



Smithsonian Affiliations

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Smithsonian Affiliations is a unique strategic initiative that connects the Smithsonian's collections, programming, and research with museums, educational, and cultural organizations and their communities. Smithsonian Affiliations identifies potential collaborations for exhibition, educational or research programs and makes long-term loans available as appropriate, and subject to available funding and resources.

Smithsonian Affiliations helps member organizations identify appropriate resources within the Smithsonian to accompany exhibit loans: education and performing arts programs, expert speakers, teacher workshops, and technical assistance. These may also serve as standalone activities developed specifically for Affiliates. Smithsonian Affiliations also offers internships for Affiliate-based students and stipended professional development opportunities for Affiliate-based visiting professionals. A Smithsonian Affiliate may use the tag line, "In Association with the Smithsonian Institution" and the approved Smithsonian Affiliations logo.

Any 501(c)(3) nonprofit or publicly-operated entity can apply to become a Smithsonian Affiliate. The Smithsonian considers proposals from organizations whose missions and activities are appropriate for affiliation under its policies and will advance the Smithsonian mission and strategic plan

[http://www.si.edu/Content/Pdf/About/SI_Strategic_Plan_2010-2015.pdf].

Organizations interested in participating in the program need to apply following the steps set forth at [<https://affiliations.si.edu/DetailPage.Asp?MenuID=20>]. The proposal should include areas of interest for potential collaboration and documentation verifying the organization's nonprofit status, a mission statement, organization chart, collections management policy, annual reports, IRS Form 990s, and a facilities report that follows the American Association of Museums format. The applicant should also complete the Profile Summary Sheet.

After the proposal is reviewed and approved, the Smithsonian drafts an agreement that is signed by the Director of Smithsonian Affiliations and the authorized representative of the affiliating organization. The affiliating organization may then refer to itself as a "Smithsonian Affiliate" under the Smithsonian's guidelines for use of its name.

Smithsonian Affiliations will assign a staff outreach manager to work directly with the new affiliating organization. The staff outreach manager will assist in linking the Affiliate to appropriate individuals and offices within the Smithsonian in order to expedite the process of identifying artifacts, exhibits or programmatic resources. The outreach manager, in conjunction with other staff at the Smithsonian, will work with the Affiliate to determine the scope and feasibility of each request. The Affiliate is responsible for paying direct costs associated with borrowing artifacts. These typically include conservation treatment, packing, shipping, insurance, and if necessary, staff travel for installation and deinstallation of exhibits.

The Affiliation agreement is intended to establish a long-term relationship between the Smithsonian and the affiliating organization. There is no time limitation on the

relationship; it can last as long as both parties find it mutually beneficial. As long as the agreement is in place, the affiliating organization agrees to pay an annual fee, currently \$2,500, in order to cover administrative costs associated with the program. The agreement can be terminated at any given time with the consent of both parties. The Smithsonian also retains the right to suspend or terminate an affiliation if the Affiliate fails to fulfill its obligations as stipulated in the Affiliations Policy or the agreement.

Smithsonian Affiliates enjoy a broad range of benefits including special opportunities offered by the Smithsonian Enterprises. An annual conference brings the entire Smithsonian Affiliate community to Washington D.C. each year, where attendees are given unique behind the scenes tours of the Smithsonian, and engage directly with Smithsonian curators, educators, and other resource specialists. Networks within the Smithsonian Affiliate community provide new and unforeseen avenues for regional, cultural, topical and audience-oriented types of support and collaboration.