



Support the Smithsonian Institution

Objective:

We urge Congress to maintain or increase funding for the Smithsonian Institution.

Background:

The Smithsonian Institution, founded in 1846, is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex. It spans nineteen museums and the National Zoo, as well as research centers, cultural centers, and outreach and education programs.

The Smithsonian has been spared the major funding cuts that other history-related agencies have faced in recent years, although its funding does vary depending on ongoing construction needs. For example, the significant funding increase between FY17 and FY18 is almost all Facilities Capital for the revitalization of the National Air and Space Museum, and only includes \$2 million in new spending in the Salaries and Expenses category.

Smithsonian Funding History, FY10 – Present (in millions of dollars)

FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19*
761	760	812	774	805	819	840	863	1043	957

*President's budget request. Final appropriations for FY19 have not been determined.

Why it matters:

The Smithsonian Institution pursues important research, provides crucial educational opportunities, and opens its museums to visitors, free of charge. It relies on a mix of federal and private sector money to fund its operations and programs. Here are just a few metrics of the Smithsonian's impact:¹

- Over 30 million people visited Smithsonian museums in FY2017, including 3.9 million visits to the National Museum of American History, 2.5 million visits to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and 1.1 million visits to the National Museum of the American Indian.
- Its history and culture collections encompass over 8.8 million objects and specimens and 84,000 cubic feet of archives.
- 6.3 million people were served by Smithsonian educational programs in FY2017.

SI is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

¹ <https://www.si.edu/dashboard>