



Suitland Collections Center Master Plan
Executive Summary





Smithsonian Institution

During this time of change, the Smithsonian remains steadfast and committed to its mission to increase and diffuse knowledge. We have an opportunity to look to both our past and our future, thinking about the best ways to work together to enable audiences across the globe to experience our world-renowned scholarship, research, and collections in new and exciting ways. Collections assembled throughout the Smithsonian's history and collected today are being used to document and address challenges facing society, including the effects of the deadly COVID virus, systemic racism, and the climate crisis.

As we celebrate our 175th anniversary, we must build on our legacy of collections stewardship, scholarship, and education. The Smithsonian has always planned for the future – which includes addressing our current and long-term collections space needs to preserve and provide access to our collections for generations to come.

The Suitland Collections Center Master Plan builds on the Collections Space Framework Plan and is a critical component of our future. The Master Plan serves as a 40-year roadmap for developing a more sustainable, resilient, cohesive, and integrated campus at Suitland with shared operations, staffing, and spaces. Both plans support concurrent development of the Suitland and Dulles campuses to address our near and long-term collections space requirements. This plan summarizes a multi-year, highly collaborative, and interdisciplinary planning effort conducted by collections and facilities staff from across the Smithsonian. The Master Plan and the planning process serve as a model of One Smithsonian collaboration and the value of teamwork.

The findings, strategies, and recommendations which follow sound an urgent call to action. To continue fulfilling our mission to acquire new collections and to safeguard collections already entrusted in our care, the Smithsonian needs more space and must leverage opportunities to realize more efficient and effective operations through shared facilities and resources. Implementation of the Suitland Collections Center Master Plan will require decisive action and steadfast commitment to collections stewardship in the coming decades – which is fundamental to carrying out the Smithsonian's mission.

I want to acknowledge all who have contributed to the success of this important master planning effort.

Lonnie G. Bunch III
Secretary

Introduction

The Suitland Collections Center is a 110-acre campus in Prince George's County, Maryland, approximately seven miles from the National Mall in Washington, DC. It serves as the Smithsonian Institution's principal off-site storage and conservation facility the Smithsonian maintains on behalf of the nation, the world, and future generations.

The Smithsonian's collections – 155 million objects and specimens, 163,400 cubic feet of archival material, and 2.2 million library volumes – are maintained in 2.3 million square feet in 35 locations. The Suitland site currently comprises 40 percent of the Smithsonian's total collections space and houses 60 percent of its collection holdings. The campus is divided into four separate sectors, each developed independently over time: the Museum Support Center (MSC), the National Museum of the American Indian's Cultural Resources Center (NMAI CRC), the Smithsonian Gardens' Greenhouse, and the Paul E. Garber Facility (Garber).

The Suitland Collections Center Master Plan (SCC Master Plan) serves as a 40-year roadmap for development that will enhance stewardship of the collections. The Master Plan culminates a multi-year, highly collaborative and interdisciplinary process organized to create a cohesive, integrated campus. Fostering pan-Institutional partnership, communication, and sharing of resources, the SCC Master Plan builds on the *Collections Space Framework Plan* (CSFP) of 2014 as a pragmatic and integrated strategy for improving and expanding collections storage.



Collections stewardship is the basis of a public trust that began with the Smithsonian's founding in 1846. Storage spaces must be purpose-built, secure, and carefully controlled environments if they are to protect and safeguard irreplaceable collection items. The CSFP confirmed that providing appropriate collections space is critical to carrying out the Smithsonian's mission, strategic plan, and programmatic goals.

As part of the CSFP planning initiative, the Smithsonian completed a first-of-its-kind survey of existing collections space, both owned and leased. The survey provided a snapshot of current facilities and identified the quality of construction, storage equipment, environmental conditions, security and fire protection. It revealed some locations require complete replacement, such as the Garber Facility, which houses collections in substandard conditions, or basement storage areas at risk of water damage.



The Suitland Collections Center Master Plan (SCC Master Plan) serves as a 40-year roadmap for development that will enhance stewardship of the collections.

Figure 1: *Suitland Collections Center Aerial View*

Introduction

The CSFP findings and recommendations sounded an urgent call to action that advanced programming and helped to secure funding for critical improvements at Garber, the MSC, the Dulles Collections Center (DCC) at Chantilly, Virginia, and on the National Mall. Projects include:

- Decontamination and removal of hazardous material at Garber Buildings 15, 16, and 18, and the construction of Building 37 to serve as temporary swing space.
- Construction of a new storage module adjacent to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center at the DCC to support the continued move of the National Air and Space Museum's (NASM) collections from substandard conditions at Garber and the immediate need for temporary swing space during the NASM Mall Building revitalization.
- Renovation of the National Museum of American History's (NMAH) Objects Processing Facility at the NMAH Mall Building that improves space utilization, design and functionality.
- Design and planned construction of Pod 6 at the MSC for at-risk collections currently at Garber, several Mall museums and the National Gallery of Art. Pod 6 will also provide critical temporary and permanent collections space for NMAH's East Wing Public Space Renewal Project.



- Design and planned relocation of the National Museum of Natural History's (NMNH) Botany Greenhouse on the Suitland campus to enable the construction of Pod 6.
- Integration of collections space planning in master plans for Smithsonian units, including NASM, NMAH, NMAI and the Anacostia Community Museum.
- Existing conditions are now documented in a collections space database which is routinely updated and analyzed to identify future projects and provide continuing metrics on progress in improving conditions and building additional space.



Introduction

The SCC Master Plan outlines a strategy to improve the preservation and accessibility of collections by increasing the capacity and quality of the SCC campus. Over the next 40 years, the campus can accommodate approximately 40 percent of the Smithsonian's projected requirement for collections space. An additional location will be necessary to support the remaining 60 percent. The DCC appears to be the best-suited location to address this significant need.

The SCC Master Plan includes a:

- Program for collections spaces and non-collections support spaces
- Identification of the units and functions to be located at the SCC, including those that already have significant facilities on campus, and those best located at Dulles
- Site Development plan, including internal circulation and adjacencies
- Landscape plan, Sustainability plan, Design Guidance, and a 40-year Implementation plan with planning-level budget cost estimates
- Concepts to confirm the capacity of the DCC to accommodate additional collections as well as those of NASM



The CSFP and the SCC Master Plan support concurrent development of the Suitland and Dulles campuses in order to address the Smithsonian's intermediate and long-term collections space needs. A DCC Master Plan is a logical next step.

The SCC Master Plan is composed of *Volume 1 - Existing Conditions Analysis, Volume 2 - Master Plan Development Report, and Volume 3 - Appendices.*

The SCC Master Plan outlines a strategy to improve the preservation and accessibility of collections by increasing the capacity and quality of the SCC campus.



Process

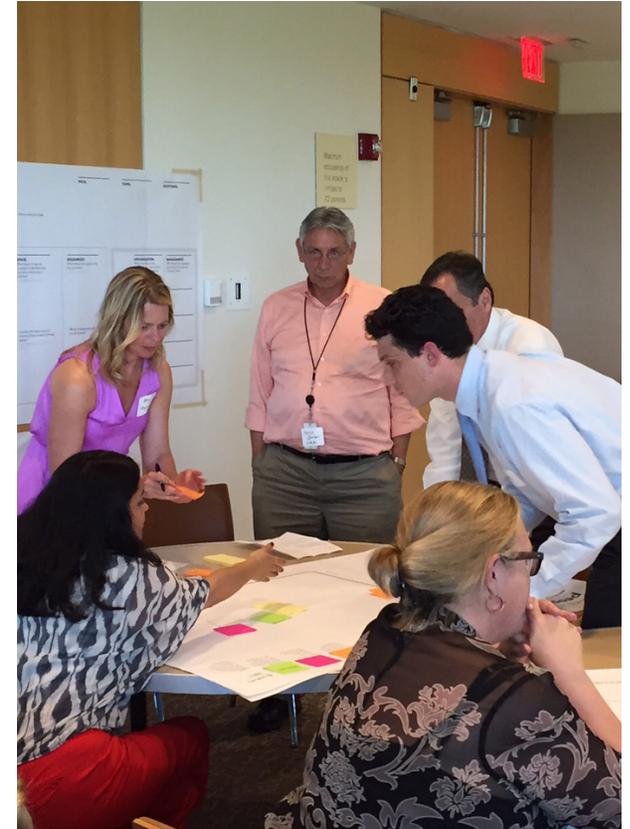
In September 2015, the Smithsonian commissioned the Master Plan Design Team, a panel of consultants led by Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), to help develop a plan to improve the SCC. Management was provided by an interdisciplinary project administration group (PAG) representing collecting units, the National Collections Program (NCP), and Smithsonian Facilities (SF).

