



Always
It never

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trained to
cies

Facing the Challenge

2021 Annual Report



Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service
Smithsonian Affiliations



VISION:

SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations strengthens connections between the Smithsonian and museums and cultural organizations—and their communities and audiences everywhere—inspiring a deeper understanding of our world and how it can be changed for the better.



Visitors interact on a visit to *Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission* at the Senator John Heinz History Center, a Smithsonian Affiliate, in Pittsburgh, PA.
Courtesy James Kegley, 2019



Every year brings new challenges, but also opportunities.

For the year covered by this report, the challenges are well known: the COVID-19 pandemic; a long overdue focus on racial equality, diversity, and justice;

and questions about our future as a cohesive nation.

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and Smithsonian Affiliations responded with programs and exhibitions on social justice and equity, on the multi-faceted American experience, and on the importance of responsible stewardship of the planet.

The pandemic changed the cultural landscape, making it even more important for the Smithsonian to deepen its collaboration with organizations across the nation. It has driven a marked transformation in the use of digital formats to tell our stories, and it has exposed the interdependencies of the country's cultural sector, drawing our organizations closer together to share our strengths.

SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations works with organizations and their communities to ask questions that underlie the foundations of our country: What does it mean to be an American? What core values do we share? How do we forge a consensus that can lead to a better future? How do we sustain our planet?

As the chair of the Advisory Board of SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations, I was greatly encouraged by our work in 2021 on these key opportunities, as well as by the generous support for this work. The Affiliations program received its largest gift ever, added four new members, and SITES launched an exhibition and community engagement program, *The Bias Inside Us*, that garnered both one of the largest gifts and the largest number of donors in its history. These are signs that the work we are doing matters.

Thank you to our director for her vision and leadership and the dedicated, inspirational, and innovative staff who rapidly changed our operating model to adjust for pandemic-related changes in communities around the country.

I would also like to thank the members of the SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations Advisory Board, who so thoughtfully advised the organization—ranging from the development of the strategic plan, recruiting new enthusiastic board members, and serving on exhibit-based fundraising committees. All board members made a meaningful donation this year to fund projects that supported SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations' mission.

On behalf of the board, I extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the museums and cultural institutions around the country for helping expand the impact of the Smithsonian across the nation. I look forward to continuing to work together so that next year we have even more to celebrate.

