100

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This request includes smaller individual projects of typically less than \$1 million each, which usually involve replacement of individual systems or components, and miscellaneous capital revitalization needed for unplanned requirements and emergencies. In addition, this funding supports unplanned, emergency repairs and other Smithsonian operations, such as security guard services, collections security upgrades, electronic security system assessments and modernizations, and historic building conservation.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Construction Supervision and Administration  
**INSTALLATION:** Multiple Locations  
**LOCATION:** Institution-wide

FY 2026 COST ESTIMATE (Thousands of Dollars):

\$8,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This request supports the essential specialized work associated with Facilities Capital Program projects. A total of 40 FTEs will be funded from the \$8.0 million. These positions will consist of permanent and temporary construction management and cost-engineering staff, contract specialists, a historic preservation specialist, and term and temporary staff required to perform the specialized work associated with Facilities Capital Program projects.

Construction management staff supervise and administer construction contracts. They directly supervise construction contractors to ensure that quality work is performed safely, resolve issues that arise during construction, negotiate change orders, approve payments, and perform other administrative functions as contracting officers' technical representatives. A central construction management administration section coordinates all funding, contract changes, technical issues, and project physical and financial closeouts.

Cost engineers develop Independent Government Estimates for every stage of project development, as well as analyze consultant-prepared construction cost estimates and contractor cost proposals for construction contract awards and change orders. Onsite project managers ensure adequate oversight of projects in branch offices by using scope, schedule, and budget controls to directly lead major construction projects, as well as many smaller projects. Contract specialists help procure contract services to obtain the essential expertise required to execute the Facilities Capital Program, thereby ensuring the timely award of planning, design, and construction contracts.

This request supports oversight of capital projects for five National Historic Landmarks, as well as all the historic Smithsonian buildings on the National Mall, thus fulfilling the federal requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This includes working with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; guiding the Section 106

federal program working with the Washington, DC Historic Preservation Officer; managing consultants who help prepare Historic Structures Reports and assist in the conservation of building materials; and providing general in-house architectural history research, technical reviews, and consultations.

## ***FACILITIES PLANNING AND DESIGN***

Feasibility studies, needs assessments, and design for capital projects are required before site work can take place. This category includes all costs for contract facility master planning, preliminary and final designs for all revitalization and construction projects, special studies, and a small amount for facility engineering, capital leveraging, and research activities, such as those functions performed at the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. This funding will enable development of project baselines, including costs, scopes, and schedules, prior to receiving funds to perform the work.

To plan and design ahead of Capital Program execution, funding of approximately 15 to 20 percent of the following year's program is required each year. The Planning and Design funding requested for FY 2026 will complete designs for projects planned for FY 2027 and provide necessary planning and design funding to begin designing to the 35 percent stage for most projects included in the planned FY 2028 program. This will move the Institution closer to meeting the National Academy of Public Administration's recommendation that firm baselines be established before preparation of funding requests, so budgets submitted provide more accurate cost estimates and enable timely award of construction contracts upon receipt of future-year funding.