On June 6th, 2016, Smithsonian and unit leader stakeholders from across the Institution came together in a facilitated workshop to articulate their vision for the reimagined campus, as reported in the *Suitland Campus Visioning Report, June 2016*. This guided the design team to develop the two-campus program and site development scenarios, which were reviewed by an expanded PAG. In October 2017 and 2018, two additional workshops with senior and unit leadership were conducted at the preliminary and final stages of the plan to confirm direction.

The Master Plan Design Team updated the collections space analysis from the CSFP, and projected collections growth over 40 years based on findings from the collections space database, the NCP, and interviews with representatives of

Smithsonian collecting units. In addition, the team conducted a thorough review of existing physical and operational conditions and requirements for the Suitland site through review of SF project archives, site visits, and interviews with collections, SF, and other Smithsonian staff. These are reported in *Volume 1 – Existing Conditions Analysis*.

Based on the themes identified in the Visioning Report and analysis of needs and existing conditions, the Master Plan Design Team developed a robust space program for collections and non-collections support, imagined site development alternatives, and led the Smithsonian to identify a preferred alternative for the SCC campus. The plan includes an implementation strategy with planning-level project cost estimates. A materials management study and a transportation management plan contributed to an informed solution. The team also developed a concept-level program and site development strategies for the DCC campus. These are all included in *Volume 2 - Master Plan Development Report with additional detail in Volume 3 - Appendices*.



EXTERNAL OUTREACH AND REVIEW

Because the SCC is located within the National Capital Region, the Master Plan was reviewed by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC). NCPC's review of plans and projects focuses largely on compliance with Federal Elements of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*. The most relevant plan elements are those outlining goals and policies for transportation, federal workplace, and urban design.

Smithsonian staff worked closely with NCPC, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, and the Maryland Department of the Environment, and coordinated with the National Park Service.

The Plan received favorable comments when presented to the Prince George's County Planning Board. At its meeting on June 4th, 2020, NCPC adopted a recommendation supporting the SCC Master Plan with specific steps and milestones to

reduce the ratio of parking spaces to employees to 1:3 and transportation demand management measures over the next 20 years, as well as environmentally sensitive security improvements and replacement of removed trees.

While the long-term effects of the current COVID-19 pandemic are unknown, they surely will impact interim commuting and transportation. In FY 2021, the Smithsonian will conduct a survey to better identify commuting patterns and the number of staff and visitors using Smithsonian facilities.

Over the next 10 years, parking will be reduced with pre-Master Plan projects. NCPC will continue to review individual projects as they are implemented and will continue to monitor attainment of transportation management goals and parking ratios.



Strategies

In 2016, Smithsonian and unit leadership met to discuss ways to increase programmatic diversity and collections accessibility at the SCC. These major themes emerged from the visioning session:

- **COLLECTIONS-CENTERED PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS**
- **ENABLING SHARED OPERATIONS, STAFFING, AND SPACES**
- **IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Master Plan Design Team developed strategies with these themes as guideposts.

COLLECTIONS-CENTERED PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS

The Smithsonian will create a state-of-the-art campus at Suitland for storing, preserving, and researching collections.

Over the next 40 years, the Smithsonian will require more than 2.8 million net square feet of collections space to meet current needs, to accommodate collections growth, to meet existing decompression requirements, and to consolidate storage into Smithsonian-owned facilities.

The SCC can meet 40 percent of this projected space requirement. Responsible stewardship mandates that a second site, ideally the DCC, be developed that can accommodate the remaining total need. This choice to coordinate collections strategies between SCC and another Smithsonian site is an efficient use of capacity to meet shared programmatic goals.