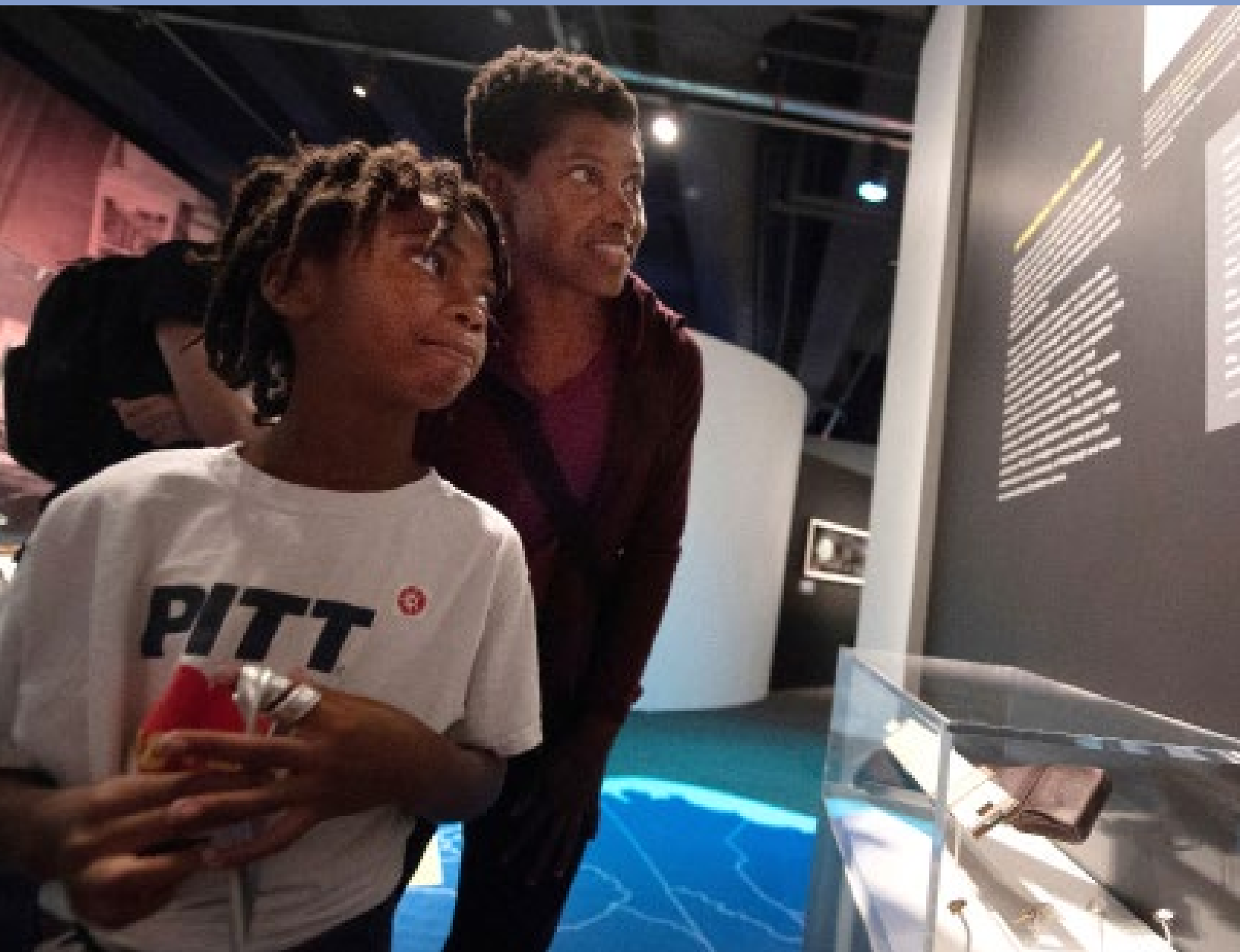
Brenda J. Gaines

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda J. Gaines".

Board Chair

MISSION:

SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations catalyzes public engagement and sparks curiosity and learning by connecting the knowledge, resources, and expertise of the Smithsonian with a vital network of cultural and educational organizations.



Visitors to *Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission* at the Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburg, PA. Courtesy James Kegley, 2019



Welcome to our fiscal year 2021 annual report.

It is a pleasure to share highlights of the work you helped make possible. The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and Smithsonian Affiliations achieved noteworthy milestones in fiscal year 2021: debuting several new exhibitions, welcoming four new Affiliates, implementing a nationwide museum-based internship program, and launching a five-year strategic plan.

Our new strategic plan brings together two mature Smithsonian units: the traveling exhibition service, SITES, which includes the Museum on Main Street program, and Smithsonian Affiliations, which forges long-term relationships with a network of cultural organizations. The plan will help us strengthen our network of museums, libraries, universities, and cultural organizations, reaching millions of people through educational programs, traveling exhibitions, shared scholarship, and community engagement initiatives.

Of course, the fiscal year brought unique challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact our entire field and required us to work in innovative ways, developing new programs while remaining flexible. *The Negro Motorist Green Book* exhibition debuted at an Affiliate, the National Civil Rights Museum, while *The Bias Inside Us* opened at the Science Museum of Minnesota. We successfully introduced a new nationwide internship program that connected 75 college students with 25 Affiliates backed by the Smithsonian's resources. And the Museum on Main Street program saw continued success in bringing exhibitions that tell a national story and serve as a platform for local stories to small towns and communities across the country.

We are grateful for the partnerships with Smithsonian museums and research centers whose staff and scholars gave presentations to Affiliate audiences, fostered networks of collaboration, and provided expertise in support of classroom learning. We are also indebted to the many colleagues who, with us, developed, curated, and advised on traveling exhibitions around scholarship from the Smithsonian and from national collaborators.

We are also deeply appreciative of our advisory board members whose insightful engagement helps us work better. Last but not least, we thank and salute each of our generous donors whose gifts fuel so much of the work we were able to do this year; without your support, none of this would be possible.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with you in 2022!

Myriam Springuel

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myriam Springuel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Director

2021 HIGHLIGHTS



Affiliations National Conference

The conference examined a series of timely questions about the challenges of a global pandemic, racial injustice, political differences, and how we can collaborate with Affiliates to ensure greater reach and impact.

[READ MORE](#)



Picturing Women Inventors is a series of eight posters that explores the inventions of 19 highly accomplished American women

[EXPLORE SITES POSTERS](#)

6,900

printed poster exhibitions
sent to 50 states and
28 countries

The Negro Motorist Green Book

A new exhibition and website looks at the harsh reality of travel for African Americans in mid-century America and how the annual guide offered them a way to travel with dignity, while serving as an indispensable tool for the nation's rising African American businesses.

[READ MORE](#)



50 States/50 Stories: Historic Highlights

SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations marked the Smithsonian's 175th anniversary with the launch of 50 States/50 Stories online interactive. The website explores our work throughout our history with collaborators to expand the reach and impact of the Smithsonian, sharing knowledge, resources and expertise with people everywhere.

EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE

Courtesy Lyman Museum



HAWAII

In 2017, with the coordination of Smithsonian Affiliations, National Museum of American History curator of music Dr. John Troutman traveled more than 4,700 miles to bring his latest research about the Hawaiian steel guitar to the Lyman Museum and the Kona Historical Society in Kealahou, both Smithsonian Affiliates.



MASSACHUSETTS

In 2013, Native artists at the Plymouth Plantation, a Smithsonian Affiliate, worked with the Affiliations program to put a spotlight on Wampanoag culture by donating a traditionally crafted white pine canoe, or *mishoon*, to The National Museum of the American Indian. Courtesy Plymouth Plantation



NEVADA

In 2005, The Museum on Main Street exhibition *Between Fences* traveled to Yerington, Nevada, in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, attacks. The Lyon County Library united people for conversations in the community around the exhibition. The result was "The Freedom Fence," comprised of 700 brightly colored bandanas tied to a barbed wire fence along a local highway. Courtesy Lyon County Library

iPleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues

Baseball has been a social and cultural force within Latino and Latin American communities across the U.S. for over a century. This new exhibition and website is a journey into the heart of American baseball, and how Latinas/os have helped make the game what it is today.