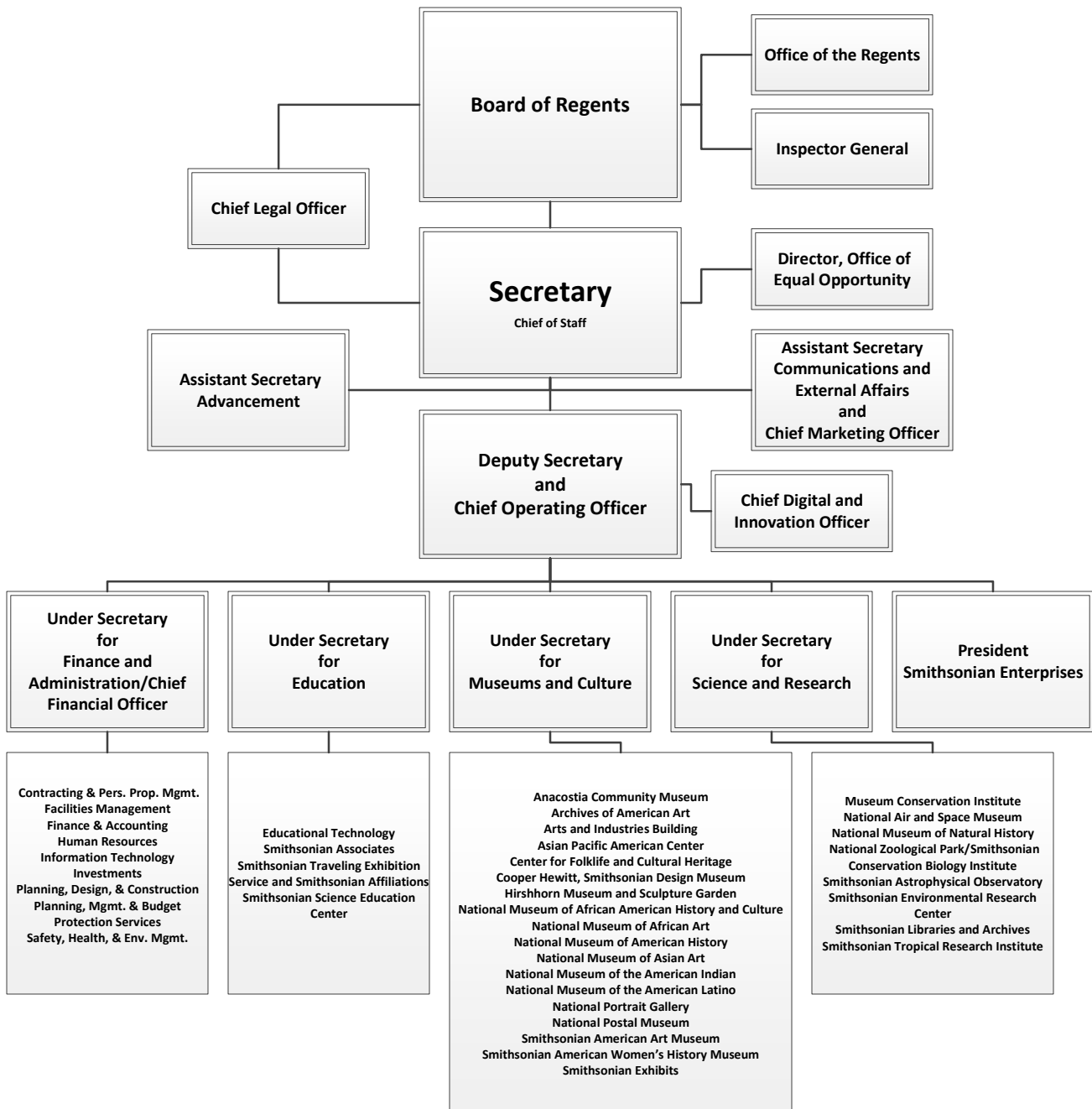
The Institution requests a total of **\$17,000,000** for planning and design in FY 2026. These funds will be used for site evaluations, early planning, and preliminary and final designs. These funds will continue design work for the Hirshhorn Museum revitalization; the National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute renewal of the Amphibian Reptile Conservation Center; revitalization at the National Museum of American History; the SIB (Castle) revitalization; and the Smithsonian Quadrangle roof design. These funds will also be used to design many smaller revitalization projects and security upgrades, and for space utilization studies and smaller master planning initiatives, which will help guide the Smithsonian's future facilities decisions and ensure more effective use of existing space.



