

Science & Collections Funding

- Provided congressional testimony in support of increased fiscal year (FY) 2024 federal funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Institute of Museum and Library Services, programs that curate natural history collections within the Department of the Interior, and the Smithsonian Institution.
- Joined 760 organizations in sending a letter urging Congress to reject proposed cuts to non-defense discretionary appropriations and instead set funding for FY 2024 at a level that recognizes both rising costs and the need for investment in programs important to fostering economic growth and meeting human needs.
- Through our membership in the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)—an alliance of more than 140 scientific organizations that advocate for NSF funding—we’re continuing to work to secure robust FY 2024 funding for NSF and to ensure that Congress follows through on the promise of the CHIPS and Science Act by fully funding key science agencies at the levels authorized by the law.
- Joined the CNSF in urging the White House to request \$16.7 billion for NSF in FY 2025, which is the level of funding for NSF research and education investments authorized in the CHIPS and Science Act.

Collections Policy and Advocacy

- Provided comments to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) stressing the need to recognize and promote biorepositories and biodiversity databases as critical components of the national bioeconomy. The final OSTP report identified sustaining and enhancing biological collections as a research goal for strengthening the U.S. bioeconomy.
 - Collaborated with iDigBio, American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), other partner institutions, and about 300 U.S. collections professionals, to produce a series of webinars, workshops, and community consultations to develop an enhanced vision for a Biological Collections Action Center, as called for in the 2020 National Academies’ report and the CHIPS and Science Act.
 - Co-hosted a webinar with AIBS, the Biodiversity Collections Network, and the U.S. Culture Collection Network on the need for a Specimen Management Plan requirement in research proposals that generate living or preserved specimens.
-

- Partnering with BCoN and AIBS on the new NSF-funded BIOFAIR Data Network project to engage an expansive set of stakeholders in a series of domain-focused virtual listening sessions and a subsequent interdisciplinary workshop towards building an integrated, open, findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable data network.
- Joined 25 other scientific societies and organizations as well as 300 individual researchers in expressing support for NSF's former Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG) program.
- Sponsored the 2023 Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits, an annual event organized by AIBS that enables scientists, curators, museum professionals, and graduate students to meet with their federal or state elected officials in their home state to help inform science policy.

Outreach

- Helped promote the 2023 Black in Natural History Museums (BlackInNHMs) Week, a series of synchronous and asynchronous activities and content shared through social media.
 - Partnered with SPNHC to promote their Natural History Collections Education DemoCamp, which was designed to provide materials and resources to educators to engage students with the natural world.
 - Continuing to collaborate with BCoN and international partners, including GBIF, DiSCCo, iDigBio, Atlas of Living Australia, SANBI, and others, as a member of the International Partners for the Digital Extended Specimen. IPDES facilitates the coordination of a globally integrated network of stakeholders to build an extensible technical and social infrastructure of data, tools, and working practices in support of the Digital Extended Specimen vision.
 - Promoted National Fossil Day on October 11, which is organized by the National Park Service.
 - Alerted the natural science collections community to advocacy campaigns, opportunities to provide input on policy proposals, and calls to nominate individuals to expert panels.
 - Provided regular policy and news updates via the NSC Alliance Washington Report. The newsletter is freely available. Subscribe at www.nscalliance.org.
-

ABOUT US

The NSC Alliance is a nonprofit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society. Our institutional members are part of an international community of institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities.

Visit our website to learn more:

www.nscalliance.org

