

Natural History Museum

MISSION

To inspire wonder, discovery, and responsibility for our natural and cultural worlds.

MANDATORY & MAJOR DUTIES

- Steward one of the western U.S.'s largest natural and cultural collections
- Advance scholarly research
- Curate exhibits highlighting cultural, natural, and Los Angeles history
- Expand equitable access (students, military, underserved communities)
- Deliver education & mobile learning



CURRENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

FY 2025-2026
Final Adopted Budget
(\$ Millions)

Total Appropriation

(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)

\$29.5



Salaries & Employee Benefits (5.0 positions)

1.6 (5.3%)



Services & Supplies

27.4 (93%)



Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)

0.5 (1.7%)

Sources of Funding

(How We Pay For All of This)

\$29.5



Federal Assistance

--



State Assistance

--



Fees/Charges for Services*

--



Other Resources**

0.1 (<1%)



Net County Cost

remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues

29.4 (99%)

* Some State and Federally funded services may be reflected as "Fees/Charges for Services" through reimbursement mechanisms (e.g., Medi-Cal billing)

** "Other Resources" includes miscellaneous revenues not otherwise classified, including fines, settlements, interest earnings, and interdepartmental billing

BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA

What These Investments Deliver For Residents

General Program Category	% of Dept Budget
Administration and Operations	34%
Public Programs	36%
Research and Collection	30%

Program categories shown here are presentation-level groupings created to consolidate information from the new LA County Enterprise System (LACES) for this briefing. Note that as part of the County’s initial rollout of data-driven budgeting through LACES, categories and outcome measures will continue to evolve based on practical use and data insights as departments operationalize the system in FY 2026–27.

DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES, METRICS & OUTCOMES

Priorities

2025 Metrics & Outcomes

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase visitation to Museums | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1.3M visitors• 35% (455,000) attended for free |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide educational opportunities through museum programming | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ~190,000 students visited Museums free• 31,000 students participated in mobile museum outreach |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete Tar Pits Master Plan renovation on time and on budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To date, Foundation has raised 55% of \$240M cost for Page Museum remodel and park improvements to be completed before LA Olympics |

BUDGET REQUEST (FY 2026-2027)

Total New Appropriation Request*	\$44.3M
Additional positions requested	0.0
Additional NCC requested	\$44.3M

Key Budget Requests	Amount (\$Millions)	One-Time/ Ongoing?	Positions
Mobile Museum	\$0.5	Ongoing	0.0
Elevators at Natural History Museum at Expo Park	\$7.0	One-time	0.0
Construction for La Brea Tar Pits Project Phase 1	\$35.0	One-time	0.0

* Priority budget and unmet needs requests

CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Challenges

Rising costs

Mitigation Strategy

- Zero-based budgeting
 - Additional fundraising via gifts & grants
-

Slower revenue growth

- New revenue exploration
 - Visiting exhibits to encourage visitation
 - Marketing
-

External factors dampening attendance

- Marketing to local markets