TAB 4  
APPENDIX

# SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

MAY 2025



**VISITS TO THE SMITHSONIAN**  
**FYs 2019–2024**

<b>MALL</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
SI Castle <sup>1</sup>	955,949	298,325	75,191	842,367	241,589	0
Arts and Industries Building <sup>2/3</sup>	27,514	1,599	0	493,768	29,931	14,402
Natural History	4,228,940	1,443,474	502,222	3,519,054	4,527,771	3,995,009
Air and Space	3,869,046	749,097	197,575	284,290	1,833,658	1,910,437
American Indian	985,781	358,732	133,712	481,562	703,019	765,845
Asian Art	453,279	167,751	38,297	337,588	496,491	562,901
African Art	130,414	51,270	17,697	84,062	126,508	124,817
Ripley Center	150,663	60,799	0	1,273	103,185	132,250
American History	3,061,396	739,721	352,052	1,803,656	2,093,410	2,087,510
Hirshhorn	982,816	299,090	95,030	751,476	789,566	541,533
African American History and Culture	1,923,563	811,575	244,887	1,061,730	1,609,639	1,664,204
<b>OFF MALL</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
DW Reynolds Center (SAAM & NPG)	1,819,355	706,155	198,986	838,214	1,147,388	1,250,240
Anacostia	11,038	10,064	956	6,853	14,482	13,472
Cooper Hewitt	267,948	99,284	33,124	111,346	148,947	147,791
American Indian <sup>4</sup> (Heye Center/CRC)	357,554	147,234	29,070	191,733	314,948	317,228
Renwick Gallery	430,101	134,210	56,921	174,856	284,172	246,589
National Zoo	1,885,116	816,703	793,702	1,518,238	1,850,213	1,657,239
Postal	489,120	189,021	5,629	104,871	163,391	200,376
Udvar-Hazy Center	1,317,082	589,120	396,730	1,137,358	1,198,696	1,219,964
<b>TOTAL<sup>5/6</sup></b>	<b>23,346,675</b>	<b>7,673,224</b>	<b>3,171,781</b>	<b>13,744,295</b>	<b>17,677,004</b>	<b>16,851,807</b>

1. The SI Castle Building closed to the public in February 2023 to prepare for its multiyear renovation.

2. The Arts and Industries Building (AIB) closed to the public in January of 2004 and hosts special events only.

3. The AIB increase in visitation in FY 2022 is due to the opening of the *FUTURES* exhibit.

4. Includes the George Gustav Heye Center in New York City and the Cultural Resources Center (CRC) in Suitland, Maryland.

5. The drop in visits in FY 2019 is due to the federal Government shutdown (in January of 2019), the partial closure of the National Air and Space Museum for a major renovation project, and a revised counting methodology.

6. The drop in visits in FYs 2020–2022 is due to the COVID-19 pandemic closures in March of 2020 and thereafter.

## TRUST FUNDS

In addition to support provided by federal appropriations, the Smithsonian Institution receives and generates trust funds to expand and enrich its programs. Trust funds are used to leverage the Smithsonian's research capacity through partnerships with federal agencies, universities, non-Governmental organizations, industry, and other private organizations, both national and international. Trust funds are raised to renovate and modernize exhibits throughout the Institution. The following provides an overview of the current sources of trust funds.

The Institution's trust funds include general trust funds with limited or no restrictions on their use, funds restricted by the donor or sponsor, and Government grants and contracts. Projections are subject to the uncertainty of the size of donations, grants, and contracts; to fluctuations in visitor attendance; and to the volatility of the economy, which together directly affect the return on the endowment, short-term interest income, and donor giving, as well as restaurant, magazine, catalogue, and museum shop revenues, memberships, and other business activities. The Institution's gross operating revenue, less the expenses of the auxiliary activities, represents the net operating revenue available for programmatic and related purposes. The following table summarizes the sources of trust operating funds.

(Dollars in Millions)	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Estimates
General Trust	142.2	120.2
Donor/Sponsor-Designated	393.1	409.4
Government Grants and Contracts	138.5	122.3
Total Available for Operations	\$673.8	\$651.9

**SOURCE AND APPLICATION OF TRUST FUNDS** — The following sections describe the sources of each category of trust funds as well as a general account of how they are used.

**General Trust Funds** — The sources of general trust funds are investment income; payout from unrestricted endowments; net proceeds from the museum shops, catalogues, and food service concessions; sales of Smithsonian books, records, and other products based on designs and objects in the collections; theater/planetarium operations at the National Air and Space Museum; student travel programs; rental of exhibitions of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service; membership programs; the sale of posters, exhibition brochures, catalogues, and other publications; and admission fees. Projected sources of FY 2025 general trust funds total \$120,200,000. These funds are used to support administrative programs such as central management, legal counsel, accounting, personnel, contracting, and budget, as well as fund raising, education, research and public programs, scholarly studies, and exhibitions.