READ MORE



Courtesy La Vida Baseball



Courtesy Smithsonian National Museum of American History

2021 HIGHLIGHTS



Smithsonian's Stories from Main Street Podcast

This podcast is all about rural Americans and their amazing towns, and their connections to the content of Museum on Main Street exhibitions. The first year focused on our critical and complex relationship with water.



26

EXHIBITIONS TO

151

COMMUNITIES IN

36

STATES

More exhibition openings

NARWHAL

REVEALING AN ARCTIC LEGEND

EXPLORE

8 SITES | SMITHSONIAN AFFILIATIONS

LIFE IN
ONE
CUBIC
FOOT

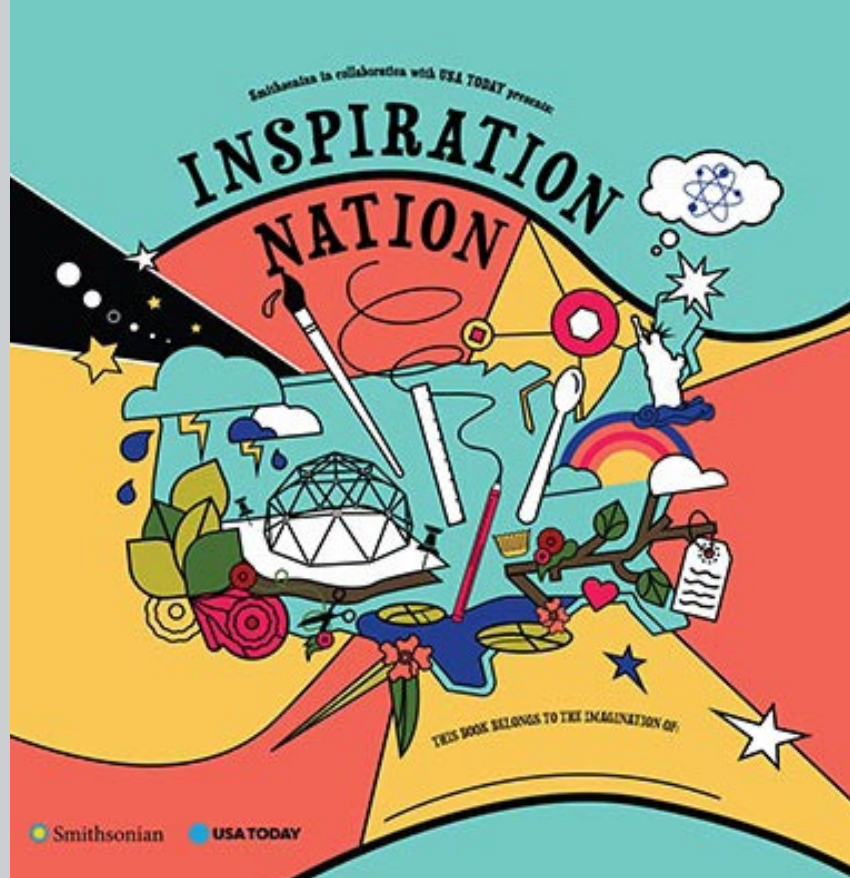
EXPLORE



Smithsonian At-Home Activity Guides

The Smithsonian teamed up with USA Today to distribute student activity guides, filled with hands-on activities, puzzles, and games, on topics in STEM, history, and the arts. Smithsonian Affiliates have been instrumental in helping distribute tens of thousands of the guides across the country.

[READ MORE](#)



Four New Affiliates Join the Smithsonian!

[Dennos Museum Center](#)
TRAVERSE CITY, MI

[Michigan Science Center](#)
DETROIT, MI

[Bell Museum](#)
ST. PAUL, MN

[National Museum of the Pacific War](#)
FREDERICKSBURG, TX



[EXPLORE](#)

A NEW MOON RISES

[EXPLORE](#)



The Bias Inside Us



Major support for *The Bias Inside Us* is provided by the Otto Bremer Trust and is based on an original concept developed by Tolerance in Motion. The full list of supporters may be found on [the project website](#).

Courtesy St. Cloud University

***The Bias Inside Us* community engagement program and exhibition experienced a few starts and stops due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Originally slated to open in June 2020, the opening was continually pushed back while venues remained closed.

At last, on March 2, 2021, with many health and safety measures in place, the Science Museum of Minnesota opened their doors and launched the four-year, 40-city tour of *The Bias Inside Us*. Nearly five years in the making, the project raises awareness about the social science and psychology of implicit bias, the impact of this bias, and what people can do about it. It builds on SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations' long-standing commitment to inspire a deeper understanding of our world and how it can be changed for the better.

Visitors to the exhibition explore the foundational blocks of bias, the psychology of how it forms and how it influences behaviors both consciously and unconsciously. Interactive elements display how implicit and explicit bias show up in the world and how bias shapes systems and policies that have consequences for many people and communities.

