

AGENCY NAME: State Museum Commission
AGENCY CODE: H950

SECTION: 29



Fiscal Year 2025-26 Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

**OPERATING
REQUESTS
(FORM B1)**

For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):

- ☒ Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
☐ Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
☐ Not requesting any changes.

**NON-RECURRING
REQUESTS
(FORM B2)**

For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):

- ☒ Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
☐ Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
☐ Not requesting any changes.

**CAPITAL
REQUESTS
(FORM C)**

For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):

- ☒ Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
☐ Not requesting any changes.

**PROVISOS
(FORM D)**

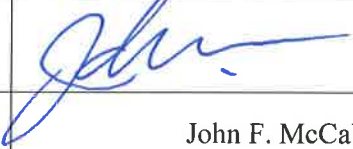
For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):

- ☐ Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
☐ Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
☒ Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Amy Bartow-Melia	803.898.4930	Amy.Bartow-Melia@scmuseum.org
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Emily Gallo	803.445.5055	Emily.Gallo@scmuseum.org

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2025-26 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
SIGN/DATE:	 9.17.2025	
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Amy Bartow-Melia	John F. McCabe

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission
Agency Code:	H950
Section:	29

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	C - Capital	South Carolina State Museum - Reimagine the Experience – Permanent Gallery Upgrades & Expansion of Educational Reach & Impact	10,000,000	0	0	0	10,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Full Time Staffing Requests	460,021	0	0	0	460,021	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Ticketing Database and Constituent Relationship Management System	200,000	0	0	0	200,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B2 - Non-Recurring	Wifi Expansion	50,000	0	0	0	50,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	C - Capital	Upgrading End-Of-Life HVAC Monitoring System	250,000	0	0	0	250,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	C - Capital	Security Upgrades: Expanded Security Camera System	400,000	0	0	0	400,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			11,360,021	0	0	0	11,360,021	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Full Time Staffing Requests
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$460,021 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$460,021
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	5.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☒	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	☐	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	☐	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	☐	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	☐	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	☒	IT Technology/Security related
	☒	HR/Personnel Related
☒	Consulted DTO during development	
☐	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	☐	Education, Training, and Human Development
	☐	Healthy and Safe Families
	☒	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
☐	Government and Citizens	

	Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement initiatives supported: 1, Maximize impact of Museum operations 1.1, Effectively market the State Museum 1.2, Maximize earned revenues 1.3, Be efficient with allocated resources 1.4, Through museum foundation, garner citizen, corporate, and private financial support
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ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

1.1.4, Maximize ticketed admissions

1.2.1, Ticket and attraction revenue

1.2.2, Gift shop revenue

1.2.3, Facility rental revenue

1.4.1, Maximize total number of museum members

1.4.2, Cultivate and retain corporate community partners

1.4.3, Maximize annual corporate sponsorships

2.1.1, Maximize school group visitation

2.3.1, Total number of partnerships

3.1.1, Number of accessions recorded

3.1.2, Number of objects collected

3.2.1, Research papers submitted

3.2.2, Public inquiries answered

4.1.1, Number of exhibitions produced

4.1.3, Number of public programs presented

5.1, Protect the safety, integrity, and security of museum resources and visiting public; protection of people and systems

5.1.1, Provide necessary investment in IT hardware and software

Thanks to the generosity of the SC legislature which has supported the Reimagine the Experience (RTE) initiative over the last several years, the South Carolina State Museum (SCSM) is going through major technology and infrastructure upgrades as part of this overall improvement project to best reach and serve our visitors.

Ticketing and Database Administrator and IT Customer Support Coordinator: The SCSM is prioritizing the implementation of a modernized and streamlined database and constituent relationship management system that supports all revenue generation streams in order to maximize not only revenue but also make the most efficient use of staff hours to be most effective for the Museum's operations. This necessary investment in our IT systems will save countless manpower hours

currently spent manually interpreting data and creating reports, and will require a dedicated staff member to ensure the system is running properly and being used to its full capacity and benefit. Funds received for the new position, Ticketing and Database Administrator, will oversee the implementation, training, and ongoing backend oversight of the strategic revenue generation across the State Museum's ticketed attractions (galleries, programs, 4D theater, planetarium), retail store, donor base (private and corporate), and membership.

Curator of Popular Culture and Collections Cataloger: An important strategic initiative and responsibility of the State Museum is to collect and preserve the important objects that tell the story of our state. As our statewide community grows and expands, it is imperative to have the staff on hand to collect related material from successful individuals and related achievements in sports, music and entertainment. By expanding our collections capabilities, the Museum will increase visitation and membership, as well as program and educational offerings available to visitors.

Spark!Lab Education Specialist:In 2027, the SCSM will welcome the public to its next = major phase of renovated galleries by launching an Innovation Wing. Reimagine the Experience aims to educate, engage, and excite visitors from South Carolina and beyond about the impact that South Carolinians and our State have had on the shaping of our nation by using modern museum standards and technology to increase visitation and membership, and to make the greatest impact on our guests. The museum's South Carolina Innovation Wing (target opening 2027) will foster the next generation of South Carolina's innovators by exploring how creative and entrepreneurial South Carolinians have shaped our world. A critical objective of the Innovation Wing will be to use the example of inventive South Carolinians to transform young museum visitors into inventors and enhance STEAM education initiatives statewide. In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, our new Spark!Lab will provide facilitated, STEAMbased (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) hands on invention and maker space activities for school groups, children, and families to access on field trips and during general museum hours, accessibility mornings programs, and other programmatic opportunities such as educator professional development. Spark!Lab activities provide visitors with opportunities to explore the invention process and their own inventiveness and demonstrate the central role that invention plays in American history—and today.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

State Museum Commission FTEs who will be hired following State HR policies ensuring a competitive hiring process based upon predetermined eligibility criteria.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Position 1: Ticketing and Database Administrator – AM62 TEC 03 -- \$87,373