**Donor/Sponsor-Designated Funds** — Designated trust funds include gifts, grants, and earnings on endowments from individuals, foundations, organizations, and corporations which specify the purpose of the funds. Designated funds in FY 2025 are projected to total \$409,400,000. Generally, these funds support a particular exhibition or program, or are used to manage the Smithsonian collections and/or support research projects in accordance with the Institution's mission.

**Government Grants and Contracts** — Various Government agencies and departments provide grants and contracts for specific projects that align with the Smithsonian's expertise in a particular area of science, history, art, or education. For FY 2025, Government grants and contracts are projected to total \$122,300,000. Of this amount, \$113,600,000 is planned for astrophysical research and development programs carried out by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

## FY 2026 APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

*For necessary expenses of the Smithsonian Institution, as authorized by law, including research in the fields of art, science, and history; development, preservation, and documentation of the National Collections; presentation of public exhibits and performances; collection, preparation, dissemination, and exchange of information and publications; conduct of education, training, and museum assistance programs; maintenance, alteration, operation, lease agreements of no more than 30 years, and protection of buildings, facilities, and approaches; not to exceed \$100,000 for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and purchase, rental, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for employees, \$839,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, except as otherwise provided herein; of which not to exceed \$14,026,000 for the instrumentation program, collections acquisition, exhibition reinstallation, Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, and the repatriation of skeletal remains program shall remain available until expended; and including such funds as may be necessary to support American overseas research centers: Provided, That funds appropriated herein are available for advance payments to independent contractors performing research services or participating in official Smithsonian presentations: Provided further, That the Smithsonian Institution may expend Federal appropriations designated in this Act for lease or rent payments, as rent payable to the Smithsonian Institution, and such rent payments may be deposited into the general trust funds of the Institution to be available as trust funds for expenses associated with the purchase of a portion of the building at 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, to the extent that federally supported activities will be housed there: Provided further, That the use of such amounts in the general trust funds of the Institution for such purpose shall not be construed as Federal debt service for, a Federal guarantee of, a transfer of risk to, or an obligation of the Federal Government: Provided further, That no appropriated funds may be used directly to service debt which is incurred to finance the costs of acquiring a portion of the building at 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, or of planning, designing, and constructing improvements to such building: Provided further, That any agreement entered into by the Smithsonian Institution for the sale of its ownership interest, or any portion thereof, in such building so acquired may not take effect until the expiration of a 30 day period which begins on the date on which the Secretary of the Smithsonian submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Committees on House Administration and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate a report, as outlined in the explanatory statement described in section 4 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94; 133 Stat. 2536) on the intended sale.*

*Note.—This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Division A of Public Law 119–4).*

## FACILITIES CAPITAL

*For necessary expenses of repair, revitalization, and alteration of facilities owned or occupied by the Smithsonian Institution, by contract or otherwise, as authorized by section 2 of the Act of August 22, 1949 (63 Stat. 623), and for construction, including necessary personnel, \$120,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$10,000 shall be for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.*

*Note.—This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Division A of Public Law 119–4).*

## APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE AND CITATIONS

The Act of August 10, 1846, codified within 20 U.S.C. §§ 41–70, established the Smithsonian Institution “for the increase and diffusion of knowledge,” and provided the organizational structure for the Institution’s administration. The mission of the Smithsonian Institution has remained unchanged throughout its 177-year history, although additional authority for many of the Institution’s programs and operations has been enacted over the years. Selected provisions of those statutes, along with selected provisions of the Smithsonian charter and prior-year appropriations acts, are cited below as authority for the Smithsonian Institution’s FY 2026 appropriations language.

### Appropriation: Salaries and Expenses

1. For necessary expenses of the Smithsonian Institution, as authorized by law, including research in the fields of art, science, and history;

20 U.S.C. § 50 provides that “...all objects of art and of foreign and curious research, and all objects of natural history, plants, and geological and mineralogical specimens...shall be so arranged and classified...as best to facilitate the examination and study of them...”