But the exhibition is just one piece; it serves as a centerpiece for local programming and activities developed by the hosting organizations. Examples include:

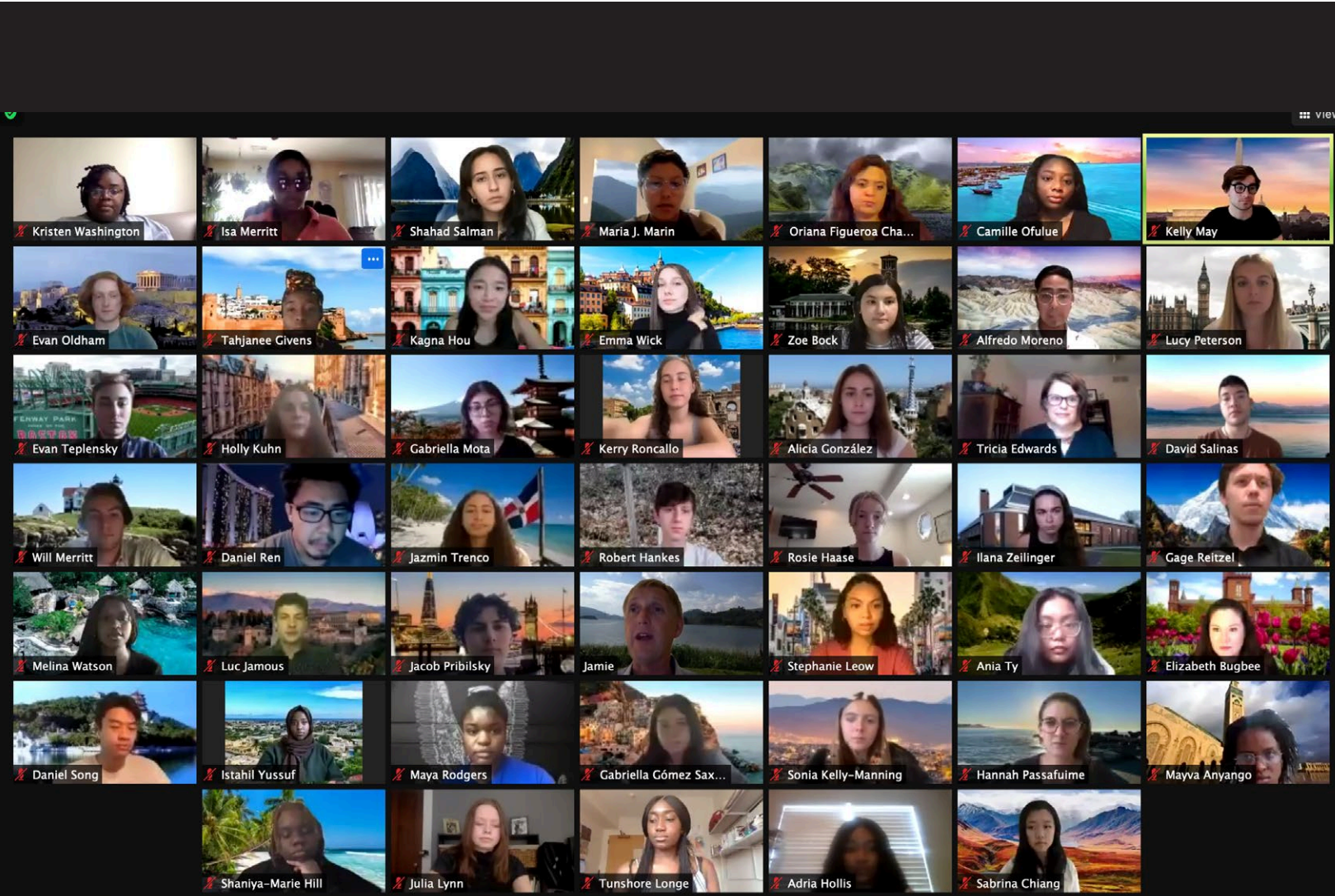
- The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, a Smithsonian Affiliate in Cedar Rapids, partnered with students to create a *Bias Inside Us* mural.
- At the Schaumburg Township District Library in Illinois, a virtual lecture by Spanish photographer Angélica Dass focused on her *Humanæ* project (included in the exhibition) and her pursuit to document humanity's true colors rather than the untrue white, red, black, and yellow associated with race.
- St. Cloud State University designed a program for high school and college students and community members that included visits to the exhibition, to the campus' visualization lab to look at bias in science and technology, and to the School of Health and Human Services to engage in a conversation about how bias affects health care.
- SITES partnered with Dr. Tessa Charlesworth from Harvard University, our implicit bias content expert, to develop a robust virtual exhibition.



The exhibition is affirming, empathic, colorful, hands-on, welcoming, nurturing and inspiring... Why not make it a day of wellness and enrichment as you do yourself a favor visiting this exhibition?

– Patrick Muller, in *The Gazette*
[Cedar Rapids, IA], 3 May 2021, Opinion.

75 Interns Join Innovative Internship with Smithsonian Affiliates



A zoom meeting with the Smithsonian Affiliate Digital Learning and Engagement interns.

In summer 2021, Smithsonian Affiliations, along with 25 Affiliates, collaborated with Emerson Collective to reinvent its internship program.