The Ticketing and Database Administrator will oversee the implementation and day to day administration and maintenance of the technology systems driving the museum's revenue streams and public facing operations, including ticketing systems, retail sales systems, membership and donor databases, and online sales channels. This position will be responsible for the implementation of a new ticketing system, overseeing the synchronization of decades of museum visitor data into a modern constituent relationship management system, reconfiguring front of house sales hardware, coordinating compliance with state payment processing policy, and launching an updated web store. Once the system is implemented, this position will oversee training for staff using the new system, and will be responsible for the continued upkeep of adding new point of sale capabilities, maintaining data structure and personal identifying information compliance, ensuring that the system fluidly grows with the museum's operational needs, and addressing any technical issues with the system. The Ticketing and Database Administrator will also be responsible for running reports to ensure that the Museum and SCSM Foundation are maximizing revenues in

all areas such as visitation, membership, partnership, and philanthropy.

Position 2: Curator of Popular Culture– CE25 GEN09 - \$110,529

The South Carolina State Museum requests funding for the new position, Curator of Popular Culture. This position will be responsible for the interpretation, acquisition and exhibition of material associated with individuals and communities from our state connected to South Carolina sports, music, entertainment, and current events primarily from 1950 to the present. The Curator of Popular Culture will focus their research work on interpreting material included in the State's Collection as well as building the State Museum's contemporary and popular culture collection. The Curator of Popular Culture will share these iconic objects and stories with the public through exhibitions, public programs and digital media. This position is important to our partnerships with statewide cultural partners such as our most recent partner, the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame.

This position is critical as the museum moves forward with our major gallery renovation plans, titled Reimagine the Experience, or "RTE." The museum has very little material in our collection related to contemporary South Carolina sports, music and entertainment from the 1950's to the present, which will be critical to include as we reimagine the experience of exploring the Museum's updated galleries which will include more South Carolina stories than currently on display. The candidate in this position will have the opportunity to build relationships statewide with individuals connected to South Carolina sports, music, and entertainment. The Curator of Popular Culture will work directly with our Collections Management and Curatorial Affairs staff, which includes all curators, to develop exhibition content, work with relevant individuals and their families to acquire material and build the museum's collection, and share this information with the public through exhibitions, publications, programs and online. As the South Carolina State Museum is the state's flagship cultural institution, this position will be an asset to other museums in South Carolina to provide information and guidance with their own collections, serving the museum community and individuals across our state.

Position 3: IT Customer Support Coordinator – AM62 TEC03 -- \$87,373

The South Carolina State Museum is unlike many other State Agencies in several ways, one of which is our need to be open to the public beyond typical weekday work hours for rental clients, public programs, Museum events, and community gatherings. Often staff need to work early and late hours, plus weekends, to accommodate these areas. Currently our IT staff includes one part time position to respond to help desk tasks during 29.5 hours per week. Due to the nature of our business hour requirements as well as our growing staff and footprint, the Museum has identified a need for this position to convert to a full time role to maximize hours worked. By converting to full time, the IT Customer Service Support Specialist will assume current part time IT assistant tasks, including inventory oversight, IT purchase coding/follow up, vendor coordination, assistance with help desk ticketing and resolution, system testing, subscription/license maintenance, and other IT Administrative tasks. The need for increased support will allow for more balanced responsibility in the IT department to accommodate unusual working hours, as well as on call coverage. There is not currently a vacancy for this specific position as it is currently a part-time role. This is a request for a new full-time position. If funds for this position are not received, we will experience regular turnover in the IT department due to lack of work life balance and inconsistent schedules, plus more work than is feasible for the current team structure to accomplish in a work week. Our staff and the public's needs will not be met if we do not have sufficient IT infrastructure in place.

Position 4: Spark!Lab Education Specialist – AH35 GEN08 -- \$87,373

The South Carolina State Museum's Innovation Wing (target opening 2027), which is the next phase of major renovation project to launch as part of the Reimagine the Experience initiative, will foster the next generation of South Carolina's innovators by exploring how creative and entrepreneurial South Carolinians have shaped our world. A primary feature of the Innovation Wing which will engage visitors of all ages, though primary school age children, is a Smithsonian Spark!Lab. The Spark!Lab program, developed by the Smithsonian Institution's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation at the National Museum of American History, is respected as a prime model for the power of facilitated, informal learning in museums. In creating a

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Spark!Lab for the South Carolina State Museum, the museum will become part of the Smithsonian's network of museums trusted to provide these dynamic learning opportunities to the public. The Smithsonian provides key professional development training to the South Carolina State Museum which in turn, the SCSM will share with other local institutions. The new Education Specialist position is critical to the development of the Spark!Lab's hands-on invention activities and curricula, and operation of the Spark!Lab space including assisting visitors as they engage with the invention activities and evaluating the impact of the Spark!Lab experience. Daily, in person facilitation in Spark!Lab is a Smithsonian requirement for all network sites seeking to host a Spark!Lab in its museum. The full time Education Specialist will be responsible for delivering compelling visitor experiences in the Spark!Lab, managing daily Spark!Lab operations, and assisting other Spark!Lab staff in developing and implementing evaluation of the Spark!Lab experience. They are responsible for the general oversight of the Spark!Lab and its part time educators, as well as compliance with Smithsonian Spark!Lab policies surrounding the creation and implementation of activities and programs within the makerspace. As this is a new education focused initiative of the South Carolina State Museum, additional positions are required to operate this interactive hands-on space. Our current education staff directly oversee and engage in educational programming and visitation in other ways, therefore the Museum requires dedicated staff members who are experts on STEAM based Spark!Lab interactions and implementation.