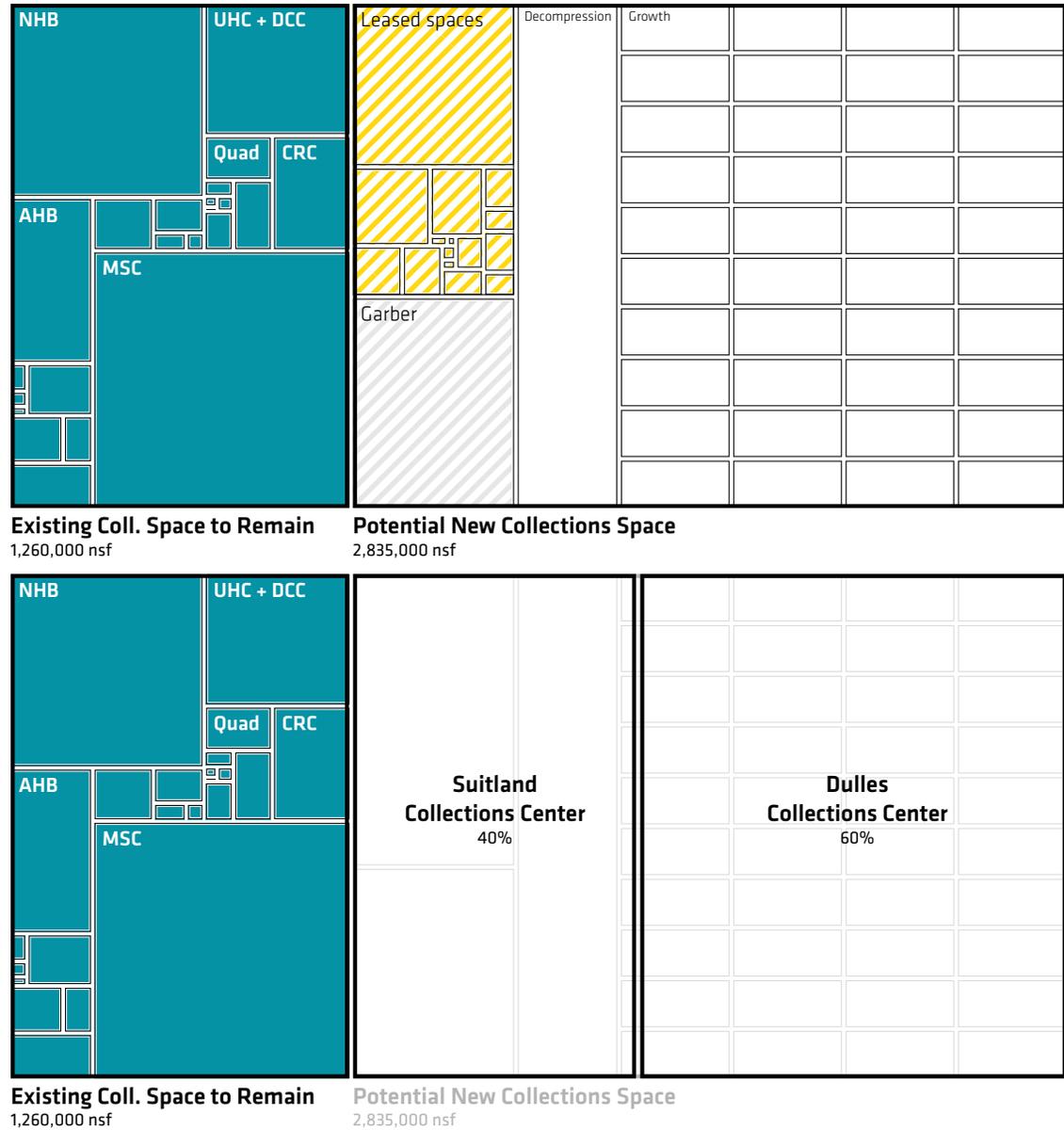


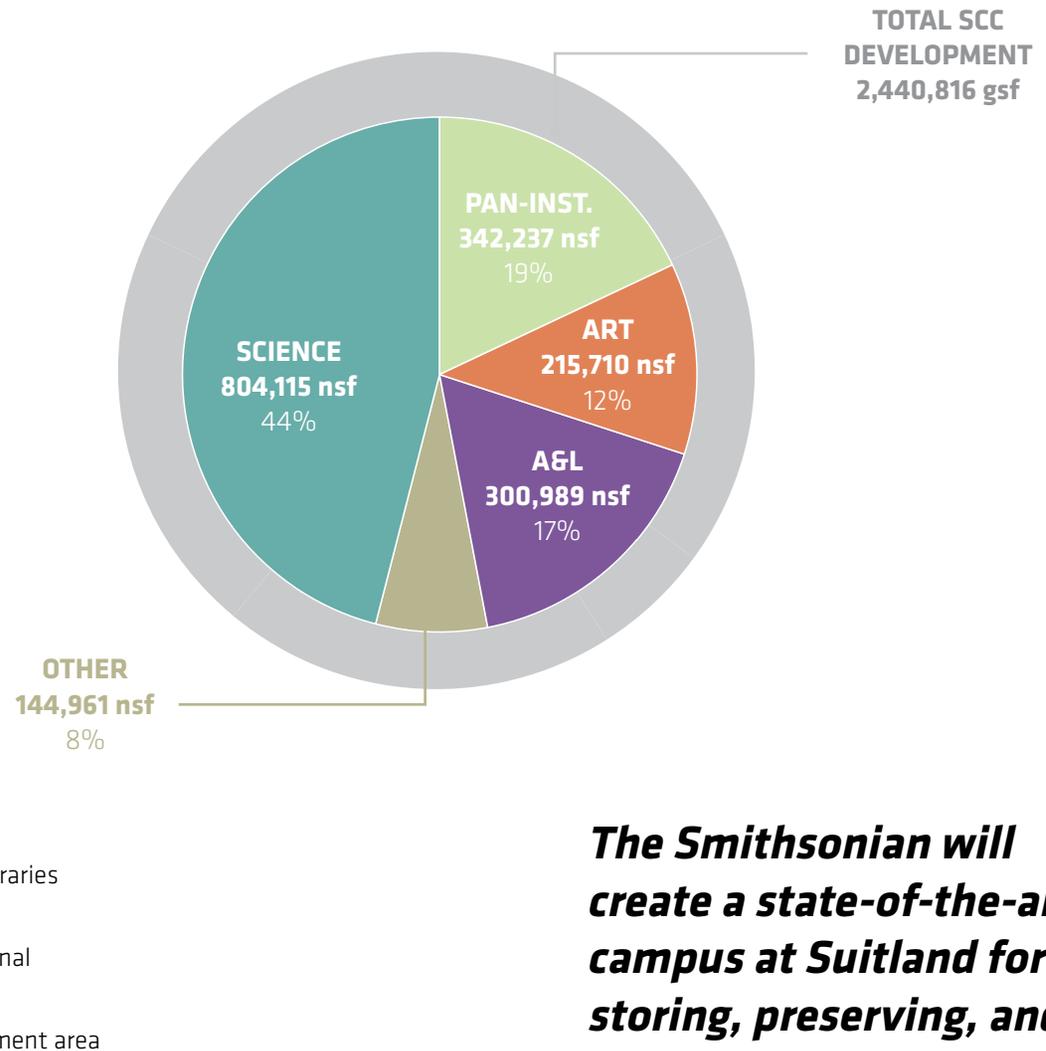
Figure 2: Collections Space Needs

In a pan-Institutional workshop, stakeholders identified collecting units to be located at the SCC and DCC based on existing locations, commonalities, site capacity for program growth, object type and access.

Art, Archives & Libraries, Science, and other units, including those with a substantial existing presence, would be located at SCC where growth could be accommodated.

History & Culture units, including Air & Space which is already represented at the Udvar-Hazy Center and adjacent storage module, would best be located at the DCC where there is already a context for large, transportation-related objects and public access. Approximately 900,000 gross square feet (gsf) of buildings will remain at SCC, and 1.5 million gsf must be built to vacate obsolete facilities at Garber and accommodate the growth of Art, Archives & Libraries, Science, and other collecting units.

SCC by Unit Groups in 40 years 1.8 million nsf (2.4 million gsf)



The Smithsonian will create a state-of-the-art campus at Suitland for storing, preserving, and researching collections.

Figure 3: Program Allocation per Unit Group

Strategies

Art, Archives & Libraries, Science, and other units, including those with a substantial existing presence, would be located at SCC where growth could be accommodated.

Suitland Collections Center

Art + Archives & Libraries + Science

Art

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery (AMSG), Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (HMSG), National Museum of African Art (NMAfA), National Portrait Gallery (NPG), Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)

Archives & Libraries

Archives of American Art (AAA), Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH), Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA), Smithsonian Libraries (SIL)

Science

National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), Smithsonian Gardens (SG)*

*SG collections are considered “Science” for the purpose of this study

Other

Anacostia Community Museum (ACM), Architectural History and Historic Preservation (AHHP), National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI)

Pan-Institutional

Museum Conservation Institute (MCI), Smithsonian Exhibits (SIE), Smithsonian Facilities (SF), Office of Protection Services (OPS), Non-collections program, Shared collections program

Dulles Collections Center

Air & Space + History & Culture

Air & Space

National Air and Space Museum (NASM)

History & Culture

National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), National Museum of American History (NMAH), National Postal Museum (NPM)

Pan-Institutional

Smithsonian Facilities (SF), Office of Protection Services (OPS), Non-collections program, Shared collections program

Figure 4: SCC/DCC units

Approximately 900,000 gross square feet (gsf) of buildings will remain at SCC, and 1.5 million gsf must be built to vacate obsolete facilities at Garber and accommodate the growth of Art, Archives & Libraries, Science, and other collecting units.

Given the planned space increase and the concentration of Smithsonian collections and supporting-unit capacities at Suitland, the number of full-time staff is estimated to grow to approximately 550 people. Staffing will change based on Institutional and unit directives, funding, and new ways of working. Additionally, the number of rotating employees, visiting scholars and researchers, and support personnel will increase as the SCC campus accommodates more collections management, research, and collaboration activities. Therefore, an additional 350 users are estimated, bringing the total campus population to approximately 900 people.