Designed as an entirely virtual experience, the Smithsonian Affiliate Digital Learning and Engagement Internship removed the barriers of physical residency and associated costs that can deter students from being able to participate in internships.

Making the internship possible was the collaboration with 25 Smithsonian Affiliates in communities spanning from Connecticut to Alaska. Each Affiliate collaborator was matched with a team of three students to address one of five topics: women's history, race and social justice, the changing American narrative, climate change, and COVID-19 vaccine education.

Throughout the internship, the Smithsonian was the connector between the 75 interns, the Affiliate organization, and Emerson Collective, providing access to experts, conversations with Smithsonian leadership, and enrichment opportunities. In addition to generously funding this project, the Emerson Collective also provided programming opportunities that helped facilitate conversations between interns and leaders in areas such as education, immigration, and racial justice. And Affiliate organizations provided meetings and enrichment activities to expand the students' knowledge of the impact museums have on local communities.

Students worked with Affiliate organizations to produce educational modules, or collections, on the [Smithsonian Learning Lab](#) platform, an interactive website sharing educational content with learners of all ages. The collections made Affiliate resources that otherwise may not have been available digitally accessible to a wider audience to connect with exhibitions, programs, and educational material. All student collections are published and searchable on the Learning Lab platform for educators and students using the hashtag #SAinterns. Learning Lab projects are highlighted on [the Smithsonian Affiliations website](#) and provide access to all student collections.

"I feel so lucky to have been selected to be a part of the Smithsonian Digital Internship program. I am especially grateful for the many inspiring speakers, conversations, and enrichment opportunities we all had this summer. My summer experiences have been incredibly eye opening, and I know they will continue to influence my future endeavors and career path as I move forward."

- Lucy Peterson, intern,
Mid-America Science Museum,
Hot Springs, AR

Exhibitions and Collaborations Help Utah #ThinkWater



EXPLORE

*H2O Today on display in Utah.
Courtesy Utah Humanities*

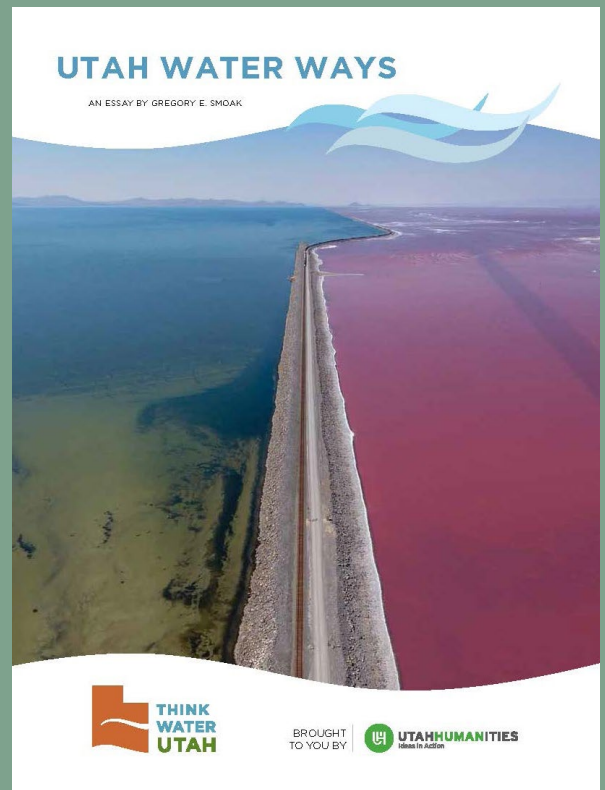
SITES' *H2O Today* and MoMS' *Water/Ways* exhibitions prompt deep engagement and create powerful impacts. Both exhibitions challenge visitors to think about every impact water has on them and their communities.

Utah Humanities, a long-time collaborator with the Museum on Main Street program, utilized back-to-back tours of *Water/Ways* and *H2O Today* as the core of a statewide initiative, **Think Water Utah**, to focus attention on Utah's complex and diverse water story. Vast arid areas that get little rainfall are bounded by mountain ranges that wring large amounts of snow from weather systems. European American approaches on water use and access have sometimes been at odds with deep traditions in American Indian communities.

Think Water Utah quickly became a water programming tour de force, with Utah Humanities forging partnerships with multiple partners to create real public impact.

- The Utah Museum of Fine Arts created a companion community-based art exhibition and educational programs that could be used all over the state.
- The Natural History Museum of Utah also developed a water-themed exhibition helping to expand the reach of the initiative to Salt Lake City.
- Utah Humanities worked with public radio stations to showcase a new water story each week, airing 56 episodes five times weekly, and joined MoMS' Stories: YES program to enhance work with local youth.
- The American West Center's director, Dr. Greg Smoak, developed a comprehensive essay that became an engaging booklet on Utah's water stories.

- West Valley City Arts created educational modules on water.
- Water/Ways hosts participated in training sessions that enhanced their professional capacity and strengthened their local companion water-themed exhibitions.
- H2O Today sites worked with Utah Humanities to develop companion content.
- Utah Humanities and its partners developed projects that included interviews with area scientists and ecologists, explored the diversity of viewpoints on water usage and access, and used art to connect Utahns with their water stories.



Pivoting in a Pandemic

Facing the challenges born out of the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racism, we are inspired by the resiliency of our collaborating organizations, communities, and Affiliates.