20 U.S.C. § 53a provides that “Appropriations are hereby authorized for...the making of solar observations at high altitudes...”

20 U.S.C. § 69 provides that “The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution is hereby authorized...to continue independently or in cooperation anthropological researches among the American Indians and the natives of lands under the jurisdiction or protection of the United States...”

20 U.S.C. § 75b(b) provides that “The [National Portrait] Gallery shall function as a free public museum for the exhibition and study of portraiture and statuary depicting men and women who have made significant contributions to the history, development, and culture of the people of the United States and of the artists who created such portraiture and statuary.”

20 U.S.C. § 76bb(c) provides that “The Joseph H. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden...shall be used for the storage, exhibition, and study of works of art...”

20 U.S.C. § 77a provides that “Said national air and space museum shall...provide educational material for the historical study of aviation and space flight.”

20 U.S.C. § 78 provides that “The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution is hereby authorized to cooperate with any State, educational institution, or scientific organization in the United States, for continuing paleontological investigations...”

20 U.S.C. § 80m(a)(3) provides that “(a)...the Board [of Regents] may-- ... (3) conduct programs of research and education [in the Museum of African Art]...”

20 U.S.C. §§ 80q-1(b)(1) & (3) provide that “(b)The purposes of the National Museum [of the American Indian] are to-- (1) advance the study of Native Americans, including the study of language, literature, history, art, anthropology, and life;...(3) provide for Native American research and study programs...”

20 U.S.C. § 80r-2(b)(1) provides that “(b) The purpose of the [National] Museum [of African American History and Culture] shall be to provide for-- (1) the collection, study and establishment of programs relating to African American life, art, history and culture that encompass [certain periods of the African American diaspora]...”

2. development, preservation, and documentation of the National Collections;

20 U.S.C. § 50 provides that “...all objects of art and of foreign and curious research, and all objects of natural history, plants, and geological and mineralogical specimens...shall be delivered to such persons as may be authorized by the Board of Regents to receive them, and shall be so arranged and classified...as best to facilitate the examination and study of them...”

20 U.S.C. § 50a provides that “The Smithsonian Institution is . . . authorized to include in its estimates of appropriations such sums as may be needful for the preservation and maintenance of the [John Gellatly art] collection.”

20 U.S.C. § 59 provides that “All collections of rocks, minerals, soils, fossils, and objects of natural history, archaeology, and ethnology...when



no longer needed for investigations in progress shall be deposited in the National Museum.”

20 U.S.C. § 69 provides that “The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution is hereby authorized...to continue independently or in cooperation...the excavation and preservation of archaeological remains.”

20 U.S.C. § 75e(1) provides that “...the Board [of Regents] may-- (1) purchase, accept, borrow, or otherwise acquire portraiture, statuary, and other items for preservation, exhibition, or study.”

20 U.S.C. § 76c(b) provides that “...the Regents are hereby authorized...to acquire (by purchase or otherwise) and sell contemporary works of art or copies thereof...”

20 U.S.C. § 76cc(a) provides that “There is established in the Smithsonian Institution a Board of Trustees...which shall have the sole authority (i) to purchase or otherwise acquire (whether by gift, exchange, or other means) works of art for the Joseph H. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden...”

20 U.S.C. § 77a provides that “Said national air and space museum shall...collect, preserve, and display aeronautical and space flight equipment of historical interest and significance...”

20 U.S.C. § 80a(a) provides that “...the Smithsonian Institution shall collect, preserve, and exhibit military objects of historical interest and significance.”

20 U.S.C. §§ 80m(a)(1) & (2) provide that “(a)...the Board [of Regents] may-- (1) purchase, accept, borrow or otherwise acquire additional works of art or any other real or personal property for the Museum [of African Art]; (2) preserve, maintain, restore...or otherwise hold any property of whatsoever nature acquired...”

20 U.S.C. § 80q-1(b)(2) provides that “(b) The purposes of the National Museum [of the American Indian] are to--...(2) collect, preserve, and exhibit Native American objects of artistic, historical, literary, anthropological, and scientific interest...”

