



Statement of

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Hearing on

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Opportunities for Growth Honoring Latino
Americans and Asian Pacific Americans”**

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Chair Lofgren, Ranking Member Davis, and Members of the committee: I am Eric Petersen, and I am an analyst at the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Thank you for your invitation to testify before you today.

At the end of a long morning of the ideas and perspectives of advocates and experts discussing their ideas for a national American Latino museum in the Smithsonian Institution (SI or Smithsonian) and a commission to consider the establishment of an Asian Pacific American history and culture museums and whether to place it in the Smithsonian, I have been asked to provide an overview of some of the matters Congress might encounter in the potential consideration and development of new Smithsonian museums. Today's hearing comes at a time of great interest in new Smithsonian museums in Congress, and among museum advocates. In addition to the museum projects under consideration today, H.R. 1980, which would create a women's history museum in the Smithsonian, has been placed on the calendar for potential consideration in the House, following this committee's actions late last year. It is unclear whether Congress has ever considered the potential development of three substantial museum projects essentially at the same time.

My role today is to identify concerns that could arise, and raise questions that Congress might consider throughout the process of potential development of new museums and the ongoing operations of the Smithsonian, consistent with the mission of the Congressional Research Service to provide objective, non-partisan research and analysis to Congress. CRS does not take a position on the desirability of particular policies or proposals. Some matters I raise today are subject to direct congressional consideration, including whether to authorize a commission to study the arguments for and against the creation of a new museum and to identify potential resources to support its development; whether to authorize the creation of a museum and related administrative arrangements in SI or elsewhere; or how to determine the level of appropriations and non-federal funds to support these efforts. Other concerns may be subject to ongoing congressional oversight.

Questions that Congress and this committee might consider regarding museum development range from big picture, philosophical considerations to practical, detailed operational concerns. There may be individual questions, or sets of queries, designed to interrogate interrelated themes. Some apply to any museum project, while others might be specific to a particular proposal. The nature of the questions is that some lend themselves to exploration of how Congress might consider museum development efforts as representations of specific social cultural, or policy ideals and aspirations, while others might necessitate consideration of readily available data and other information to address technical, practical, institutional, or policy concerns. As with most of the questions Congress considers, the topics do not lend themselves to neat, mutually exclusive categorization, and some might not find the categorization provided compelling. As questions are posed in this testimony, where possible I provide available data, information, or resources for further consideration. With regard to museum development and Smithsonian operations, questions Congress could consider might include concerns in the following categories:

- The "Big Picture"
- The role and availability of private entities to support museum proposals and development
- The Smithsonian's capacity to address new and ongoing institutional challenges
- Potential costs of new museums

The "Big Picture"

Whether posed explicitly or implicitly, any proposal for a new museum arguably must provide answers in two areas of broad, general inquiry. The first provides an opportunity to consider why a new museum might be created. This has been addressed in some detail by others today, and is beyond the scope of my

testimony. The second addresses matters Congress might consider in an effort to inform its deliberative and oversight efforts:

- What is the nature of museums in the contemporary context?
- To what extent, if any, are current museum proposals similar or different from Smithsonian museums established in the 19th and early 20th centuries?
- What are the potential policy, fiscal and physical consequences of modern museum design, subject matter, and exhibition?
- What is the role of future and current museums, in the Smithsonian or elsewhere, in addressing and advancing American stories and accomplishments from multiple perspectives, including those that have arguably been less well represented in the past?
- Are current efforts of the Smithsonian to address those concerns within existing institutional arrangements¹ sufficient or insufficient from the perspective of Congress, the Smithsonian, stakeholders, and others?
- How might new museums address shortfalls in representing the diversity of American voices and perspectives?
- How might Congress guide and oversee these efforts?