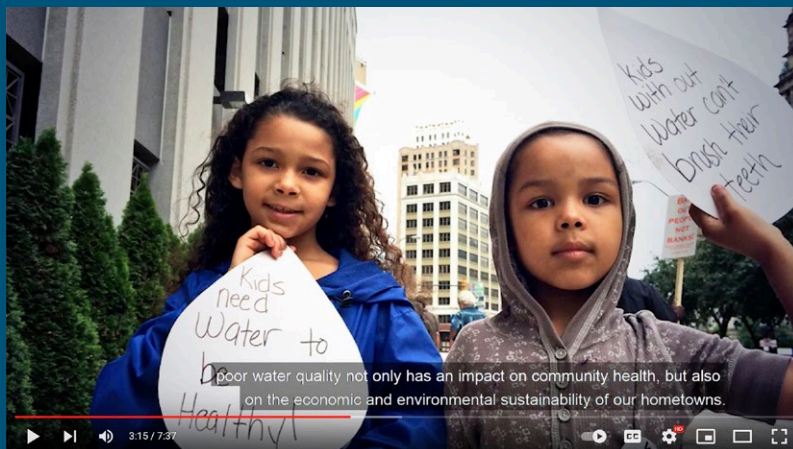
Men of Change: Taking it to the Streets

With a closed facility due to COVID-19, the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum worked with SITES to reinterpret and redesign the exhibition *Men of Change* to be presented outside. Placed on the city sidewalks around the Ron Brown High School and the Deanwood Recreation Center in Northeast Washington, D.C., *Men of Change: Taking it to the Streets* was an opportunity to experience the Smithsonian in the neighborhood. Through multiple standalone and fence displays on the campus, it profiled significant African American men who are powerful icons in the country's historical and cultural landscape. A section added to the original seven-part show allowed the students and community to designate and honor local men of change. The exhibition's impact was further augmented by pop-up projections of photos on buildings in other areas of the city, and a series of targeted virtual programs with the school and Deanwood community.



**LISTEN
NOW**

An audio experience featuring the voices of Deanwood community members and Ron Brown High School students describes the achievements of some of our country's most inspiring Black men.



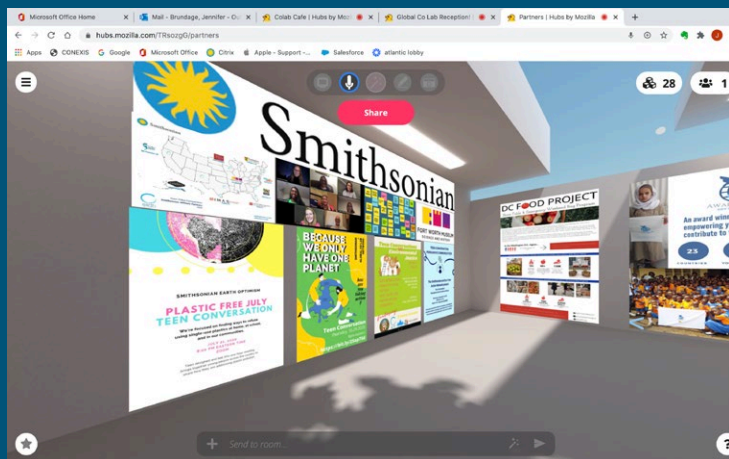
Smithsonian Affiliations/ Earth Optimism

The Smithsonian has been partnering with Affiliates to address climate change, working with youth to develop project-based action plans tailored to their communities. Smithsonian Affiliations and the Smithsonian's Conservation Commons teamed up to ask students to share their ideas for addressing the environmental concerns we all face. Aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, their innovative solutions come from around the country, and provide fresh insight into problem solving for their communities—in their homes, schools, and hometowns. As part of the Smithsonian's Earth Optimism initiative, these students, working with mentors at Smithsonian Affiliate organizations, created two-minute videos to present ideas that can be replicated and scaled, and present a sense of hope in the dialogue around conservation and sustainability.



MoMS Program Starter Videos and Video Exhibition Tours

Like most museums and cultural organizations, Museum on Main Street hosts suffered significant impacts from closures and restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. MoMS' staff and its partners at the state and local level worked hard and creatively to keep exhibitions open to the public as much as possible. Flexibility was the name of the game! MoMS created a series of "program starter" videos that hosts could use to enhance virtual programs. Host communities transitioned quickly to digital engagement by creating online tours of their Smithsonian and local exhibitions. In Summerville, Georgia, *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* had been open just one week when facilities all over the state closed. To help the community enjoy and think about the content they could not visit, state partner Georgia Humanities brought in a film crew to record a video tour that not only introduced *Crossroads*, but also highlighted local exhibitions and recognized the work of local partners.