Position 5: Collections Cataloger – CE20 GEN08 -- \$87,373

The Museum has a collection of over 1.1 million objects and specimens that tell the rich history of the people, places, and environments of South Carolina. With the generosity of the State Legislature in 2015, we were able to upgrade our digital collections management database to improve the tracking and care of our collections. With the expanded digital capability came a need to dramatically increase the type of data and digital images we collect on our objects. This allows both our staff to maintain better use and control of the collection and allows us to share the collection digitally with the public. None of our nearly 1 million natural history specimens are in the new database, creating a backlog of materials to bring up to date with our other collections. This is increasingly important as we proceed with the Reimaging the Experience (RTE) initiative which will require the display and movement of much of our collection. Much of this work requires specialized, dedicated employees to handle, describe, and digitally image the collection. The Collections Cataloger will work with both the Collections Management and Curatorial Affairs departments to research, catalogue, and edit data related to the Museum's collection. The Cataloger will work to improve the database metadata to assist with intellectual control of the collections and will work with the Collections Manager to identify and implement storage improvements to individual objects as catalogued. This position will also work with the Photographer to do basic photography of the collection when appropriate. The Cataloger also assists with daily collections management duties such as cleaning, couriering of objects, and exhibit work. Since 2019, in addition to staff work funded by the State, we have received nearly \$1 million in funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for staff to photograph and catalog the collection, and we have completed work on almost 20% of the cultural collections while just beginning work on Natural History. This work makes us among the leaders nationally in collections care. The Museum intentionally sought funding from grant sources to reduce the impact on the State to accomplish this project. With IMLS no longer offering grants to support this work, and much work still remaining to bring our database up to national standards and support the needs of the Museum, we seek recurring funding from the State to continue this mission critical work. Failure to continue the digitization of the collection with a digitization team will cause nearly six years of cataloging, digitization, and modernization of our collections database to cease. Educators wishing to access any additional objects in the collection will be required to either visit in person, or to make an advanced request for an image of an object in coordination with existing staff. We do not currently have vacancies for these positions as they are new and were previously time limited Federal grant funded positions.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Ticketing Database and Constituent Relationship Management System
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$200,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$200,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☒	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	☐	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	☐	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	☐	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	☐	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	☒	IT Technology/Security related
	☐	HR/Personnel Related
☐	Consulted DTO during development	
☐	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	☐	Education, Training, and Human Development
	☐	Healthy and Safe Families
	☒	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
☐	Government and Citizens	

	Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement initiatives supported: 1, Maximize impact of Museum operations 1.1, Effectively market the State Museum 1.2, Maximize earned revenues 1.3, Be efficient with allocated resources 1.4, Through museum foundation, garner citizen, corporate, and private financial support
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ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

1.1.4, Maximize ticketed admissions

1.2.1, Ticket and attraction revenue

1.2.2, Gift shop revenue

1.2.3, Facility rental revenue

1.4.1, Maximize total number of museum members

1.4.2, Cultivate and retain corporate community partners

1.4.3, Maximize annual corporate sponsorships

5.1, Protect the safety, integrity, and security of museum resources and visiting public; protection of people and systems

5.1.1, Provide necessary investment in IT hardware and software

Thanks to the generosity of the SC legislature which has supported the Reimagine the Experience (RTE) initiative over the last several years, the South Carolina State Museum (SCSM) is going through major technology and infrastructure upgrades as part of this overall improvement project to best reach and serve our visitors.

The SCSM is prioritizing the implementation of a modernized and streamlined ticketing database and constituent relationship management system that supports all revenue generation streams in order to maximize not only revenue but also make the most efficient use of staff hours to be most effective for the Museum's operations.

By transitioning to a Museum industry standard database system, the Museum will have enhanced reporting and data analysis capabilities to ensure we are marketing and communicating maximally to our visitors, members, and donors.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Funds to be used for agency Information Technology Infrastructure which would be paid to equipment vendors who would be sourced by IT staff and approved as required. The Division of Technology has eligibility criteria.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

The SCSM is prioritizing the implementation of a modernized and streamlined ticketing database and constituent relationship management system that supports all revenue generation streams in order to maximize revenue but also make the most efficient use of staff hours to be most effective for the Museum's operations. This major technology upgrade project is part of the ongoing museum modernization initiative.

This project is a critical update for our operations and revenue generation software, including ticketing, retail, fundraising, external communications, and database management for both in-person and online services. This project will allow the agency

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

to (1) generate more revenue through strategic service pricing and donation requests, and (2) better connect visitors with exhibits and programs that align with their interests, ultimately leading them through the process of becoming a member and donor to their State Museum.

The updated software will increase the agency's ability to analyze and respond to visitor behavior in a way that is now industry standard for other museums and similar organizations, such as institutions of higher education and Zoos. The software provides reports on ticketing and retail spending trends to identify popular offerings, automates feedback surveys to improve guest experience, and supports targeted follow-up offers and attendance planning based on use patterns.

This software would also improve the museum's fundraising capacity, merging donor databases with other customer databases to create a unified profile of how donors are interacting with museum content. The system will integrate with the museum's wealth screening tool to identify individuals with a high likelihood of donating based on publicly recorded gifts they have given to other organizations in the past.

This software will replace and improve upon our online reservations portals, increasing accessibility for guests and members, and streamline the system schools use to book field trips. Our current school booking system is antiquated, frustrating for teachers to access, and necessitates multiple staff on the museum side to finalize and confirm bookings. Improving our current system will eliminate the need for multiple staff to support what can be an automated booking process.