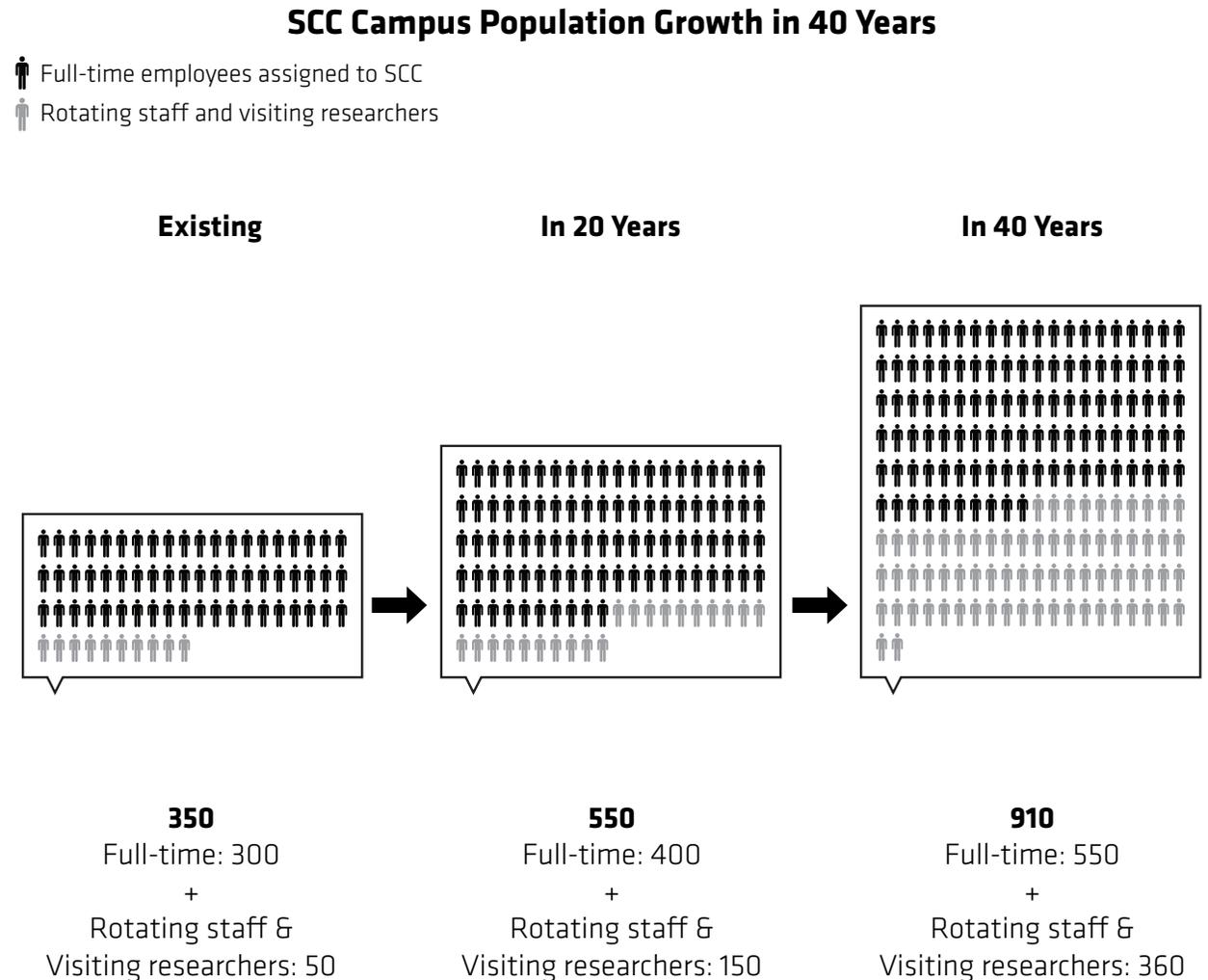


Figure 5: 40-Year Population Growth Projection

Strategies

ENABLING SHARED OPERATIONS, STAFFING, AND SPACES

Sharing resources among units will improve efficiency, reduce redundancy, and increase the range of available knowledge and amenities.

Historically independent, collecting units will benefit from shared amenities, services, and staff at the redeveloped site.

Pan-Institutional collaboration will be divided into two categories: collections spaces and campus operations. Collections spaces include processing, storage, and laboratories. Campus operations include security, access, transportation, amenities and support functions.

Collections spaces can share physical and staff resources as well as reinforce unit accountability, minimizing risks to the collections.

Effective campus-wide management will be critical. SCC operations should be transparent to units, widely coordinated, and well understood. Shared spaces and resources must be managed in a way that works for all units and provides for the ongoing maintenance and capital improvement of shared campus site and building infrastructure.



Building on recent successful efforts to share pan-Institutional storage capacity, the SCC presents the challenge and opportunity to expand capacity through efficient use of resources and centralized management. Much of this management is outside the scope of this Master Plan and will require a separate Smithsonian effort to create a system that allocates resources appropriately.

Historically independent, collecting units will benefit from shared amenities, services, and staff at the redeveloped site.

Sharing resources among units will improve efficiency, reduce redundancy, and increase the range of available knowledge and amenities.



Strategies

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE

Improving the SCC site will enhance working conditions and environmental stewardship.

The SCC has developed haphazardly over time and must be brought up to date with current codes, standards, technologies, and best practices. The future campus will have physical infrastructure that is designed to be sustainable, resilient, and flexible to meet the needs of an unknown future.

Building design must incorporate energy-efficient strategies and the campus should utilize renewable energy to the greatest possible extent. Stormwater management must meet or exceed federal and state requirements.

The SCC will operate independently from the National Mall, but must remain connected to it. This will require enhanced transportation options

for moving collections, supplies and people, as well as improved technological solutions for remote meetings and knowledge-sharing. Working between locations will benefit from more frequent and reliable shuttles and safe connections to public transit.

The site design encourages walking and other environmentally friendly transportation such as bicycles or electric carts, while limiting vehicular traffic. The campus is designed to be safe, attractive, and comfortable for staff. The Master Plan takes advantage of the wooded site for walking paths and nature views.

Security will address exterior campus threats, be supportable with the expected resources, and allow the necessary collections and support activities to occur safely. The SCC will continue to be a secure facility, but certain areas may operate on a spectrum of restricted access and the number of entry points will be limited.

Improving the SCC site will enhance working conditions and environmental stewardship.