IN 2021,

300+ SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations

Engagements with Smithsonian Partners



Courtesy Hoggin Museum

Exhibitions

Anacostia Community Museum
National Air and Space Museum
National Museum of African American History and Culture
National Museum of American History
National Museum of the American Indian
National Museum of Natural History
National Portrait Gallery
Office of Public Affairs
Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative
Smithsonian Exhibits
Smithsonian Gardens
Smithsonian Latino Center
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

18 SITES | SMITHSONIAN AFFILIATIONS

Publications

Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
Office of the Chief Information Officer
Office of the Under Secretary for Education
Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery
Smithsonian Enterprises
Smithsonian Magazine

Professional Development

Access Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Social Media

Anacostia Community Museum
Digitization Program Office
National Museum of African American History and Culture
Office of the Secretary
Smithsonian Gardens
Smithsonian Latino Center





Speakers

National Air and Space Museum
 National Museum of African American History and Culture
 National Museum of American History
 National Museum of the American Indian
 National Portrait Gallery
 National Postal Museum
 Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery
 Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute

Consulting

National Museum of American History
 Office of the Chief Information Officer
 Smithsonian Archives

Object Loans

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
 National Air and Space Museum
 National Museum of American History

Internships

Office of Educational Technology
 Office of Internship Programs
 Office of the Under Secretary for Education



Courtesy Cincinnati Museum Center

Public Programs

National Museum of American History
 National Museum of Asian Art
 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and External Affairs
 Office of the Under Secretary for Education
 Smithsonian Associates
 Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
 Smithsonian Channel
 Smithsonian Conservation Commons
 Smithsonian Enterprises



Courtesy History Colorado

SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations Staff

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Director
Rebecca Robinson

SITES Administration/ Finance

Marc Wynne, Deputy
Director for Operations
Asia Edwards
Maria Armstead
Robin Mays
LaTrenda Thompson
Dwon Weston

Advancement

Bob Leipold
Jennifer Kuo Li O'Keefe
Emily Shah

Smithsonian Affiliations

Tricia Edwards,
Deputy Director for
Smithsonian Affiliations
Jennifer Brundage
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Elizabeth Bugbee
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Aaron Glavas
Laura Hansen
Gertrude Ross
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SITES Exhibitions Department

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Patsy-Ann Rasmussen
Minnie Russell
Christina Schwartz
Juana Shadid
Michelle Torres-Carmona
Elizabeth Wilson
Odia Wood-Krueger
Laura Zelle

Museum on Main Street

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Tiffany Cheng
Terri Cobb
Robbie Davis
Selwyn Ramp
Sydney Thatcher

Public Affairs

Jennifer Schommer
Arlene Irizarry
Sydnee Winston



(Above) SITES staff on site at the *Men of Change: Taking it to the Streets* exhibition in Washington, D.C. (Below) Smithsonian Affiliations staff attend a program at the Hirshhorn Museum.

SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations Advisory Board

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Ms. Gay F. Wray
(Member, Nominations Committee)
Paradise Valley, AZ

We would like to thank Ms. Sarah Lawer, whose term ended, and Mr. James G. Vella, who stepped down from the Board in 2021 after many years of service.

The Bias Inside Us was supported by the largest group of donors in the history of SITES | Smithsonian Affiliations, including nearly all members of our Advisory Board.



Thanks to Our FY21 Donors* and Supporters

The Bias Inside Us

Atlanta Gas Light Foundation
The Dreier Family
The Roger S. Firestone Foundation
(Gay F. Wray)
Brenda J. Gaines
Judy and Bob Huret
Dr. Christine C. Jenkins and
Mr. Pierre A. France
Lorna Ho Randlett
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The Anna Cohn Community Fund

The Roger S. Firestone Foundation
(Gay F. Wray)
Betsy Lawer
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The Director's Opportunity Account

The Dreier Family
Lennart Ehn and Ginger Lew
Roger S. Firestone Foundation
(Gay F. Wray)
Brenda J. Gaines
Myra M. Hart
Kathleen Mason

Knowing Nature: Stories of the Boreal Forest

Valerie and William Anders
Charlie and Nancy Hogan
Anne C. Madison

Smithsonian Affiliate Digital Learning and Engagement Internship

Emerson Collective

Museum on Main Street Humanities Council Collaborators

Alabama Humanities Alliance
Alaska Humanities Forum
Arizona Humanities
Arkansas Humanities Council
California Humanities
Colorado Humanities
Connecticut Humanities
Delaware Humanities
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Iowa Economic Development
Authority
Humanities Kansas
Kentucky Humanities
Louisiana Endowment for the
Humanities
Maine Humanities Council
Maryland Humanities
Mass Humanities
Michigan Humanities