This request is for recurring funding that would cover continuing licensing and support costs for the new system, including annual maintenance on the hardware associated with the ticketing systems.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Wifi Expansion
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$50,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☒	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	☐	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	☒	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	☐	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	☐	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	☒	IT Technology/Security related
	☐	Consulted DTO during development
	☐	HR/Personnel Related
	☒	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	☐	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
☐	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	☐	Education, Training, and Human Development
	☐	Healthy and Safe Families
	☒	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
☐	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement Areas Impacted:	
	1, Maximize impact of Museum Operations	
	1.1.1, Maximize general attendance	
	1.1.5, Maximize rental attendance	
	1.2, Maximize earned revenues	
	1.2.3, Facility rental revenue	
	2, Be a primary educational resource for SC schools	
2.1.1, Maximize school group visitation		

2.2.2, Virtual programming (live and pre-recorded)

5, Maintain safety, integrity, and security

5.1.2, Provide necessary investment in IT hardware and software

The Museum is expanding its footprint into the “West Wing” of the Columbia Mills building to broaden our educational impact with a new state of the art Education Wing, as well as increase revenue with a competitive and large event rental space.

The addition of nearly 40,000 sqft. of space to our footprint requires the Museum to expand our Wifi network. The current network infrastructure is restricted to the previous Museum space and does not reach, nor is it capable of reaching under its current structure, the additional spaces of the Museum

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Current WiFi vendor will ultimately receive these funds upon installation of the new network hardware and cabling into the West Wing. State IT procurement guidelines will be followed when sourcing this infrastructure.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The Museum is expanding its footprint into the “West Wing” of the Columbia Mills building to broaden our educational impact with a new state of the art Education Wing, as well as increase revenue with a competitive and large event rental space.

Expansion of our Wifi network into the West Wing is required to impact the following areas:

- Education team: Educators will have offices in the Education Wing, and require internet capability to complete their job functions.
- School Groups and Teachers: When school groups and teachers access the Education Wing for professional development, educational activities, and other outings, Wifi will be required to carry out programming.
- Event and Rentals Staff: Staff will have offices in the new revenue generating rental wing and require internet capability to complete their job functions.
- Operations Staff will also have offices in the rental wing and require internet capability to complete their job functions.
- Event Rentals: Revenue-generating event rental clients will require internet capabilities to maximize the function of the spaces which they rent. Internet access is a basic requirement of any rental space.

	• Collections management: Collections management staff will require internet access when working in storage spaces located in the new West Wing area.
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	• Marketing and Communications: Our marketing and communications team will use sub level office space for their print shop and workspace. In addition to printers and other equipment requiring internet to function, Marketing and Communications staff members will require internet to complete their job functions.
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Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	South Carolina State Museum - Reimagine the Experience – Permanent Gallery Upgrades & Expansion of Educational Reach & Impact
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$10,000,000
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How much is requested for this project in FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	FY 25.26 CPIP: Priority 1 Original year CPIP requested: 2019 As part of an overall \$75 million Capital Campaign, the State Museum has secured \$35,180,465 from the State Legislature and SC250th Commission (\$800,000 grant) and \$3.8 million raised by the SCSM Foundation to date. Funding in hand supported phase 1 of this project and phase 2 renovations are currently underway. Our request of the State is for an additional \$10 million for the continuation of our Reimagine the Experience gallery renovations. The current request for \$10 million in FY26-27 will allow gallery renovations to continue and provide an economic and operational advantage by eliminating the need to pause work while additional funding is identified.
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If additional state funding is not made available for subsequent phases of the project, the Museum will delay critical upgrades that will transform the museum into a world-class cultural institution that brings people across the state and from around the world together in appreciation and celebration of South Carolina’s people and culture. We will continue to work closely with the SCSM Foundation to secure private support. The SCSM Foundation has pledged to raise at least \$10 million towards the project.

Identify the project’s CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency’s CPIP. If not included in the agency’s CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency’s contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	The State Museum Commission has been working with the SC Department of Administration to complete projects that were and are part of phases one and two, including: the ADA bathroom/education hallway upgrades, Lipscomb Art Gallery HVAC and lighting project, roof and window replacement, and HVAC replacement, floor restoration projects in new gallery spaces, office annex upgrades and renovations, and IT suite renovations. The SC Department of Administration has/is project managing these initiatives, and we have received appropriate CPIP and JBRC approvals for projects such as restroom renovations. As we embark on phase two and beyond of this project, we will continue to request JBRC and related approvals as needed, as well as A1 documentation in collaboration with the Department of Administration.
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What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

	To position the South Carolina State Museum as a premier educational resource for teachers and students in our entire state, and to preserve the history of the State of South Carolina through our collection of 1.1 million objects and specimens, we have embarked on a \$75 million capital campaign. We have received allocations totaling \$35,180,465 from the state legislature and SC250th Commission (\$800,000 grant) for a major Revolutionary War exhibition, opening on Carolina Day in June 2026. We have privately raised \$3.8 million to date through the
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**LONG-TERM
PLANNING AND
SUSTAINABILITY**

SCSM Foundation. These funds will allow us to complete projects in phase two of our renovations (2024-2026). We request an additional \$10 million investment from the State in FY27. Rising construction costs make it most fiscally responsible to continuously complete renovations rather than have significant pauses between projects.

The Museum commissioned a Feasibility Study in FY22.23 for the project which included a Pro Forma plan outlining future annual resource costs associated with upgraded exhibitions and educational spaces. The museum upgrades are projected to raise annual attendance by 35% which will generate additional museum revenue from ticket sales and associated attractions/revenue centers. A phased staffing plan has been developed to address future staffing needs. The upgraded exhibition galleries are designed with a useful life expectancy of 15-20 years, with periodic technology and maintenance updates as needed.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

Overview:

Since the South Carolina State Museum opened its doors in 1988, we have welcomed over five million visitors and hosted generations of students from across the state. We have fostered community and innovation, inspired meaningful connections, and embraced challenges as they came. As steward of the state's collections of over 1.1 million history, art, natural history, and technology objects and specimens, we are honored to hold the public's trust. After decades of generous support and thoughtful leadership, we are now launching a new era – with renewed expectations from our visitors, staff, volunteers, fellow cultural institutions, and the broader community to be a place of welcome, accessibility, learning, innovation, and inspiration.