Role and Availability of Private Entities

Based on the development of the most recent Smithsonian museums, the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), initial proposals for museums typically grow from the initial efforts of private individuals or groups. In 1896, George Gustav Heye, a private collector, began collecting Native American items. In 1916, he founded a museum of the American Indian in New York to house the collections.² In 1915, African American Civil War veterans began efforts to memorialize on the National Mall the military contributions of African Americans. A national memorial association convened to create a permanent memorial and construct a building depicting African American contributions in all walks of life.³ Based on the development of these museums, and current proposals for American Latino and women's museums, it would appear that a series of events in museum development frequently occurs, including many or all of the following steps:

- Initial, non-legislative efforts raising the idea of a museum⁴
- Initial legislative proposals for a museum study commission
- Enactment of legislation to create a commission or commissions
- Initial legislative proposals to create a museum

¹ See Smithsonian Latino Center, "The Molina Family Latino Gallery," at <https://latino.si.edu/latino-center>; Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, "A museum without walls," at <https://smithsonianapa.org/>; and Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative, "Because of Her Story," at <https://womenshistory.si.edu/>.

² "George Gustav Heye Starts Indian Collection," Smithsonian Archives, https://sirisi-history.si.edu/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=15198U121B484.945&profile=sicall&source=~!sichronology&view=subscriptionsummary&uri=full=3100001~!2202~!1&ri=1&aspect=Keyword&menu=search&ipp=20&spp=20&staffonly=&term=National+Museum+of+the+American+Indian&index=.SW&uindex=&aspect=Keyword&menu=search&ri=1&limitbox_1=LO01+=+sch.

³ Lonnie G. Bunch, III, *A Fool's Errand: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture in the Age of Bush, Obama, and Trump* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Books, 2019), p. 5.

⁴ Including the establishment of a private American Indian museum in the case of NMAI.

- Enactment of legislation to create a museum
- Site consultation
- Site selection
- Museum building planning, design and construction funding
- Groundbreaking
- Museum opening

Substantial periods of time can elapse between events; from the time George Heye began his collection until NMAI opened its doors, 108 years had passed. Similarly NMAAHC opened 101 years after the first efforts of the African American Civil War veterans to establish and build a monument or museum. In both cases, consideration of new museums restarted only when motivated, well-organized private citizens and entities expressed sustained interest and concern to public officials. With that in mind, Congress might consider the following questions regarding private entities and their efforts to support the development of a new museum:

- What is the commitment and capacity of advocates for various museums to work independently and effectively in support of museum establishment?
- How might those groups successfully partner with the Smithsonian?
- How robust are private museum entities’ plans to raise funds, awareness, and provide other support through various periods of the museum development process, and to what extent can those entities engage over a potentially extended period of time?
- What might Congress do to assess the viability of private proposals and their proponents?

A timeline showing when NMAI, NMAAHC, the proposed Latino American museum and proposed Asian Pacific museum commission completed various steps in the process of museum development is provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Time Between Selected Events in the Development of Smithsonian Institution Museums and Proposed Museums

Entity, Event	NMAI, P.L. 101-185		NMAAHC, P.L. 108-184		Asian Pacific Commission, H.R. 4132		Latino Museum, H.R. 2420	
	Year	Years, Cumulative	Year	Years, Cumulative	Year	Years, Cumulative	Year	Years, Cumulative
Initial, Non-Legislative Efforts	1896		1915		1997		1994	
Private Museum	1916	20	N/A		N/A		N/A	
Initial Legislative Proposals, Commission	N/A		1916	1	2015	19	2003	9
Enacted Study/Commission	N/A		1929	14	N/A		2008	14
Second Commission Enacted	N/A		2001	86	N/A		N/A	
Commission Report Issued	N/A		2003	88	N/A		2011	17
Initial Legislative Proposals, Museum Creation	1911	15	1916	1	2015	19	2011	17
Enacted Museum Creation	1989	93	2003	88	N/A		N/A	
Site Selection	1989	93	2004	89	N/A		N/A	