20 U.S.C. § 80r-2(b)(3) provides that “(b) The purpose of the [National] Museum [of African American History and Culture] shall be to provide for--...(3) the collection and study of artifacts and documents relating to African American life, art, history, and culture...”

20 U.S.C. § 81 provides that “The National Zoological Park is placed under the direction of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, who are

authorized to transfer to it any living specimens, whether of animals or plants, in their charge, to accept gifts for the park...[and] to make exchanges of specimens...”

Section 104(a)(2), Division T, Title I, of Public Law 116-260 (December 27, 2020), provides that the Council of the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum shall have the sole authority to “purchase, accept, borrow, and otherwise acquire artifacts for addition to the collections of the museum...”

Section 201(d)(2)(B)(i), Division T, Title II, of Public Law 116-260 (December 27, 2020), provides that the Board of Trustees of the National Museum of the American Latino shall have the sole authority to “purchase, accept, borrow, or otherwise acquire artifacts and other objects for addition to the collections of the museum...”

3. presentation of public exhibits and performances;

20 U.S.C. § 75b(b) provides that “The [National Portrait] Gallery shall function as a free public museum for the exhibition and study of portraiture and statuary...”

20 U.S.C. § 76c(b) provides that “In order to encourage the development of contemporary art and to effect the widest distribution and cultivation in matters of such art, the Regents are hereby authorized to...conduct exhibitions...”

20 U.S.C. § 76bb(c) provides that “The Joseph H. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden...shall be used for the storage, exhibition, and study of works of art...”

20 U.S.C. § 77a provides that “Said national air and space museum shall...collect, preserve, and display aeronautical and space flight equipment of historical interest and significance...”

20 U.S.C. § 80a(a) provides that “...the Smithsonian Institution shall collect, preserve, and exhibit military objects of historical interest and significance.”

20 U.S.C. § 80m(a)(2) provides that “(a)...the Board [of Regents] may--... (2)...display...any property of whatsoever nature acquired [for the Museum of African Art]...”

20 U.S.C. § 80q-1(b)(2) provides that “(b) The purposes of the National Museum [of the American Indian] are to--... (2) collect, preserve, and

exhibit Native American objects of artistic, historical, literary, anthropological, and scientific interest...”

20 U.S.C. § 80r-2(b)(3) provides that “(b) The purpose of the [National Museum [of African American History and Culture] shall be to provide for-- ... (3) the collection and study of artifacts and documents relating to African American life, art, history, and culture...”

4. collection, preparation, dissemination, and exchange of information and publications.

20 U.S.C. § 53a provides that “Appropriations are hereby authorized for...preparation of manuscripts, drawings, and illustrations for publications.”

5. conduct of education, training, and museum assistance programs;

20 U.S.C. §§ 65a(a)(1),(3) & (4) provide that “(a)The Director of the National Museum under the direction of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution shall-- (1) cooperate with museums and their professional organizations in a continuing study of museum problems and opportunities, both in the United States and abroad;... (3) prepare and distribute significant museum publications; (4) perform research on, and otherwise contribute to, the [development of] museum techniques....”

20 U.S.C. § 77a provides that “Said national air and space museum shall...provide educational material for the historical study of aviation and space flight.”

20 U.S.C. § 79a provides that “The purpose of setting aside such an area [Barro Colorado Island] is to preserve and conserve its natural features...thus providing a place where duly qualified students can make observations and scientific investigations for increase of knowledge, under such conditions and regulations as may be prescribed by the [Smithsonian Institution].”

20 U.S.C. § 79e provides that “There are authorized to be appropriated annually...such sums as are necessary for the administration of [the Canal Zone Biological Area] ... and for the maintenance of laboratory or other facilities...”

20 U.S.C. § 80m(a)(3) provides that “(a)...the Board [of Regents] may-- ... (3) conduct programs of research and education [in the Museum of African Art]....”

Section 2 of Public Law 114-151 (May 9, 2016), to protect and preserve international cultural property, provides that the Smithsonian Institution should be included in an interagency coordinating committee to..."consult with governmental and nongovernmental organizations, including... museums, educational institutions, and research institutions, and participants in the international art and cultural property market on efforts to protect and preserve international cultural property."

