

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL



Smithsonian Institution Building
(The Castle)

Audit Plan Fiscal Year 2020

A Message from the Inspector General

I am pleased to present the fiscal year 2020 audit plan. This plan provides a road map for accomplishing our mission to conduct independent and objective audits to improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Smithsonian Institution's (Smithsonian) programs and operations, while also preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse. In developing this plan, we conducted a comprehensive risk assessment and sought input from our stakeholders at the Smithsonian and in Congress.

The audits and related work for fiscal year 2020 fall into three categories:

Ongoing Audits: Audits that were ongoing at the beginning of fiscal year 2020.

Mandatory Audits: Audits of the Smithsonian's financial statements and information security program.

Discretionary Audits: Audits selected after assessing the risks facing the Smithsonian and after evaluating the suggested topics from our stakeholders.

As the year unfolds, we may adjust this plan to ensure that we direct available resources to the areas with the highest risks and impacts. We strive to continuously improve our audit planning process, and we welcome comments about our planned work and suggestions about future work. Please address your suggestions and questions to me or to Joan T. Mockeridge, Assistant Inspector General for Audits. We can be reached at (202) 633-7050.



Cathy L. Helm
Inspector General

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Introduction

The Smithsonian Institution (Smithsonian) is a trust instrumentality of the United States created by Congress in 1846 to carry out the provisions of the will of James Smithson, an English scientist who left his estate to the United States to found “an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge.”

The Smithsonian consists of 19 museums (all but 3 in Washington, D.C.) and the National Zoological Park. The majority of Smithsonian locations are in Washington, D.C., but the Smithsonian also has facilities in nine states (Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia), Panama, and Belize. Numerous research programs are carried out in the museums and other facilities throughout the world. In fiscal year 2018, members of the public made more than 28 million visits to the Smithsonian museums and zoo. In addition, there were more than 160 million website visitors to the Smithsonian’s public websites.

The Smithsonian is the steward of an extensive collection. The total number of artifacts, works of art, and specimens in the Smithsonian’s collections is estimated at 155 million, of which 146 million are at the National Museum of Natural History. The collections form the basis of world-renowned research, exhibitions, and public programs in the arts, culture, history, and the sciences. (See Figure 1.) The Smithsonian Affiliations program brings collections, scholarship, and exhibitions to nearly all states, Puerto Rico, and Panama.

The funding for a substantial portion of the Smithsonian’s operations is annual federal appropriations. The Smithsonian also receives federal appropriations for the construction or repair and restoration of its facilities. Construction of certain facilities has been funded entirely by federal appropriations, while others have been funded by a combination of federal and private funds.

The Smithsonian also has trust funds that it receives from private support, government grants and contracts, and investments and various business activities. Business activities include Smithsonian magazines and other publications, catalogs, theaters, retail shops, and food services.

Figure 1. Digital Render Made from 3-D Scan of Neil Armstrong’s Apollo 11 Spacesuit



Photo: Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum

Ongoing Audits

Inventory Controls for the National Museum of African American History and Culture Collection

We are assessing to what extent the National Museum of African American History and Culture has developed and implemented an inventory policy and plan and has a complete and accurate inventory of its collections, as required by Smithsonian Directive 600.

Hiring Practices for Trust Employees

We are determining the extent to which the Office of Human Resources complies with Smithsonian policies and procedures for hiring Trust employees.

Governance of Information Technology

We are assessing to what extent the Smithsonian has effective and efficient governance structures and processes to consistently manage information technology across the organization.

Figure 2. Fossils – of *Ceratosaurus* and *Stegosaurus* in the David H. Koch Hall of Fossils-Deep Time exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.



Photo: Lucia Martino, Smithsonian Institution

Financial Statements Audit, Fiscal Year 2019

An independent public accounting firm is conducting the Smithsonian's annual financial statements audit, which include the Smithsonian's consolidated financial statements, the compliance audit of federal awards, and the statement of net gain for Smithsonian Enterprises. We serve as the contracting officer's technical representative for these audits.

Evaluation of the Smithsonian's Information Security Program, Fiscal Year 2019

An independent public accounting firm is evaluating the Smithsonian's information security program for fiscal year 2019. We serve as the contracting officer's technical representative for these audits.

Mandatory Planned Audits

Financial Statements Audit, Fiscal Year 2020

An independent public accounting firm will conduct the Smithsonian's annual financial statement audits, which include the Smithsonian's consolidated financial statements, the compliance audit of federal awards, and the statement of net gain for Smithsonian Enterprises. We will serve as the contracting officer's technical representative for these audits.

Evaluation of Smithsonian's Information Security Program, Fiscal Year 2020

An independent public accounting firm will evaluate the Smithsonian's information security program for fiscal year 2020. We will serve as the contracting officer's technical representative for this audit.

Discretionary Planned Audits

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's Safety Program for Visiting Scientists

We will assess the extent to which the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute has an effective program to identify and address safety risks for visiting scientists and other affiliated individuals.

Smithsonian Anti-Harassment Program

We will determine the extent to which the Smithsonian has developed and implemented anti-harassment policies and procedures that comply with guidance from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Figure 3. Barro Colorado Nature Monument, Panama



Photo: Marcos Guerra, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

National Air and Space Museum Renovation Project

We will assess the extent to which the Smithsonian has effective controls to manage the schedule and budget for the National Air and Space Museum renovation project.

Financial Conflict of Interest Requirements in Research Programs

We will determine to what extent the Smithsonian employees and affiliated individuals are complying with financial conflict of interest requirements in research programs.

London Project

We will assess the extent to which the Smithsonian has a process to account for funds used to partner with the Victoria and Albert Museum by providing temporary exhibits and performing educational outreach. The museum space will be located at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in East London.

Purchase Card Review

We will determine the extent to which the Smithsonian has effective controls over the purchase card program.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL



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The Office of the Inspector General investigates allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, gross mismanagement, employee and contractor misconduct, and criminal and civil violations of law that have an impact on the Smithsonian's programs and operations.

If requested, confidentiality is assured to the extent permitted by law. Although you may remain anonymous, we encourage you to provide us with your contact information. The ability to gather additional information from you may be the key to effectively pursuing your allegation.