Entity, Event	NMAI, P.L. 101-185		NMAAHC, P.L. 108-184		Asian Pacific Commission, H.R. 4132		Latino Museum, H.R. 2420	
Groundbreaking	1999	103	2012	97	N/A		N/A	
Opening	2004	108	2016	101	N/A	Pending, 23	N/A	Pending, 26

Source: NMAI: P.L. 101-185; H.R. 16313, S.3953, 62nd Congress; National Museum of the American Indian, <https://siarchives.si.edu/history/national-museum-american-indian>; and “George Gustav Heye Starts Indian Collection,” Smithsonian Archives, https://sirisihistory.si.edu/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=15198U121B484.945&profile=sicall&source=--!sichronology&view=subscriptionsummary&uri=full=3100001~!2202~!1&ri=1&aspect=Keyword&menu=search&ipp=20&spp=20&staffonly=&term=National+Museum+of+the+American+Indian&index=.SW&uindex=&aspect=Keyword&menu=search&ri=1&limitbox_1=LO01+=+sch. No legislation proposing the creation of a commission to consider creation of NMAI was introduced.

NMAAHC: P.L. 107-106; P.L. 108-184; Pub. Res. No. 107, March 4, 1929; H.R. 18721, 64th Congress; National Museum of African American History and Culture: Plan For Action Presidential Commission, *The Time Has Come: Report to the President and to the Congress*, Washington, DC, April 2, 2003, p. 1; and Lonnie G. Bunch, III, *A Fool's Errand: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture in the Age of Bush, Obama, and Trump* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Books, 2019). Legislation to create a commission to consider and build an African American museum was passed by Congress in 1929. That effort did not result in the creation of a museum. Legislation establishing a study commission was passed in 2001.

Proposed Asian Pacific museum commission: H.R. 4307, H.R. 4308, 114th Congress; H.R. 4132, 116th Congress; Smithsonian Institution, “Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center,” media fact sheet, January 1, 2018, at <https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/factsheets/smithsonian-asian-pacific-american-center>.

Proposed Latino museum: P.L. 110-229; H.R. 3292, 108th Congress; H.R. 3459, 112th Congress; H.R. 2420, 116th Congress; Friends of the National Museum of the American Latino website, <https://americanlatinomuseum.org/presente/>; Smithsonian Institution Task Force on Latino Issues, *Willful Neglect: The Smithsonian Institution and U.S. Latinos*, Washington, DC, May 1994, p. 2, https://siarchives.si.edu/sites/default/files/forum-pdfs/Willful_Neglect_.

Smithsonian Capacity Questions

The Smithsonian Institution is a complex of museum, education, research, and revenue-generating entities primarily located in the Washington, DC, region, with additional facilities and activities across the United States and world, that employs 6,800 staff, supplemented by 6,900 onsite volunteers, professional fellows, trainees, researchers, and specialized volunteers. In FY2018, its museums hosted 29 million visits, while another 4.5 million people visited its traveling exhibitions. Its holdings include more than 155 million objects.⁵ Consideration of the establishment of new Smithsonian museums necessarily raises questions about capacity; some elements of capacity might focus on a number of operational and physical plant issues, from several perspectives. These include matters surrounding Smithsonian engagement of new museum development in the context of competing priorities, the challenges of museum siting, and the short and long-term costs associated with new museums.

Smithsonian Administration

In the past three years Smithsonian leaders have taken an arguably discouraging approach to the creation of new museums. In testimony before this committee, and citing the need to address “crucial maintenance and revitalization of existing facilities,” former SI secretary David Skorton arguably focused Smithsonian priorities away from consideration of the creation of new SI museums.⁶ More recently, Dr. Skorton’s

⁵ Smithsonian Institution, *Smithsonian Institution Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Justification to Congress*, Washington, DC, March 2019, pp. 1-3.