To achieve this bold vision, we are "Reimagining the Experience," continuing the work that began in 2014 with a major renovation project that added 75,000 square feet of public space, including a planetarium, observatory, 4D theater, and educational classrooms. We are now poised to become an even more impactful educational resource for teachers, students, and the public across our State. Our \$75,000,000 Reimagine the Experience project is redeveloping and renewing over 240,000 square feet of immersive exhibitions, hands-on education spaces and state-of-the-art collection storage and research facilities.

Our remaining ask of the State is for \$30 million for the completion of our Reimagine the Experience renovations. We are incredibly grateful for the State's \$20 million allocation in FY25 to our budget towards this project. Over the next 2 fiscal years, the Museum plans to request an additional \$10 million per year for completion of the entire Reimagine the Experience project, understanding that a one-time \$30 million request may be more burdensome to the state.

Project Successes to Date:

Over the past several years, the South Carolina State Legislature has generously supported this initiative with an initial \$35,180,465 which includes an \$800,000 grant from the SC250th Commission. Our South Carolina State Museum Foundation has raised an additional \$3.8 million to date, giving us substantial funding to begin this important work. The museum is also grateful to the SC Department of Administration for committing funds for critical remediation work on the historic Columbia Mills Building in which the museum is housed, including a new roof, new windows, and a comprehensive update to the museum's HVAC systems.

In FY23.24, we contracted with Gallagher & Associates Consulting, a recognized industry leader in museum design and business development, to create an inspiring Visitor Experience Plan for the Reimagine the Experience project as well as a Feasibility Study that included an annual Operating Pro Forma covering long-term maintenance and resource needs. Based on this work, the State Museum Commission, along with our SCSM Foundation have committed to a \$75,000,000 capital campaign to transform the museum into a 21st Century Center for learning and innovation. The project will be phased over several years as additional monetary support is secured.

RTE Phase One: COMPLETED. R&D and Investment in Infrastructure 2020-2024:

The goal of Phase One of the project was to ensure critical infrastructure needs were in place to achieve overall project success. This included substantial upgrades to the historic building's infrastructure, mechanical and IT systems, and ensuring the building was ADA accessible for our audiences. We also prioritized upgrades to our revenue centers and current education classrooms to ensure the museum will be able to continue to thrive and support its educational mission during the subsequent construction phases. Major projects that were completed during Phase 1 include:

Updated Current Education Classrooms: The museum began its upgrades focused on our most important visitors – South Carolina students. A refreshed education suite gives our school visitors a space to start their explorations, including a wellness room. While the size of this space is not sufficient for the number of students and camp attendees who visit the Museum each year, we made modifications that maximize the education area that we had available at the time, focused on health, safety, and accessibility for all, with the intention of expanding our capacity to serve more students and teachers in our new Education Wing (see Phase Two).

The Lipscomb Art Gallery underwent major renovations to include a new HVAC system, a state of the art museum lighting system, painting, and floor refinishing. The ceiling was also repaired and refinished due to previous water damage from a leaking roof and HVAC issues. The Lipscomb Art Gallery re-opens to the public in September 2025 after two years of renovations with an exhibition titled *From the Vault: South Carolina Art from the Museum's Collection*.

Planetarium & 4D Theater Upgrades: A \$750,000 investment in a new digital planetarium system offers visitors immersive experiences that are out of this world, featuring STEAM educational offerings for schools. Our 4D Theater also received a digital system upgrade to better support our 4D natural history educational programs. The SCSM Foundation contributed \$400K towards this project.

ADA Restroom Project: The museum invested \$1 million into 16 updated public and staff bathrooms to make them fully ADA compliant. In collaboration with the Department of Administration, JBRC approval was received.

Security Camera Installation: The Museum installed an expanded security camera system that uses the latest technology in the original footprint of the Columbia Mills building (see additional plans in phase 2). The system allows the Museum to track activity both inside and outside of the Museum to ensure that our visitors, staff, and collections are safe. This project was funded by a separate State budget allocation.

IT and Digital Infrastructure: A major focus of Phase One was updating our digital and IT security needs to ensure the museum was IT ready for new exhibitions and had the digital capacity to reach students and teachers in all parts of the state and beyond. Projects included a new mobile friendly public website, a searchable collections database, new servers and WIFI coverage for the entire building.

Improved Welcome Experience: The SCSM Foundation contributed \$50,000 in philanthropic support to upgrade the welcome experience for our visitors through new landscaping that features native plants and revitalized the museum's Pearl Fryar topiaries.

Back of House Infrastructure Upgrades: Leveraging a federal Shuttered Venues Operating Grant (SVOG) and support from the SC Arts Commission, upgrades were made in art collection storage as well as staff office/back of house areas to maximize productivity and collaboration. This includes the installation of a state-of-the-art storage system for our Traveling Exhibitions Program materials.

RTE Visitor Experience, Concept Design & Feasibility Studies: The museum contracted with Gallagher & Associates, a leading international museum design firm to create the

concept designs and related feasibility/business plans for the overall permanent gallery project. This included numerous listening sessions with stakeholders from across the state. The museum also contracted a structural engineering study of the building as well as a study of the museum's collection storage capacities to inform the project.

Department of Administration Support: During this time, substantial work was completed on the Columbia Mills Building Roof/Window project. In addition, studies were done, and initial funding secured to begin the HVAC replacement project at Columbia Mills. The Department of Administration has also supported JBRC approvals and continues to collaborate with Museum staff as we submit A1 documentation for the upcoming access control project and other RTE renovations.