6. maintenance, alteration, operation, lease agreements of no more than 30 years, and protection of buildings, facilities, and approaches;

20 U.S.C. § 53a provides that "Appropriations are hereby authorized for the maintenance of the Astrophysical Observatory and...for repairs and alterations of buildings and grounds occupied by the Smithsonian Institution in the District of Columbia and elsewhere..."

20 U.S.C. § 76ee provides that "There is authorized to be appropriated...such additional sums as may be necessary for the maintenance and operation of such [Hirshhorn] museum and sculpture garden."

20 U.S.C. § 79b(c) provides that "The ...[Smithsonian Institution] shall...(c) be responsible for the construction and maintenance of laboratory and other facilities on the area provided for the use of students authorized to carry on studies within the confines of the area..."

20 U.S.C. § 80m(a)(2) provides that "(a)...the Board [of Regents] may-- ... (2) preserve, maintain...any property of whatsoever nature acquired [for the Museum of African Art]..."

20 U.S.C. § 81 provides that "The National Zoological Park is placed under the direction of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, who are authorized...to administer and improve the said Zoological Park for the advancement of science and the instruction and recreation of the people." Public Law 101-512 making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies for the fiscal year 1991 extended the maximum term for federal leases from ten years to thirty.

7. not to exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109;

5 U.S.C. § 3109(b) provides that "When authorized by an appropriation or other statute, the head of an agency may procure by contract the temporary (not in excess of 1 year) or intermittent services of experts or consultants or an organization thereof, including stenographic reporting services."

8. and purchase, rental, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for employees,

5 U.S.C. § 5901(a) provides that “There is authorized to be appropriated annually to each agency of the Government of the United States...on a showing of necessity or desirability, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subchapter.

40 U.S.C. § 6306(c) provides that “The employees designated as special police under subsection (a) [covering the Smithsonian Institution] may be provided, without charge, with uniforms and other equipment as may be necessary for the proper performance of their duties...”

9. \$\_\_\_\_\_, to remain available until September 30, 20\_\_\_\_, except as otherwise provided herein;

Wording added by the Congress in Public Law 111-88 making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2010 to extend the availability for the Salaries and Expenses account from one year to two years unless otherwise provided herein;

10. of which not to exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the instrumentation program, collections acquisition, exhibition reinstallation, Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum, National Museum of the American Latino, and the repatriation of skeletal remains program shall remain available until expended;

Wording added by the Congress in Public Law 100-446 making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies for fiscal year 1989 to permit the Institution to establish no-year funding within the Salaries and Expenses account for the development of major scientific instrumentation. Public Law 101-512, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies for fiscal year 1991, allowed no-year funding to be used for the instrumentation program as well as purchases for museum collections; reinstallation of museum exhibitions; and the repatriation of skeletal remains.

31 U.S.C. § 1301(c)(2) provides that “(c) An appropriation in a regular, annual appropriation law may be construed to be permanent or available continuously only if the appropriation--... (2) expressly provides that it is available after the fiscal year covered by the law in which it appears.”

11. and including such funds as may be necessary to support American overseas research centers:

Wording added by the Congress in Public Law 99-190 making appropriations for Other Related Agencies for fiscal year 1986.

12. *Provided*, That funds appropriated herein are available for advance payments to independent contractors performing research services or participating in official Smithsonian presentations:

31 U.S.C. § 3324(b)(1) provides that (b) “An advance of public money may be made only if it is authorized by-- (1) a specific appropriation or other law...”

13. *Provided further*, That the Smithsonian Institution may expend Federal appropriations designated in this Act for lease or rent payments, as rent payable to the Smithsonian Institution, and such rent payments may be deposited into the general trust funds of the Institution to be available as trust funds for expenses associated with the purchase of a portion of the building at 600 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. to the extent that Federally supported activities will be housed there: *Provided further*, That the use of such amounts in the general trust funds of the Institution for such purpose shall not be construed as Federal debt service for, a Federal guarantee of, a transfer of risk to, or an obligation of the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That no appropriated funds may be used directly to service debt which is incurred to finance the costs of acquiring a portion of the building at 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington DC, or of planning, designing, and constructing improvements to such building: *Provided further*, That any agreement entered into by the Smithsonian Institution for the sale of its ownership interest, or any portion thereof, in such building so acquired may not take effect until the expiration of a 30 day period which begins on the date on which the Secretary of the Smithsonian submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Committees on House Administration and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate a report, as outlined in the explanatory statement described in section 4 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94; 133 Stat. 2536) on the intended sale.