⁶ Statement of Dr. David J. Skorton, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, “The Smithsonian Institution’s Priorities,” before the Committee on House Administration, U.S. House of Representatives, March 28, 2017, at

successor, Lonnie G. Bunch, III, in testimony before a Senate committee, emphasized the need to continue reducing the maintenance backlog, and stated that “a new museum would need funds for both the creation and long-term operations of the facilities, the care and preservation of our collections, and the on-going success of the museum.”⁷

The potential need for the Smithsonian to oversee the development of as many as three new national museums could necessitate congressional assessment of the implications a new museum’s fundraising efforts, siting, design, construction, operational plans or costs might have on ongoing SI operations and facilities. Of broader potential oversight concern is the extent to which the Smithsonian Institution has the capacity to integrate new museums into its portfolio, and consideration of the Smithsonian’s capacity and commitment to new museums considered in the context of its other, ongoing organizational commitments.

In light of these concerns, Congress might consider the following questions:

- What is the Smithsonian’s position on new museums? How might that position evolve in light of SI leadership priorities, and competing demands on staff and resources?
- What is the capacity of SI to balance the following:
 - The long-term maintenance backlog across the Smithsonian’s facilities?⁸
 - The development and funding of its new headquarters building?
 - Collection storage, digitization and protection?⁹
 - The development of new collections storage facilities?¹⁰
 - The vitality and currency of existing museum exhibits as it might also address the challenges of establishing new museums?
- How might new museums affect current arrangements between and among existing museums?
- How might the Smithsonian identify senior leaders to oversee the development of new museums if they are created?
- What plans might Congress want SI to consider to ensure that established and newer museums avoid competing for collections, exhibits, staff, or other resources?

<https://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=105769>.

⁷ Written Statement of Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution before the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, November 14, 2019, at <https://www.rules.senate.gov/download/mr-lonnie-bunch-testimony>.

⁸ Written Statement of Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, “Review of Smithsonian Institution Current Facilities and Future Space Needs,” Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure U.S. House of Representatives, November 13, 2019, at <https://transportation.house.gov/download/bunch-testimony>; and Smithsonian Institution, Office of Inspector General, *Deferred Maintenance: The Smithsonian Generally Followed Leading Management Practices, but Reducing Its Backlog Remains a Challenge*, Report Number OIG-A-16-06, Washington, DC, March 30, 2016, https://www.si.edu/Content/OIG/Audits/2016/OIG_A_16_06.pdf.

⁹ Testimony of Cathy L. Helm, Inspector General, Smithsonian Institution, Before The United States House Of Representatives Committee On House Administration, September 18, 2019, at docs.house.gov/meetings/HA/HA00/20190918/109929/HHRG-116-HA00-Wstate-HelmC-20190918-U1.pdf; and Smithsonian Institution, Office of Inspector General, *Collections Management: Progress Made with Initiatives to Improve Inadequate Storage and Undertake Digitization, but Key Challenges Remain*, Report Number A-13-11, Washington, DC, September 14, 2015, <https://www.si.edu/Content/OIG/Audits/2015/A-13-11.pdf>.

¹⁰ Smithsonian Institution, *Securing the Future for Smithsonian Collections*, Smithsonian Collections Space Framework Plan, February 2015, <https://www.si.edu/Content/Pdf/About/2015-Collections-Space-Framework-Plan.pdf>.

Museum Location¹¹

How will Congress or the Smithsonian address competing demands of museum advocates for limited space on the National Mall?

The location within the District of Columbia is one of the most significant decisions made when authorizing a new museum. Many groups interested in establishing a new Smithsonian or other museum typically desire a prominent location on or near the National Mall. Placing new memorials or museums within that space, however, is restricted by available land, laws, and policies that govern the National Mall.