Currently Underway: RTE Phase Two 2025-2028 South Carolina's Innovative Past, Present & Future:

In celebration of the USA's 250th Anniversary in July 2026, the museum will offer our public a new series of inspiring exhibitions and educational experiences. Phase Two, using money currently in hand and additional funds actively being raised, will transform large areas of the museum into an exploration of South Carolina's rich past, present, and future. Major projects include:

Education Wing: Our expansion into the first floor of the Columbia Mills building affords the Museum the opportunity to build a world-class education wing for South Carolina's students. In addition to appropriately sized classrooms that accommodate field trip classes and summer camp groups, it will house Education Staff offices and much needed storage areas.

SUMMARY

The 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War exhibition (opening on Carolina Day, June 28th, 2026) will explore how South Carolina has been a leading contributor and influencer in the history of the United States and our global economy, past and present. Visitors will meet the South Carolinians who created economies, fostered the cultures, and fought in the Revolutionary War battles that defined the state's identity and impacted the nation. The SCSM Foundation received an \$800,000 grant from the SC250th Commission to begin this work in FY25, which will be matched with capital funds currently raised.

The South Carolina Innovation Wing will feature the many ways South Carolinians, past and present, have shaped our world. This 13,500 sqft gallery and interactive space, adjacent to our Observatory, will excite and inspire museum visitors to tap into their creativity and discover ways they can contribute to our state's innovative history and future. We will build a hands-on makerspace for STEAM learning for schools and families called the Spark!Lab. Spark!Lab is a national network of hands-on invention spaces created by the Smithsonian Institution, fostering the next generations of South Carolina's innovators.

4th Floor Event/Revenue Generating Space and open storage: Expansion into the fourth floor of the Columbia Mills building will give the Museum a large revenue generating space that can be used for major events, public programs, conferences, public addresses, and much more. This area will also include staff offices, exhibition space, and open storage areas that grant the public access to more of the State's collection.

Sports in South Carolina Exhibition: In FY25, the Museum signed an MOU with the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame to offer a physical home for their inductees to be honored. In addition to a reflective space for the Hall of Fame, the Museum will build a major exhibition that showcases sports and athletes across the state in collaboration with the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame. The Curator of Popular Culture, a position requested in a separate B1 submission, will oversee the collecting for and curation of this exhibition and related programming.

Expanded collections storage will be built into the 3rd and 4th floors of the Columbia Mills building to accommodate the State's collection of over 1.1 million objects and specimens. Currently, our storage areas are at 98% capacity, and it is our desire to avoid moving objects to offsite storage facilities.

Critical Museum Workshop Upgrades: The Museum's exhibition fabrication department and design studio are located in a warehouse behind the main Columbia Mills building. This workshop houses the equipment used by our Exhibition Design and Fabrication team which works to build exhibitions within the museum. Over the last couple of years, this space has required critical upgrades, including a new HVAC unit purchased by the Museum Commission, a new dust collection system (funded by a previous Legislative allocation), and staff work spaces. Upgrades will continue to ensure that equipment is functioning safely and is ready to support the new exhibitions being installed throughout the RTE project.

Concept Design of the Museum's Art Wing will take place during Phase Two. Prototyping exhibitions for this wing will take place in the newly redesigned Lipscomb Gallery (upgraded in phase 1).

Concept design for the Natural History Floor: During this phase, concept design work will be completed for Phase 3, featuring expansion and upgrades of our Natural History exhibitions.

Safety and Security: Additional funds are being requested to expand the new security camera system (installed during Phase 1) into the West Wing of Columbia Mills. A new Key Card System will replace our antiquated systems with state-of-the art technology to ensure that the museum guests, staff, and our treasured state collections are safe and well-cared for. This is funded by a separate appropriation from the State.

Back of house upgrades will be made to our Registration and Conservation labs. These important upgrades are for the safety of our staff and collections, as well as to set us up for success as we begin our gallery renovations.

Department of Administration Support: Work has begun to upgrade HVAC systems throughout Columbia Mills. The Department of Administration is also providing support to construction projects throughout the Museum, as well as security camera and keycard access projects.

RTE Phase Three: South Carolina's Natural Wonders 2029-2031:

Phase Three of Reimagine the Experience will focus on the museum's 2nd floor, transforming our Natural History wing through hands-on immersive experiences that explore South Carolina's natural wonders from its prehistoric marine world to today. South Carolinians and guests to our state will share their discoveries and fascination with South Carolina's natural world, how it has transformed over time, and appreciate its critical role in their lives. Guests will then be encouraged to go out into the state to explore our State Parks and SCDNR sites from the Upstate to the Lowcountry. Major projects include:

- Immersive "underwater" prehistoric marine world showcasing the state's earliest beginnings.
- Transformed dinosaur gallery showcasing the State Museum's collections as well as exciting new acquisitions.
- Innovative South Carolina habitats gallery that features the State's natural wonders through hands-on experiences.
- Changing exhibitions about our natural environment highlighting the important work of South Carolina's scientists and naturalists.

New Permanent Art Gallery will showcase the cultural expressions of South Carolinians for more than 400 years, from traditional portraiture to folk and decorative arts to

contemporary works and more. An open storage design will allow visitors to see more of the museum's 4,500 pieces of art than ever before and give them opportunities to unleash their own creativity.

RTE Phase Four: South Carolina Transforming + Remembering 2031-2033:

Phase Four of the project will see the final renovations of the 3rd and 4th floor exhibition galleries, continuing to share more stories of South Carolinians past and present. Visitors will explore the transformation of the state's economy and evolving politics, the rights and roles of its residents and its place in the nation, all while considering their relationship to the past and contributions to the future. Major Projects Include:

Additional changing exhibitions that share more stories of South Carolina's cultural history and technological achievements, linking our past to the present and providing richer context about the people and places presented in the permanent galleries.