Wording added by the Congress in Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020, as enacted by Division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94, approved December 20, 2019).

### **Appropriation: Facilities Capital**

1. For necessary expenses of repair, revitalization, and alteration of facilities owned or occupied by the Smithsonian Institution, by contract or otherwise, as authorized by section 2 of the Act of August 22, 1949 (63 Stat. 623),

20 U.S.C. § 53a provides that “Appropriations are hereby authorized...for repairs and alterations of buildings and grounds occupied by the Smithsonian Institution in the District of Columbia and elsewhere...”

20 U.S.C. § 81 provides that “The National Zoological Park is placed under the direction of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, who are authorized...to administer and improve the said Zoological Park for the advancement of science and the instruction and recreation of the people.”

Public Law 108-108, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2004, established the Facilities Capital appropriation. The appropriation includes activities formerly financed through the Repair, Restoration and Alteration of Facilities appropriation and the Construction appropriation.

2. and for construction,

Section 107(c), Division T, Title I, of Public Law 116-260 (December 27, 2020) provides that: “The Board of Regents,...may plan, design, and construct a building for the [Smithsonian American Women’s History] Museum, which shall be located at the site designated by the Board of Regents...”

Section 201(g)(1)(C), Division T, Title II, of Public Law 116-260 (December 27, 2020) provides that: “The Board of Regents,...is authorized to prepare plans, design, and construct a building or modify an existing building for the [National] Museum [of the American Latino], which shall be located at the site designated by the Board of Regents...”

20 U.S.C. § 53a provides that “Appropriations are hereby authorized...for repairs and alterations of buildings and grounds occupied by the Smithsonian Institution in the District of Columbia and elsewhere...”

3. including necessary personnel,

Wording added by Congress for clarification in Public Law 108-7 making appropriations for the Department of Interior and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2003.

4. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to remain available until expended,

31 U.S.C. § 1301(c)(2) provides that “(c) An appropriation in a regular, annual appropriation law may be construed to be permanent or available continuously only if the appropriation--... (2) expressly provides that it is available after the fiscal year covered by the law in which it appears.”

5. of which not to exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_ shall be for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.

5 U.S.C. § 3109(b) provides that “When authorized by an appropriation or other statute, the head of an agency may procure by contract the temporary (not in excess of 1 year) or intermittent services of experts or consultants or an organization thereof, including stenographic reporting services.”



**NO-YEAR FUNDING** — The following table reflects the FY 2024 and FY 2026 Salaries and Expenses requests for funding with no-year availability.

**No-Year Funding Request**  
(Dollars in Thousands)

<b>Salaries and Expenses</b>	<b>FY 2024 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>
National Museum of the American Latino	10,392	0
Smithsonian American Women's History Museum	9,568	9,568
National Museum of Natural History		
Exhibition Reinstallation	954	897
Repatriation Program	1,507	1,416
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory		
Major Scientific Instrumentation	4,118	1,750
Collections Acquisition	435	395
<b>Total, No-Year Funds</b>	<b>\$26,974</b>	<b>\$14,026</b>

**OBJECT-CLASS FUNDING** — The following table provides an object-class breakout of the estimated obligations for direct resources in the Salaries and Expenses account.

**Object-Class Funding Request**  
(Dollars in Millions)

<b>Salaries and Expenses</b>	<b>FY 2024 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>
Salaries and Benefits	548	525
Travel and Transportation	6	5
Rent, Utilities, Communications, and Other	99	105
Printing and Other Services	195	165
Supplies and Materials	20	17
Equipment	22	19
Land and Structures	3	3
<b>Total, Object-Class Funds</b>	<b>\$893</b>	<b>\$839</b>