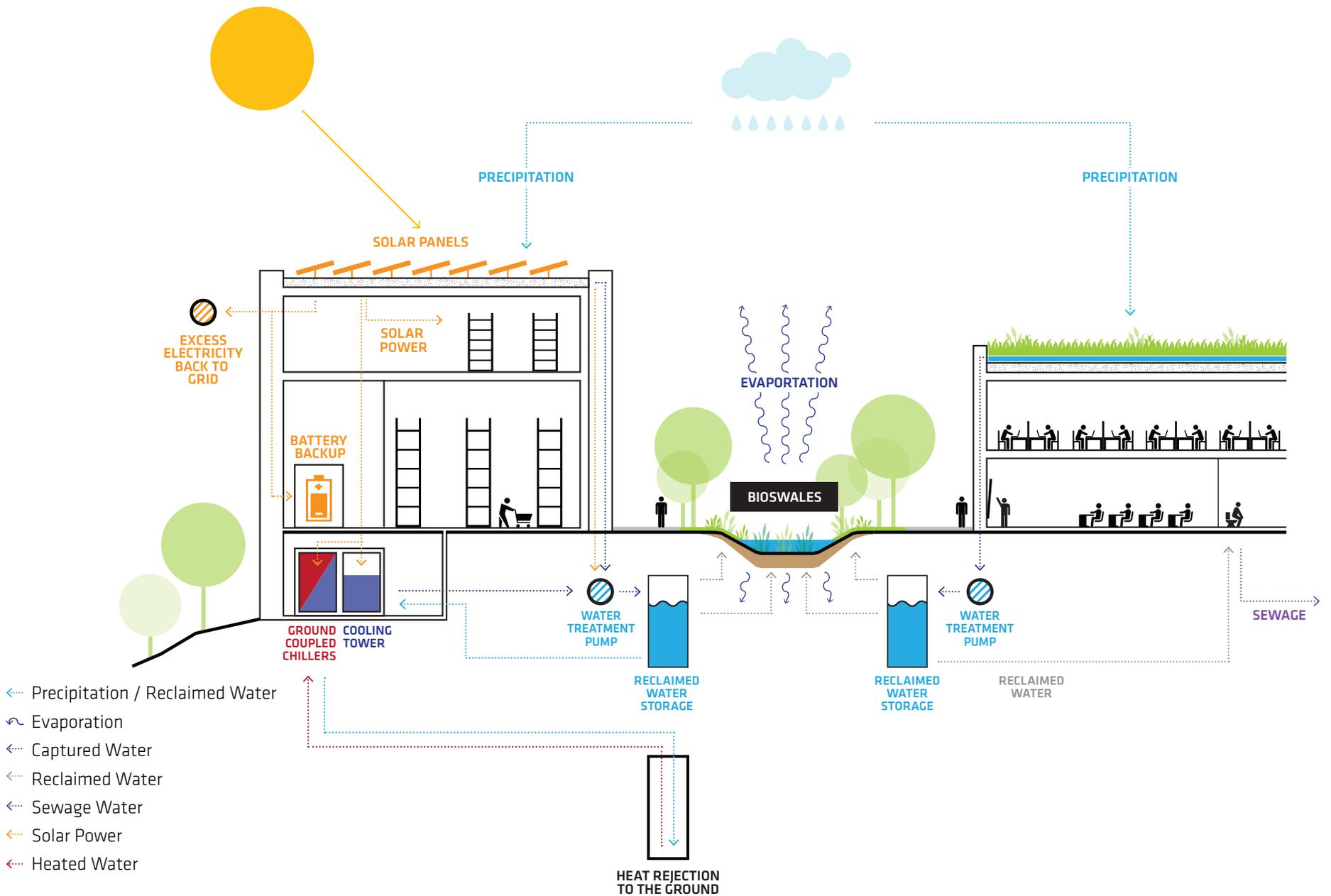


Figure 6: Sustainability Strategy Concept Diagram

Recommendations

COMPONENTS OF THE MASTER PLAN

The Master Plan shows how the collections, people, and infrastructure requirements can work on the SCC site to meet the needs of the Institution now and for the next 40 years. Addressing geography, existing conditions, requirements, and project phasing, the Plan is programmable, flexible, and scalable. It meets the Smithsonian's stewardship mandates by significantly expanding the capacity and quality of the SCC's storage facilities. In supporting access, environmental, and programmatic needs of the Art, Archives & Libraries, and Science units the Plan provides a direct path to efficient preservation and growth. Shared collections support resources will mitigate costs and enhance accountability.

The Plan connects the new buildings to the existing MSC via an interior corridor. The strategy encourages walking, easy collaboration with other departments, and simplified transport of collections. The ring design of the buildings leads passenger vehicles to lots and delivery vehicles to shared loading docks on the perimeter, thereby creating a pedestrian-friendly campus. A communal area outdoors and landscaped paths connect all buildings on the site. The strategy creates comfortable environments inside and out, through access to natural light; flexible, open spaces for congregating; and shared, accessible amenities.

Campus-wide site improvements will turn an under-realized site into an environmentally balanced landscape. Comprehensive stormwater

management solutions consist of green roofs on non-collections buildings; bioswales and retention ponds to retain and treat runoff; paths paved with pervious materials; and rainwater harvested for irrigation, flushing, and boiler make-up. The addition of geothermal and photovoltaic energy generation will reduce reliance on the existing power grid and provide more flexibility to manage power during times of peak demand or outages.

The strategy creates comfortable environments inside and out, through access to natural light; flexible, open spaces for congregating; and shared, accessible amenities.

Addressing geography, existing conditions, requirements, and project phasing, the Plan is programmable, flexible, and scalable.



Figure 7: Aerial view from southwest

Recommendations

- Collecting Units - Art
- Collecting Units - Archives & Libraries
- Collecting Units - Science
- Collecting Unit - NMAI-CRC
- Pan-Institutional Facilities
- OPS / OFMR / AHHP
- ▶ Main Campus Entrance
- ▶ Pedestrian & Emergency Vehicle Campus Entrance

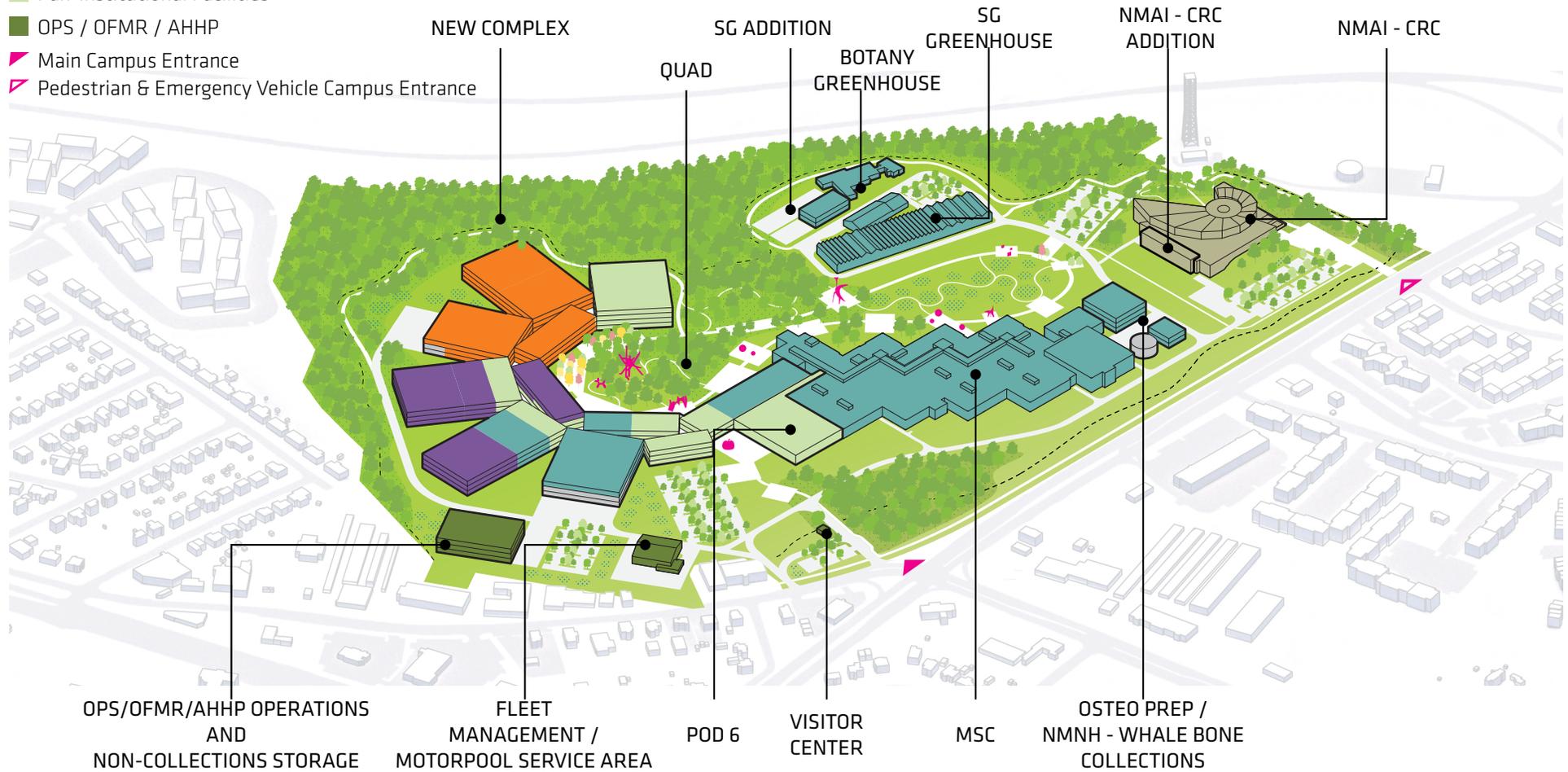


Figure 8: Axonometric View of Proposed Site Organization

Recommendations

The Smithsonian's architectural and engineering design guidelines for collections spaces, prototype designs from the Collections Space Framework Plan, building the collections module at the DCC, and the design for the Pod 6 addition to MSC informed the SCC development.