Additional open storage offering our visitors more opportunities to interact and be inspired by the State's collections.

To ensure that the South Carolina State Museum is operating at its best in support of our educational mission, we have embarked on a \$75 million Capital Campaign. The \$35,180,465 support to date from the State Legislature, including an \$800,000 grant from the SC250th Commission, and \$3.8 million raised to date by the SCSM Foundation will help us to begin Phase Two of the project, ensuring we have exciting new experiences for the public for the USA 250th celebrations.

We are asking the SC State Legislature to continue to be a major investor in its State Museum through an investment of \$10 million in FY27 so that we can complete significant gallery renovations in Phase Two of this project. We will request \$10 million in FY28 and FY29 to complete the Reimagine the Experience project. The SCSM Foundation has pledged to raise at least \$10 million for the initiative and the museum staff is committed to raising an additional \$5 million in federal/state/local grant support.

Together, we can transform the South Carolina State Museum into a 21st Century institution of learning and inspiration we can be proud of for generations to come.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	5
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Upgrading End-Of-Life HVAC Monitoring System
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$250,000
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How much is requested for this project in FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	FY 25.26 CPIP: Priority 4 Original year CPIP requested: New Request
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Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	The Museum will collaborate with the Department of Administration on the ongoing Columbia Mills HVAC system replacements to identify the necessary collaboration and approvals required to install the HVAC monitoring system. We will continue to request JBRC and related approvals as needed.
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What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	In 2017, thanks to previous funding allocated to the Museum from the State Legislature, an HVAC monitoring system was installed allowing us to quickly address environmental issues that impact our collections. Our current system has reached end-of-life and we are required to update our system to continue monitoring galleries and object storage at the highest levels of museum and conservation best-practice. There are annual costs associated with environmental monitoring systems, and once the new system is sourced and installed, a recurring request to cover those costs will be submitted for FY28. These costs will likely be between \$10,000 and \$15,000 annually, depending on the system that is installed and the number of sensors installed throughout the museum.
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What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

	The South Carolina State Museum is responsible for stewarding the State Collection of important objects and specimens to preserve South Carolina's history. A crucial part of collections care is monitoring the temperature and humidity of the galleries and storage rooms where our objects are housed. To ensure the long-term safety of the 1.1 million objects and specimens in the Museum's collections, we utilize cloud-based environmental monitors to see current levels and trends of the climate in both our storage and exhibition spaces. This provides data to work closely with the Department of Administration to adjust and set levels throughout the museum and also allows us to quickly address issues that threaten the safety of our objects.
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SUMMARY

Our current system, installed in 2017 through generous funding of the Legislature, is on a platform that is now end-of-life. In addition, the redesign and expansion of the galleries and object storage will require us to rearrange and expand our environmental monitoring capabilities and reach over the next three years.

To begin this process, we request \$250,000 for new environmental monitoring equipment to replace existing outdated hardware and begin expanding our monitoring into the newly designed galleries and object storage areas throughout the Columbia Mills building.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	6 Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.
TITLE	Security Upgrades: Expanded Security Camera System Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.
AMOUNT	\$400,000 How much is requested for this project in FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.
CPIP PRIORITY	FY 25.26 CPIP: Priority 5 Original year CPIP requested: 2019 Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.
OTHER APPROVALS	The Museum secured the appropriate approvals from JBRC by submitting an A1 request in collaboration with the Project Manager assigned by the Department of Administration. What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)
LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	Thanks to the generosity of the State Legislature, the Museum was allocated funding to invest in a modern security camera system in the previous museum footprint of the Columbia Mills building. Now that the Museum is expanding into the 1st and 4th floors of the "West Wing" of Columbia Mills, we submit this request for additional funds to expand the security camera coverage the museum's additional footprint. The Museum has invested \$520,000 towards this project to date. In collaboration with the Department of Administration our Collections Management, Operations, and Public Safety departments have worked together to map and install an extensive security camera system from A3 Communications. What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?
	The South Carolina State Museum has the responsibility of protecting all guests, employees, and volunteers that enter the facility or visit the grounds as well as its extensive collection of objects and specimens. Currently, the security system for the museum is the responsibility of the State Museum Commission, not the Department of Administration, who is the landlord of the Columbia Mills Building. As such, the Museum submits budget requests for security needs affecting our space. The Museum received \$70,000 in non-recurring funds from the Legislature in the FY21-22 budget and an additional \$450,000 in FY22-23. Thanks to the generosity of the Legislature, the Museum collaborated with the Department of Administration to source a state-of-the-art security camera system to protect our visitors, staff, and collections.

SUMMARY

Since installation, the security camera system has allowed us to identify individuals who stole a construction trailer from the parking lot, as well as track visitors throughout the museum who needed attention from Public Safety. It also identified flooding in our natural history collections storage area, alerting security and collection management staff so they could address the problem expediently. The State's investment into our public Museum's safety has already proven to be valuable to our staff and visitors and allowed us to respond quickly to emergencies and events at the Museum.