In 1986, the Commemorative Works Act (CWA) was enacted to guide the creation of memorials in the District of Columbia.¹² The CWA codified congressional procedure for authorizing commemorative works when federal land is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) or the General Services Administration (GSA). The CWA was chiefly intended to guide planning and development of monuments and memorials, but may apply to museums, depending on the proposed location. The CWA prohibits museums from being “located on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary [of the Interior] in Area I or in East Potomac Park.”¹³ As a consequence, recently authorized museums have either been exempted from the CWA,¹⁴ or have been located on land outside the jurisdiction of the NPS or GSA.¹⁵

Since the CWA was enacted, NPS, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), and other federal planning agencies have worked to create a comprehensive framework for the management, development, and preservation of the National Mall and other areas of the District of Columbia.¹⁶ Decisions on where to site future memorials and museums are guided in part by these plans.

For each newly authorized museum, the site selection process has historically occurred in different ways. For recent museums, Congress has chosen to use statutory language to guide site selection. For NMAI, Congress designated a specific site by legislation.¹⁷ For NMAAHC, Congress authorized a commission to study potential site locations (among other items) and to report back on ideal potential locations.¹⁸

¹¹ Jacob Straus, Specialist on the Congress at CRS, is the principal author of this section, and is available for any follow-up discussion of museum siting matters.

¹² 40 U.S.C. 8902 (a)(1). The CWA defines a commemorative work as “any statue, monument, sculpture, memorial, plaque, inscription, or other structure or landscape feature, including a garden or memorial grove, designed to perpetuate in a permanent manner the memory of an individual, group, event or other significant element of American history, except that the term does not include any such item which is located within the interior of a structure or structures which is primarily used for other purposes.”

¹³ 40 U.S.C. 8905 (b)(5). For discussion of the jurisdictions and areas of potential development established by the CWA, see CRS Report R41658, *Commemorative Works in the District of Columbia: Background and Practice*, by Jacob R. Straus.

¹⁴ E.g., NMAAHC.

¹⁵ E.g., NMAI and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

¹⁶ These plans have included, but are not limited to the following: National Capital Planning Commission, *Extending the Legacy: Planning America’s Capital for the 21st Century*, (Washington, 2007), at https://www.ncpc.gov/docs/Extending_the_Legacy_Plan_full.pdf. The plan seeks to maintain the Monumental Core as “the symbolic heart of the nation and the physical expression of our Constitution” (p. 3); National Capital Planning Commission, *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*, (Washington, December 2001), at https://www.ncpc.gov/docs/Memorials_and_Museums_Master_Plan_full_2001.pdf. The plan provides analysis of 100 potential memorial and museum sites in the District of Columbia and its surrounding areas and lists 20 sites as “prime sites;” National Capital Planning Commission, *Monumental Core Framework Plan: Connecting New Destinations with the National Mall* (Washington, April 2009), at <https://www.ncpc.gov/plans/framework>. “The Framework Plan seeks to protect the National Mall from overuse; [and] create distinctive settings for new memorials and museums....;” and U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, “Final National Mall Plan Documents,” at <https://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan/FEISdocs.html>.

¹⁷ 20 U.S.C. 80q-5(a).

¹⁸ P.L. 107-106, 115 Stat. 1009, December 28, 2001.

Following the commission's report, the authorizing legislation provided the Smithsonian Board of Regents four site locations from which to choose.¹⁹

For future potential museums, either option might be used. If a single specific site is determined to be most appropriate for the museum, Congress could directly designate the location. Conversely, if multiple sites were acceptable to Congress, providing the governing body, in the case of SI, the Regents, with a choice might be most practical. In two recent cases, Congress has established commissions to recommend site location (among other items): the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino,²⁰ and the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum.²¹

Statutorily designating the site location, however, could exclude expertise developed by NCPC and other agencies with planning responsibilities in placing museums within the master plan for the District of Columbia. By statutorily designating a site location, Congress might inadvertently disregard past work done by these entities.

As an alternative to statutorily designating a site, Congress could create a process to locate museums within the District of Columbia. A formalized process could remove Congress from initial siting decisions and instead allow the agencies charged with approving plans for new buildings on federal land in the District of Columbia—NCPC and the Commission on Fine Arts (CFA)—to use their expertise to guide the site selection process. Following their recommendations and approvals, Congress could then approve a site location.