The Master Plan implements strategies for sustainable construction and operation of the campus. Recommendations include energy efficient construction and systems, like high-performance, well-insulated buildings, photovoltaics on roofs, geothermal energy generation, enhanced resiliency to weather outages, and adaptability to climate change.

By creating a central spine with radiating storage modules in a ring that can be built over time and tailored to the requirements of specific collections types, the Master Plan allows for flexibility based on Institutional needs and financial realities. The Plan allows modules to operate independently and accept iterative development that will eventually connect spaces. Supporting infrastructure can evolve to meet the needs of gradually increasing collections and staff on the campus until the projected space needs are satisfied.

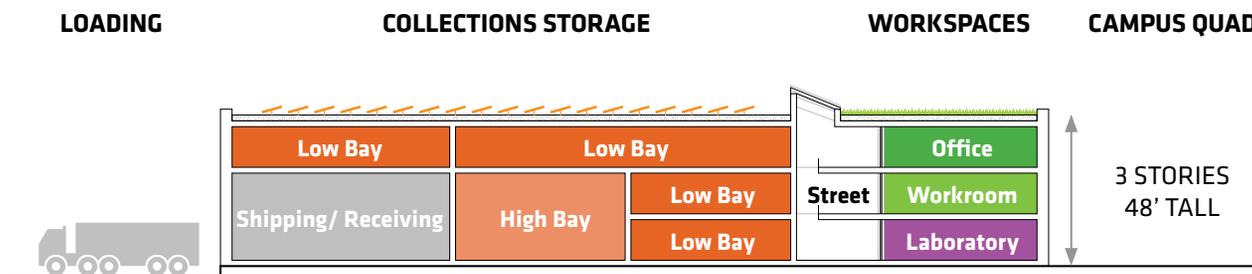


Figure 9: *Diagrammatic Building Section A-A*

Recommendations

By the 20-year mark of the 40-year Plan, large areas of landscape and site infrastructure improvements will have occurred, and several of the structures proposed in the Master Plan will be constructed. Those initial projects should be a new campus entrance, perimeter security and path, stormwater management, and site infrastructure such as geothermal wells, water harvesting and parking lot reconfiguration. These projects lay the groundwork for the rest of the site development.

Early projects also include new locations for SF and Smithsonian Gardens equipment and grounds storage and the NMNH Osteo Prep Lab and marine mammals collection. Development of new SCC facilities will start at the north and move southward toward the new main entrance.

Recommendations include energy efficient construction and systems, like high-performance, well-insulated buildings, photovoltaics on roofs, geothermal energy generation, enhanced resiliency to weather outages, and adaptability to climate change.

- Existing Buildings
- New Development
- ▲ Main Campus Entrance
- ▲ Pedestrian & Emergency Vehicle Campus Entrance