Now, the Museum is expanding into the West Wing of the Columbia Mills building and adding over 40,000 sqft. to our footprint. Due to this expansion, we have identified a need for additional security cameras to cover all the spaces that will be occupied by school children, staff, visitors, and collections. The new spaces will include an education wing for children visiting on school field trips, staff offices, events and program spaces open to the public, as well as Museum collections and supply storage areas. It is the Museum's responsibility to ensure that visitors, staff, and the State's collections are safe in every area of the space that we occupy.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

**FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION
CONTINGENCY PLAN**

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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AMOUNT	\$313,550
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	0 FTE
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	1. Administration 1. Transition from private Janitorial Contractor to Dept of Administration 1. Janitorial Contract Services Supplies: \$17,434 2. Janitorial Services Contract: \$85,768.80 2. IT Staff Contractor Reduction: \$164,200 3. Administration - Agency Transition from Shared Services: \$75,000
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What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	1. Administration – Rent Reduction: Reduction in rent payment (allowed by State Proviso 29.6) to General Services would defer and delay needed maintenance repairs to the building thus negatively affecting the visitor experience and ultimately negatively impact attendance and revenue. Rent of \$3,220,168 reduced by 3% = \$96,605 2. Programs; Close the museum one additional weekday per week. The museum is currently closed to the public on Mondays to allow staff time to clean the building and allow construction crews to do major work in the building without disrupting the visitor experience (ex. Roof and window repairs, etc.). If faced with a reduction in General Fund appropriations, we would close the museum on an additional weekday on Tuesdays, which is the least busy visitation day. We would reduce the number of part-time staff by 9 part-time positions in Operations and Visitor Engagement, saving staff costs. Reduction of visitor services PT staff one day per week: \$169,023.
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Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

1. Exhibition Design & Fabrication Workshop Equipment: The museum purchased several new pieces of workshop equipment including new engraving and woodworking machines. This new equipment, as well as a new dust collection system and an updated workshop and design studio allows our exhibition design and fabrication team to do more exhibition work in-house, saving outside design costs. In addition, the equipment will allow the team to do more fabrication work for hire with museums across the state, both serving our museum community and bringing additional revenue into the state Museum. In FY2025, the workshop was able to fabricate platforms for the current Blockbuster exhibit for more than \$50,000 less than an outside purchase. Annual Cost Savings Estimate: \$20,000.

2. Three new online systems have been activated or expanded: 1. Online events management system 2. Online group/school visit booking system. 3. Online retail webstore. These three systems allow museum staff to be more efficient with booking tours, creating new business for museum rental events, and generating retail item sales. This will cut down on staff hours needed for these sales and service functions and will allow the museum to generate additional revenue. Annual cost savings estimate in PT staff: \$30,000

3. Compact storage systems installed in our art storage, traveling exhibition storage, and registration areas have allowed us to open much needed storage space for our collection, as well as expand our traveling exhibition program. This will prolong the need to rent offsite storage for these items. This is a short-term solution as our storage is at 98% capacity. Annual Cost Savings Estimate: \$10,000

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	State Museum Commission		
Agency Code:	H950	Section:	29

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	South Carolina State Museum: Accessible to All
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	The South Carolina State Museum is committed to serving all South Carolinians. We do this by offering free and/or reduced admission to the museum through several programs. 1. Free admission to every South Carolina student including public, private, and homeschooled children: SCSM field trips offer free admission to the museum including our state-of-the-art observatory and hands-on STEAM programs. We also receive grant funding to assist with Title 1 school busses to be accessible in areas where transportation may be a challenge. 2. Museums for All: The SCSM is a participating organization with Museums for All, a signature access program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), to encourage all people regardless of socioeconomic status to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum-going habits. Under Museums for All, general admission to the museum is discounted to \$2 for individuals and families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), WIV, and Medicaid benefits. 3. Free admission for Veterans and Active Military. The Museum offers free admission to military personnel in uniform every Thursday in partnership with Fort Jackson, \$1.00 off admission to all active or retired military, and free admission to active or retired military on Veteran’s Day. Starting in the summer of 2024, SCSM is participating in Blue Star Museums – a program organized by the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families in collaboration with the Department of Defense. This program offers free admission to the nation’s active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve from Armed Forces Day in May through Labor Day in September each year. 4. Public Programs: The Museum offers free admission to those with disabilities and neurodiversities and their families one Saturday each month, as well as during Disability Celebration Day. In addition to these accessibility days, we offer free admission throughout the year at a variety of other public programs. 5. First Sundays: The Museum offers \$1 admissions to all on the first Sunday of each month.
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What is the expected savings to South Carolina’s businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:
	☐ Repeal or revision of regulations.
	☒ Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	☐ Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	☐ Other

	Museum General Admission Prices: Adults: \$13.00 Seniors (ages 62+): \$11.00
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METHOD OF CALCULATION	Children: \$10.00 SC School Students: Free Admission First Sundays: \$1.00 general admission tickets on the first Sunday of each month Museums for All: \$2.00 Tickets Blue Star Museum: Free to active-duty military each summer (May – September)
Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.	
REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	The museum offers free or reduced admission to select audiences to widen access to the museum – see detail above. Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?
REDUCTION OF REGULATION	N/A Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?
SUMMARY	The South Carolina State Museum is committed to serving all South Carolinians. We do this by offering free and/or reduced admission to the museum through several programs. Free admission to every South Carolina student including public, private, and homeschooled children: SCSM field trips offer free admission to the museum including our state-of-the-art observatory and hands-on STEAM programs. We also receive grant funding to assist with Title 1 school busses to be accessible in areas where transportation may be a challenge. Museums for All: The SCSM is a participating organization with Museums for All, a signature access program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), to encourage all people regardless of socioeconomic status to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum-going habits. Under Museums for All, general admission to the museum is discounted to \$2 for individuals and families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), WIV, and Medicaid benefits. Free admission for Veterans and Active Military. The Museum offers free admission to military personnel in uniform every Thursday in partnership with Fort Jackson, \$1.00 off admission to all active or retired military, and free admission to active or retired military on Veteran’s Day. Starting in the summer of 2024, SCSM is participating in Blue Star Museums – a program organized by the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families in collaboration with the Department of Defense. This program offers free admission to the nation’s active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve from Armed Forces Day in May through Labor Day in September each year. Public Programs: The Museum offers free admission to those with disabilities and neurodiversities and their families one Saturday each month, as well as during Disability Celebration Day. In addition to these accessibility days, we offer free admission throughout the year at a variety of other public programs. Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?