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From: Damm, Stephen <stephen_damm@nps.gov>

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Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 at 07:53:25 AM EDT

Subject: NPS Museum Program Strategic Plan

Attached is the most recent NPS Museum Program strategic plan.

Best,

Stephen

Stephen Damm

Management Assistant (acting)

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Science

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NPS Museum Management Program

Service-wide Strategic Goals and Objectives, 2016-2020



The National Park Service (NPS) Museum Management Program provides professional stewardship for more than 48 million objects and specimens and 79,000 linear feet of archives (FY 2016 Collection Management Reports [CMRs]). These collections have unique associations with park cultural and natural resources, eminent figures, and park histories. Diverse collections vouch for the conclusions reached in scientific studies, resource studies, and planning documents. They provide the foundation of park interpretation and education programs. Museum collections document and confirm the administrative histories of park units and the relationships with stakeholders, and they provide the primary source materials for future studies by park and public researchers.

The foundation of this program is the dedicated staffs of museum professionals at more than 380 parks, 6 centers, and 7 Regional Offices, all of which carry out important roles for the American public. These staffs provide professional guidance and technical assistance to parks and daily care, preservation, protection, conservation, stewardship, accountability, and access for NPS collections. In addition, Washington Office staff provide leadership, coordination, policy development and procedural guidance, and information management within an organizational structure that promotes collaboration among all levels of management.

The strategic plan is an ongoing effort to optimize the care of NPS museum collections. Key goals for the NPS service-wide museum program are organized within the NPS priorities of Workforce, Relevance, Stewardship, and Education and seek to advance the NPS Museum Management Program as the gold-standard of museum programs. This plan seeks to incorporate knowledge gained from museum collections and the experience of museum management professionals into broader NPS planning and management initiatives, and to reinforce the NPS Museum Management Program as a leader in the museum world, including in interpretation, education, outreach, and partnerships as well as in collections management practices and guidance and developing and disseminating professional guidance that establishes and guides best practices for museums around the world. To meet these goals and ensure the professional care of collections, the plan also seeks to establish professionally responsible staffing levels and to encourage the professional development of staff while also ensuring the responsible and considered growth of museum collections.

Workforce

Promote professionalization of the NPS museum workforce through recruitment, training, retention, and networking opportunities.

- Seek professional-graded staff levels necessary to meet NPS legal responsibilities for stewardship of its collections.
- Provide career development opportunities, including training and advancement.
- Retain and expand expertise through succession planning, details, special projects, and resource sharing opportunities.

Relevance

Share knowledge gained through decades of responsible research and stewardship and use of NPS museum collections with the American public and NPS staff.

- Share collections management policies, procedures, and publications to strengthen the reputation of NPS as a leader in the museum profession.
- Encourage the use of museum collections in park management activities.
- Promote the preservation of NPS museum collections.

Stewardship

Apply the best available science, scholarly research, and sustainable management practices to the long-term care and management of NPS museum collections.

- Develop, maintain, and implement policy, guidance, and tools for collections management, preservation, and conservation to assist parks in planning and management.
- Ensure core museum documents are relevant and up-to-date and available to all staff.
- Implement the Museum Facilities Management Plan.

Education

Integrate use of museum objects, specimens, archives, and information into NPS resource management, education, and interpretive programs service-wide.

- Make collections and expertise available on multiple platforms.
- Build collaborative partnerships within NPS and with non-federal institutions and partners.
- Incorporate knowledge from museum collections into management decisions.