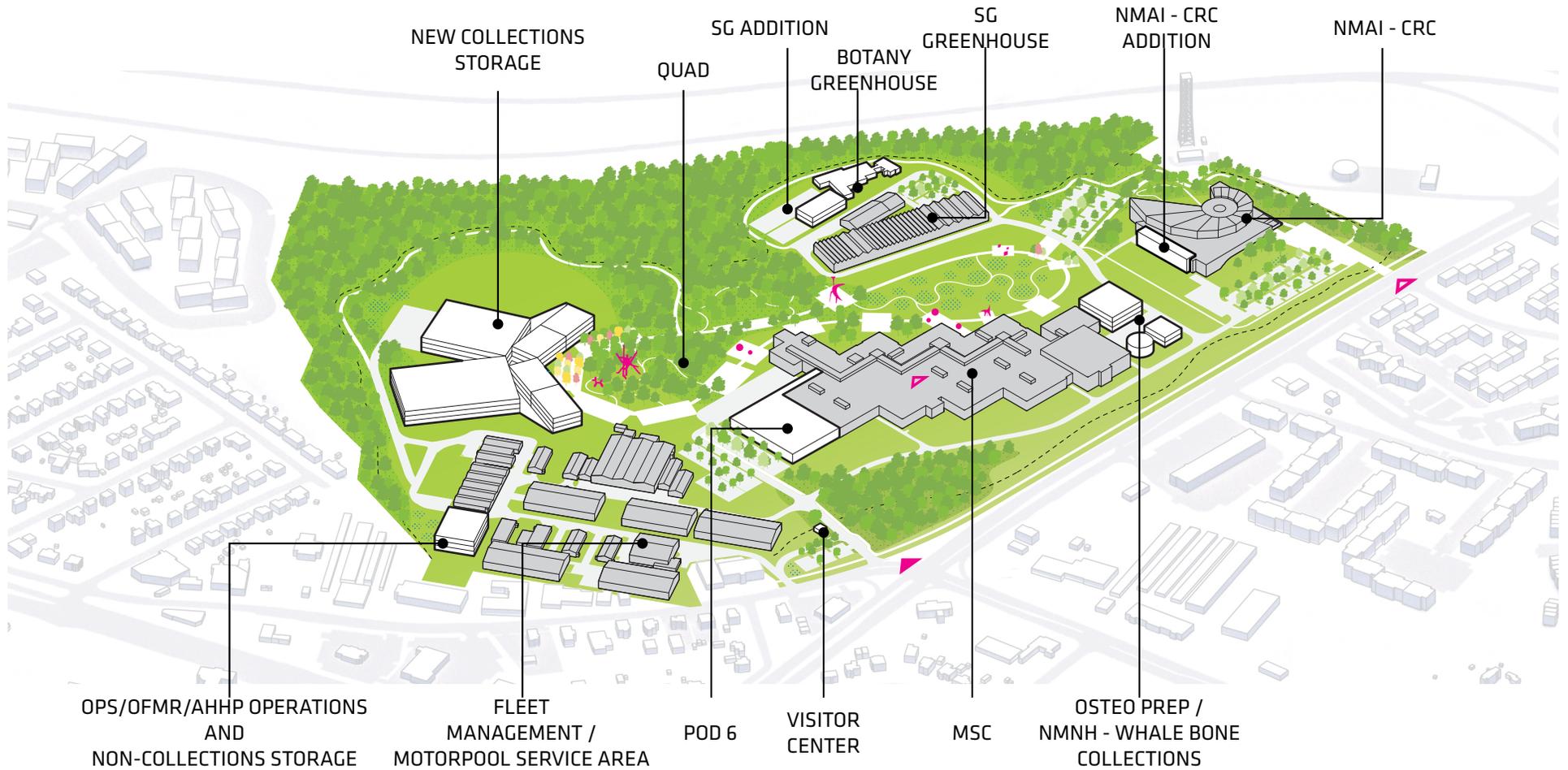


Figure 10: Axonometric View of SCC Campus in 20 years



Figure 11: *Rendered View of Internal "Street" of New Development*

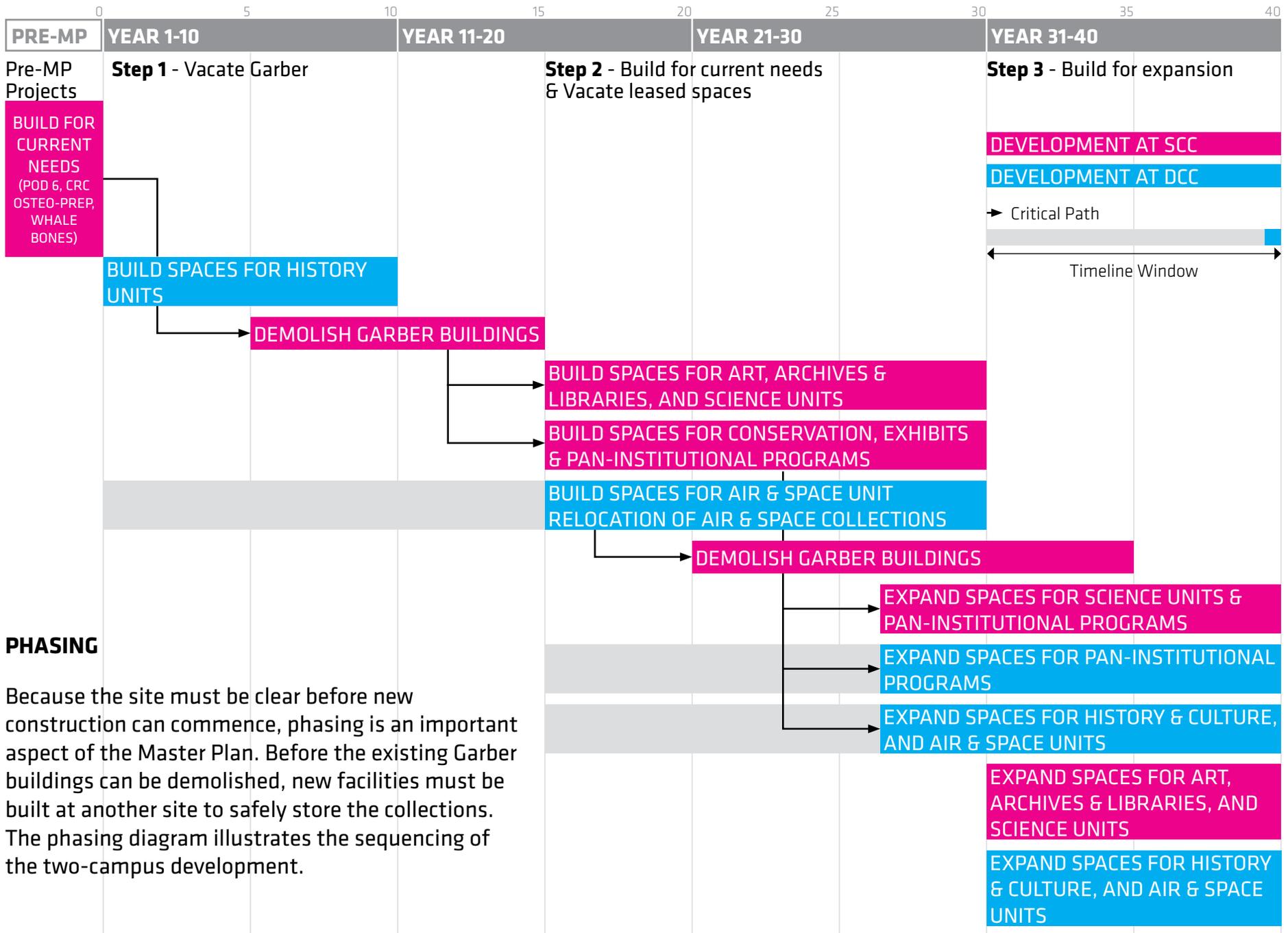


Figure 12: Master Plan Steps

Dulles Collections Center

Building on the findings of the Collections Space Framework Plan, the SCC Master Plan validated the critical need for concurrent development at two locations. Assessment of available options identified the DCC as the best-suited location.

The 218-acre DCC is located approximately thirty miles from the National Mall and is under a long-term ground lease between the Smithsonian and the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority. The Udvar-Hazy Center occupies approximately half the site; the remainder is largely undeveloped.

Development at this location will allow the NASM Master Plan to be fulfilled, establish a larger, public presence for History & Culture collecting units, consolidate several collections to one site, and provide permanent, state-of-the-art facilities for NASM and the other History & Culture units.

The History & Culture units will include the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), National Museum of American History (NMAH), and the National Postal Museum (NPM), which have similar high-bay storage needs for large, heavy objects. Foundational elements of the campus will include common facilities supporting the museums, shared spaces to maximize efficiencies, and outdoor plazas.

DCC Program

Preliminary programming for the DCC was developed using the existing Udvar-Hazy Center program as a model and the typologies from the

Total DCC Campus by Unit Groups in 40 years 4 million gsf

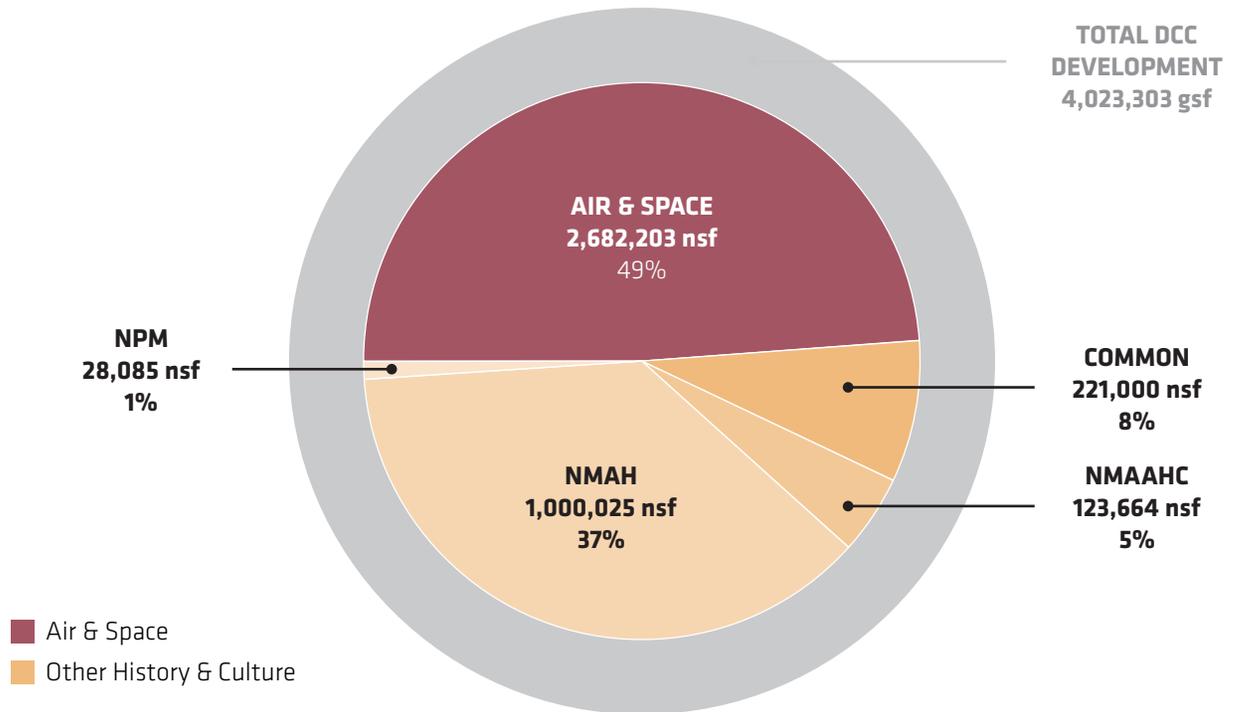


Figure 13: Program by Unit Group Breakdown

SCC program. Collections storage, including public collections space, is expected to comprise the bulk of the space.

Approximately 4 million gsf are needed to address the current and projected collections space for NASM and the other History & Culture units.