Creating a site selection process might mirror the current process used to select sites for memorials in the District of Columbia. As part of the CWA, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) was created to aid Congress in the evaluation of potential site locations pursuant to specific criteria on the types of memorials that could be placed in various areas of Washington, DC.²² A similar set of guidelines could be created for the siting of future museums, thus allowing urban planners to make recommendations to Congress on where a museum might be located.

Providing for a process for museum siting could remove control of museum siting from Congress. If, for example, Congress were to cede control over the site selection process and vote only to approve or disapprove a recommended site, individual Members who might otherwise be influential in the congressional debate over a site location might have their influence diminished. If the process is similar to that used under the CWA, individual Members might have to work outside of Congress to influence the recommended site.²³

In addition to the challenges of siting potential museums, in previous testimony before Congress, Dr. Bunch noted that if the Smithsonian is required to construct new museums, climate-related

¹⁹ 20 U.S.C. 80r-6(a)(1)(B).

²⁰ P.L. 110-229, Sec. 333, 122 Stat. 784, May 8, 2008.

²¹ P.L. 113-291, Sec. 3056, 128 Stat. 3810, December 19, 2014.

²² 40 U.S.C. 8904, 8905, and 8908. NCMAC, however, does not make recommendations on the siting of non-memorials.

²³ For further consideration of federal museum authorizations, see CRS Report R43856, *Contemporary Federal Museum Authorizations in the District of Columbia: Past Practices and Options for Congress*, by Jacob R. Straus. For more information on in-progress commemorative works, see CRS Report R43744, *Monuments and Memorials Authorized Under the Commemorative Works Act in the District of Columbia: Current Development of In-Progress and Lapsed Works*, by Jacob R. Straus.

considerations, including the management of flood risk,²⁴ “will be a crucial part of any site selection and planning.”²⁵

Potential Costs of New Museums

If national American Latino, Asian Pacific American history and culture, or women’s history museums are created by Congress, and they are funded in the same manner as other SI museums,²⁶ they could represent a significant, enduring increase in annual appropriations provided for SI operations. In the absence of any consistent information about the size and scope of potential future museum projects, potential guidance on costs may be drawn from the costs of building facilities and operational expenditures of NMAI and NMAAHC. **Figure 1** provides the annual appropriations for the first 15 years those museums were in operation, as well as appropriations for the federal component of museum planning, design, construction, and exhibit development,²⁷ in constant, 2019 dollars. Overall costs of any potential museums could vary according to the scope of a new museum’s mandate, including any federal share in construction or operating costs, size and siting of a new museum facility, whether a new museum is fit into existing structures or requires new facilities to be built, fundraising, and other factors.

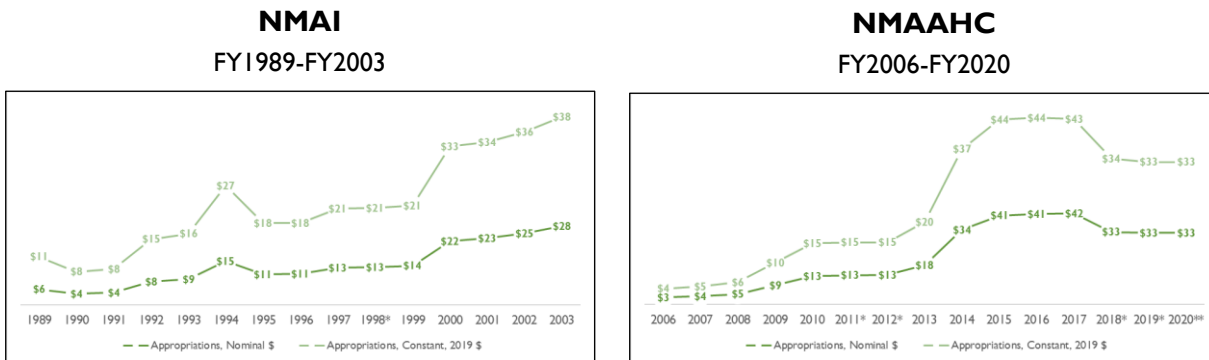
²⁴ See, generally, National Capital Planning Commission, “Flooding & Resilience,” at <https://www.ncpc.gov/topics/flooding/>; and *Flood Risk Management Planning Resources for Washington, DC*, Washington, DC, January 2018, https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwi6iZf4tLXnAhVV1HIEHV7bC9EQFjACegQIBBAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncpc.gov%2Fdocs%2FFlood_Risk_Management_Planning_Resources_January_2018.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0rPN2fu0VEXTexa5r_Tly.