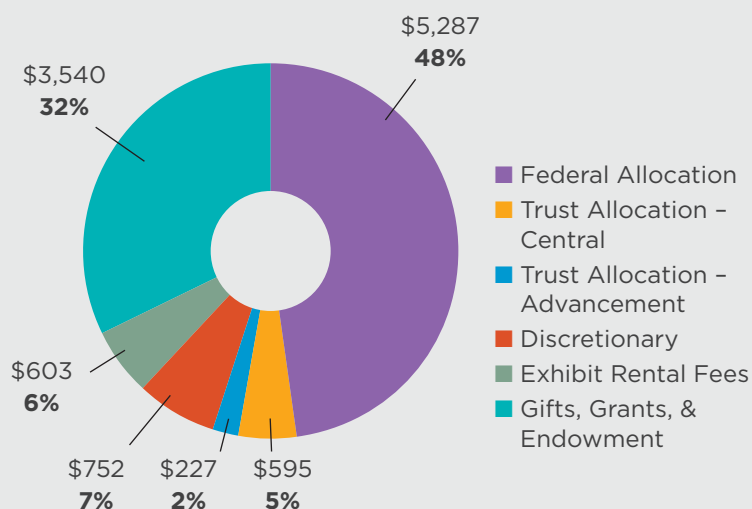
Minnesota Humanities Center
Mississippi Humanities Council
Missouri Humanities
Humanities Montana
Humanities Nebraska
Nevada Humanities
New Jersey Council for the
Humanities
New Mexico Humanities Council
Museum Association of New York
North Carolina Humanities
Humanities North Dakota
Ohio Humanities
Oklahoma Humanities
Oregon Humanities
South Carolina Humanities
South Dakota Humanities Council
Humanities Tennessee
Texas Historical Commission
Texas State Historical Association
University of Texas at El Paso
Utah Humanities
Virginia Association of Museums
Virginia Humanities
Humanities Washington
West Virginia Humanities Council
Wisconsin Humanities
Wyoming Humanities

*Gifts of \$1,000 and more from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

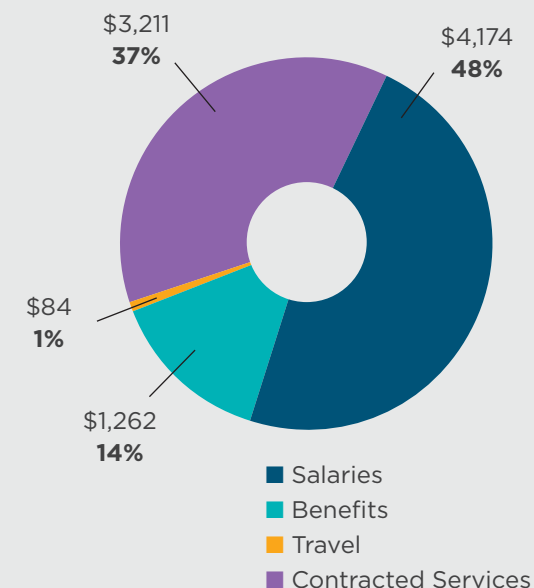
Financial Report

SITES FY21 Resources and Expenses (\$ in thousands)

Resources: \$11,004*



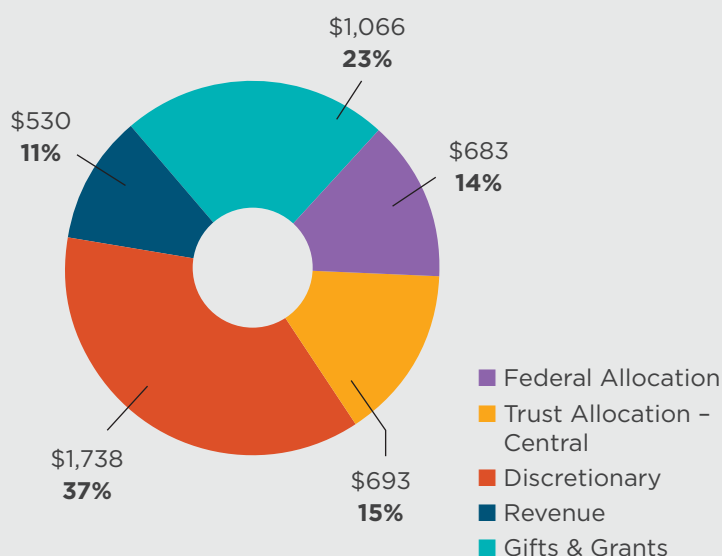
Expenses: \$8,731*



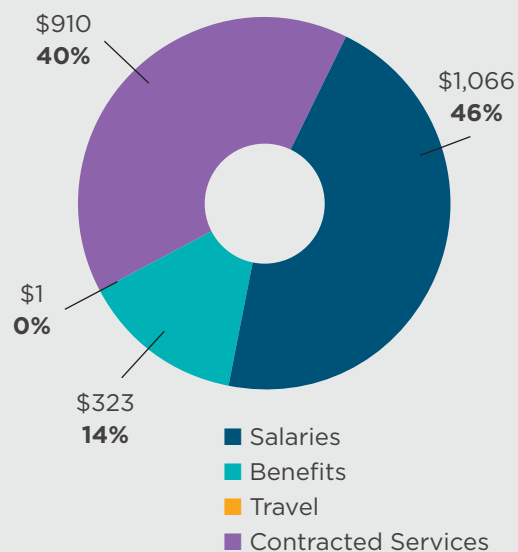
*As of September 30, 2021.

AFFILIATIONS FY21 Resources and Expenses (\$ in thousands)

Resources: \$4,710*



Expenses: \$2,300*



*As of September 30, 2021.



Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service
Smithsonian Affiliations

PO Box 37012
MRC 941
Washington, DC 20013-7012
sites.si.edu

For current Affiliates visit
affiliations.si.edu

For current exhibitions
and host venues visit
sites.si.edu

For venues and states hosting
MoMS exhibitions visit
museumonmainstreet.org

A visitor to *The Bias Inside Us* exhibition
on display in St. Cloud, Minnesota.
Courtesy St. Cloud University

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