NASM will account for about one half of the total program, with the relocation of collections to the DCC from the Garber Facility. NMAAHC, NMAH, and NPM collections will be relocated from Garber, MSC, Pennsy Drive, and several other leased facilities.

Development at this location will allow the NASM Master Plan to be fulfilled, establish a larger, public presence for History & Culture collecting units, consolidate several collections to one site, and provide permanent, state-of-the-art facilities for NASM and the other History & Culture units.



Figure 14: Aerial View of Existing DCC

Dulles Collections Center

Roughly twice the area of the SCC, the DCC has the total capacity for 4 million gsf. Development at the DCC does not require the demolition of existing buildings in order to construct new ones.

Like the SCC, the DCC is situated at a higher elevation than the National Mall, avoiding 100-year floodplain risks. The site also has a relatively flat topography, which simplifies construction. Portions of the undeveloped southern half of the site contain wetlands protected by Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Area (RPA) buffer zones.

As a more public facility, the DCC will require new public amenities, as well as new private spaces for management, research, and storage of collections. The public spaces must be accessible and the private spaces secure.

Four key issues were identified to be explored by a future DCC master plan:

- Program requirements for public spaces & amenities
- Extent and character of publicly accessible collections storage
- Avoidance and mitigation of construction in wetlands
- Improved transit access and appropriate parking capacity for employees and visitors

DCC Campus Site Strategies

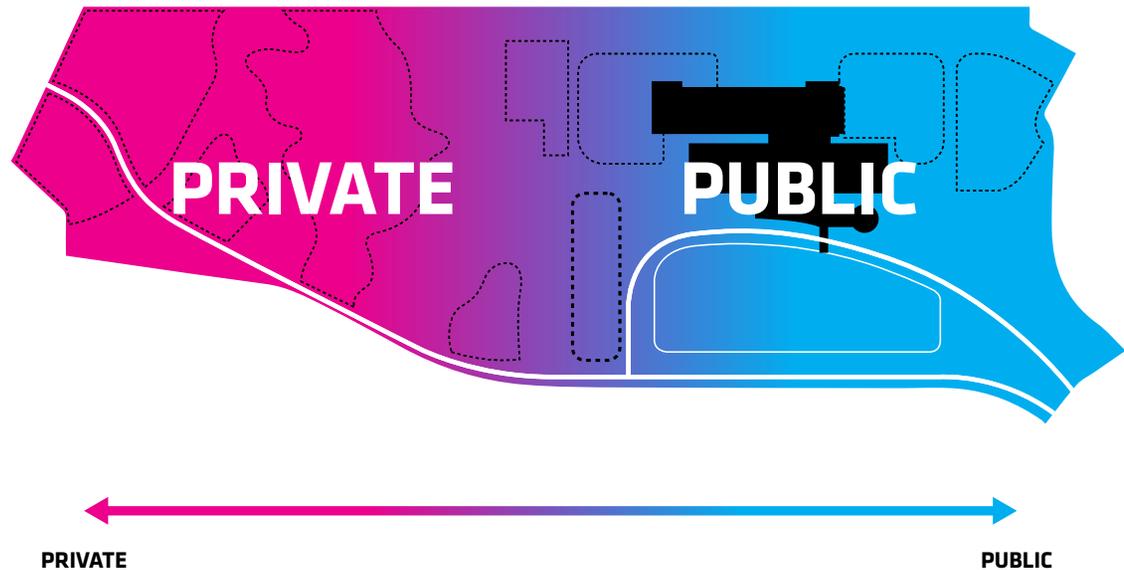


Figure 15: Site Strategy Concept Diagram

The Master Plan's site capacity study tested different approaches to and percentages of audience-facing space. On the public side is the Udvar-Hazy Center that hosts many visitors and events. It includes a large parking lot with access from Route 28. The private side has the restricted access road from Route 50, collections storage spaces, and staff workspaces.

The DCC has the total capacity for 4 million gsf. Development at the DCC does not require the demolition of existing buildings in order to construct new ones.

Smithsonian leadership and stakeholders reviewed the advantages and challenges of several site plan alternatives for the DCC. The strong desire for increased publicly accessible space and the ability to develop outside of the RPA buffer area, combined with the thematic grouping of units, minimizing redundancy, and the efficiency of phased development groupings guided their choice.

The Enhanced Public Program alternative emerged as the preferred planning concept. It creates separate private and public building clusters, each organized around an outdoor plaza. It provides a greater number and variety of public spaces, with options for large object displays, utilizes more easily developable land, and avoids disturbance of the RPA buffer area.

DCC Recommendation

The limited study of DCC during the SCC Master Plan should be followed up with a more robust analysis. The DCC has the capacity to meet the Smithsonian's collections space needs at a second development site, but only in conjunction with the SCC development. Phasing of DCC construction is recommended ahead of SCC, to avoid multiple moves, redundant facilities, and the need for leased space. Development at both sites is also integral to NASM's and NMAH's revitalization as outlined in their master plans.



Figure 16: *Rendering of Enhancing Public Program Alternative*

Phasing of DCC construction is recommended ahead of SCC, to avoid multiple moves, redundant facilities, and the need for leased space. Development at both sites is also integral to NASM's and NMAH's revitalization as outlined in their master plans.

Conclusion



Improving the Smithsonian’s collection stewardship depends upon strategic partnerships, interdisciplinary collaboration, and an Institution-wide shared vision. The SCC master planning process itself fostered a collaborative spirit among leaders and staff from across the Smithsonian to envision solutions to shared collections challenges.

The Smithsonian acknowledges that providing sufficient purpose-built, secure space with proper environmental conditions and fire protection is the first line of action to ensure the long-term preservation and accessibility of our irreplaceable collections.

This Master Plan will serve as a roadmap for future capital and collections projects, inform projected annual operations and planning costs, and promote efficiencies and cost-effectiveness that will benefit all Smithsonian units.

All Smithsonian staff members have a role in building this future, constructing, and maintaining existing and new facilities using all the expertise the Smithsonian can bring to bear.

The Plan will also impact everyone who interacts with or benefits from the Smithsonian’s collections through research, exhibitions, educational programming, and online platforms. Therefore, the successful implementation of the SCC Master Plan will require steadfast leadership and commitment to collections stewardship, collections space, and resource planning in the coming decades.

There is no time to waste. The Smithsonian’s mission to increase and diffuse knowledge has never been more critical for the nation and the world. As invaluable collections grow and the environment changes, the Smithsonian must stand as a responsible steward of the cultural and natural heritage entrusted in our care.

There is no time to waste. The Smithsonian's mission to increase and diffuse knowledge has never been more critical for the nation and the world. As invaluable collections grow and the environment changes, the Smithsonian must stand as a responsible steward of the cultural and natural heritage entrusted in our care.



Photograph Descriptions

All photos are credit of Smithsonian Institution

P.4: Three conservators clean a large textile laid out on a table at the National Museum of the American Indian Cultural Resources Center.

P.6: Smithsonian Gardens staff member working with the orchid collections in a Suitland greenhouse.

P.7: Young students draw inspiration from the installation of Freedom's Sisters, a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service exhibit.

P.8: National Postal Museum staff retrieve collections from compact storage cabinets.

P.9: Two staff conduct genetic research in the National Museum of Natural History Laboratories of Analytical Biology.

P10: A group of Smithsonian leaders collaborate around a table during the Master Plan Visioning Workshop.

P11: Local and federal agency staff and the Master Plan team review 3-D Suitland campus models.

P16: Two people retrieving Smithsonian Libraries volumes in the main Natural History library.

P17: Two Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden staff access a large, framed painting in Pod 3 art storage at the Museum Support Center.

P.32: A Museum Conservation Institute conservator using a digital microscope to examine a photographic quilt.

National Collections Program

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