²⁵ Written Statement of Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, “Review of Smithsonian Institution Current Facilities and Future Space Needs,” Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure U.S. House of Representatives, November 13, 2019, at <https://transportation.house.gov/download/bunch-testimony>, unnumbered pages.

²⁶ P.L. 108-184, establishing NMAAHC, provided an authorization of such sums as necessary for the construction of the museum and committed to meet the expenses of construction. The act made authorized such sums as necessary for museum operations beginning in FY2005. In the 116th Congress, H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women’s History Museum Act, and H.R. 2420 would authorize similar provisions for construction, and operations expense from FY2021.

²⁷ NMAI construction costs are based on the costs of three facilities, including a museum on the National Mall, for which Congress agreed to fund 2/3 of costs \$138.09 million in 2019 dollars; a second museum in New York, for which Congress agreed to fund 1/3 of the costs, \$16.3 million in 2019 dollars; and a museum service center in Suitland, Maryland to house NMAI collections, for which Congress appears to have provided the bulk of funds, \$86.07 million in 2019 dollars.

Figure I. Smithsonian Institution National Museums of the American Indian and African American History and Culture: Construction and Operational Costs for the First 15 Years of Operations



FY1989-FY2003 Operations	\$324,451	FY2006-FY2020 Operations	\$356,389
Museum Planning, Design, Construction, Exhibit Development	\$240,441	Museum Planning, Design, Construction, Exhibit Development	\$575,211
Appropriations, First 15 Years	\$564,892	Appropriations First 15 Years	\$931,600

Source: Enacted appropriations data taken from Smithsonian Institution annual budget requests, various years; and Smithsonian Institution, “National Museum of African American History and Culture: Design and Construction,” media fact sheet, September 1, 2016, <https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/factsheets/design-and-construction>, CRS calculations. In the graphics, visualize annual appropriations for the operations of NMAI and NMAAHC, and not construction costs. “*” denotes years for which estimated appropriations were used. “**” denotes requested funds.

Notes: Graphic data provided in thousands of nominal and constant, 2019 dollars. Tabular data provided in thousands of constant, 2019 dollars. NMAI construction costs are based on the costs of three facilities, including a museum on the National Mall, for which Congress agreed to appropriate 2/3 of costs, \$138.09 million in 2019 dollars; a second museum in New York, for which Congress agreed to appropriate 1/3 of the costs, \$16.3 million in 2019 dollars; and a museum service center in Suitland, Maryland to house NMAI collections, for which Congress appears to have provided the bulk of funds, \$86.07 million in 2019 dollars. NMAAHC constructions costs are based on its National Mall museum building. Costs provided here exclude the expenses of study commissions prior to the establishment of NMAAHC, and any additional appropriations necessary to increase the capacity of internal SI leadership, governance, or oversight entities related to the establishment of the new museums.

Before I close, I’d like to acknowledge three CRS colleagues for their assistance in preparing this testimony. Dr. Jacob Straus is the principal author of the section on museum siting, and provided detailed assistance in the subtleties of the museum design process. Carol Wilson, Research Librarian, and Julie Jennings, Senior Research Librarian, provided extensive research assistance in support of this testimony.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify. I look forward to any questions you might have.