

It's Time to Complete the Story

Building a National Women's History Museum on the National Mall

Women are and have always been integral to our Nation's history. The National Women's History Museum does not seek to rewrite history, but highlight the important role women make to society, business, science, politics and every aspect of our culture. In many cases, women's stories have not been told completely and in some cases forgotten.

building HISTORY

The National Women's History Museum will be the first museum in any nation's capital to show the full scope of the history of its women and will serve as a guiding light to people everywhere.

The Museum will be devoted to educating, inspiring, empowering, and shaping the future by integrating women's distinctive contributions into our nation's culture and history. It will complete our collective story.

the NEED

Women have always made up approximately half of the population, yet in school we learn primarily about our nation's Founding Fathers. They were certainly great men with tremendous accomplishments, but a look through history textbooks, museum exhibits, or statuary in our public squares sends a message that they founded the nation by themselves.

*There is little mention of the women
who wove our nation's fabric:*

On average,
14% of people
in history books
are women

Fewer than 8%
of public out-
door sculptures
are of women

Only 9 of the 100
statues in the
U.S. Capitol's
Statuary Hall
are women

85% of Americans
believe it is important
to build the Museum
to educate about the
breadth of women's
experiences and
accomplishments

commission RECOMMENDATIONS

Created by Congress in 2014 (P.L.113-291), and funded by the National Women's History Museum, the bipartisan Commission delivered its report to Congress on November 16, 2016. Their primary recommendations included:

- America deserves a physical national museum dedicated to integrating women's distinctive contributions into our culture and history.
- The Museum should be composed of a strong permanent collection with supplemental exhibits or objects on loan from other museums/archives, including components of the Smithsonian.
- The Museum should be built on a highly prominent location close to other museums on or very close to the National Mall and recommended these sites:
 - South Monument Site mirroring the National Museum of African American History and Culture
 - Northwest U.S. Capitol Site mirroring the Botanical Gardens
 - Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Building, currently earmarked for the Latino-American museum

congressional LEGISLATION

On March 31, 2017, U.S. Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Ed Royce (R-CA) introduced H.R. 19, which now has 227 cosponsors. On June 29, 2017, Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced S. 1498, the companion a bill in the Senate. The legislation:

- States that the nation deserves a national women's history museum.
- Establishes the Museum.
- Identifies two possible sites on the National Mall.
- Requires private funds for the Museum's construction.
- Authorizes federal funds for the planning, design and operations of the Museum.

Women's stories have not been told, not been told completely and in some cases forgotten. We look forward to working with Congress to make HR 19 the law of the land and build a strong private-public partnership to make the Museum a reality. One that will be an enduring inspiration for future generations.

our VISION

- **Build a world-class museum on the National Mall** in Washington, D.C., that will show the full scope of women's contributions to history and set the standard for how those contributions should occupy a prominent place in national discussions.
- **Invite men and women of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to join NWHM** at this critical point in our journey and help us make progress toward a future that more fully integrates women's distinct contributions into our culture.
- **Create and become the very hub for women's history in the United States.** A hub that is inclusive and accessible to everyone. A place that we will point to with pride and that will lead the way among nations advocating and celebrating women.
- **Build a physical presence and a growing, state-of-the-art online presence and a robust program** that brings our collections to museums and schools around the country in collaboration and partnership with scholars, centers of learning, communities, and other institutions.
- **We support a strong public-private partnership** that ensures the Museum takes its place among the other great museums in Washington, DC.
- We look forward to continuing to work with Reps. Maloney and Royce, Sens. Collins and Feinstein, the appropriate Committee Members, our 55,000 members, and all our stakeholders to move the legislation to passage in Congress.

Working with the vast number of organizations with which we have built strong relationships over the past two decades, we can reach people where they live, learn, work, play, and pray—engaging them at every level to raise awareness and honor women's diverse experiences and achievements.

Quite simply, our goal is to reach people with the richness of women's contributions to American history in every aspect of their daily lives.

about the National Women's History Museum

Founded in 1996, NWHM is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the diverse contributions women have made to society.

- Every day for the past 20 years our team has had a singular focus: to ensure that women's contributions to our history and culture are incorporated into our nation's narrative.
- More than 55,000 individuals have supported the Museum, and current members represent women nationwide from all walks of life.
- The Board of Directors is national in composition and is being expanded to bring a diversity of perspective and depth of experience to the Museum.
- More than 200 members of Congress support the Museum, and its National Coalition of 53 women's professional service and educational organizations represent more than 8.5 million members.
- The Museum is a renowned leader in online women's history education, has produced 26 online exhibits, and more than 300 biographies. The Museum's website receives more than 1.2 million visitors annually and has nearly 500,000 Facebook followers.

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NWHM

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