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FACTS ABOUT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Since its founding in 1846, the Smithsonian Institution has been committed to inspiring generations through knowledge and discovery. It is the world's largest museum, education and research complex, consisting of 19 museums, the National Zoological Park, education centers, research facilities, cultural centers and libraries. Two new museums—the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum—are in development. There are more than 6,300 Smithsonian employees and 5,100 volunteers.

Anacostia Community Museum

National Museum of African Art

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

National Museum of American History

Arts and Industries Building

National Museum of the American Indian

Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum (New York City)

National Museum of the American Indian's George Gustav Heye Center (New York City)

Freer Gallery of Art

National Museum of Natural History

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

National Portrait Gallery

National Air and Space Museum

National Postal Museum

National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center (Chantilly, Virginia)

Renwick Gallery

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Smithsonian Institution Building ("Castle")

NEW MUSEUMS—Congress passed legislation in late December 2020 establishing two new museums at the Smithsonian: the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum. The Smithsonian is in the early planning stages for both.

BUDGET—The Smithsonian’s federal appropriation for fiscal year 2021 (Oct. 1, 2020–Sept. 30, 2021) is \$1 billion. The Institution is about 62% federally funded (a combination of the congressional appropriation and federal grants and contracts). In addition, the Smithsonian has trust funds or non-federal funds, which include contributions from private sources (endowments; donations from individuals, corporations and foundations; and memberships) and revenues from the Smithsonian Enterprises operation (magazines, mail-order catalog, product development, entertainment, shops, restaurants and concessions).

Admission to all Smithsonian museums in Washington is free. A visitor’s center is located in the Castle. There were about 22 million visits to the museums and the National Zoo in 2019.

SMITHSONIAN COLLECTIONS—The total number of objects, works of art and specimens at the Smithsonian is estimated at nearly 155 million, of which nearly 146 million are scientific specimens at the National Museum of Natural History. The vast scope of the Smithsonian collections ranges from the Hope Diamond, Star-Spangled Banner and Apollo lunar landing module to the ruby slippers featured in *The Wizard of Oz*, President Abraham Lincoln’s top hat and a 3.5 billion-year-old fossil.

RESEARCH FACILITIES—These include the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Museum Conservation Institute, Smithsonian Libraries, Smithsonian Institution Archives, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the Marine Station at Fort Pierce, Florida.

DIGITAL—The Smithsonian home page, www.si.edu, offers a wide range of information, from planning a visit to exploring the collections online. Also, the Smithsonian had 178 million unique visitors to its website in 2020, and has more than 30 mobile apps, digital magazines and more than 17 million images and records on the Collections Search Center site. Across its most frequently used social-media platforms, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, the Smithsonian had more than 18 million followers and 375 million YouTube views in 2020.

HISTORY—Established with funds from James Smithson (1765–1829), a British scientist who left his estate to the United States to found “at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge.”

DIVERSITY—The Smithsonian is committed to standing with all communities, fostering understanding and respect, and championing equality and justice. To improve diversity, equity, access and inclusiveness in its workforce and in its public exhibitions and programs, as well as in the topics of dialogue it seeks to explore with the public, the Smithsonian has:

- Created a head of diversity position to lead diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion programs and activities.
- Sponsored a Diversity Learning series for senior leaders.
- Developed many diversity and equity tools like the National Museum of African American History and Culture’s “Talking About Race” portal, the National Museum of the American Indian’s “Native Knowledge 360°” educational curriculum and the Institution-wide initiative “Our Shared Future: Reckoning with Our Racial Past.”

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