

# 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)

<b>Total Appropriation</b> <i>(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)</i>		<b>\$29.5</b>
	Salaries & Employee Benefits (5.0 positions)	<b>1.6 (5.3%)</b>
	Services & Supplies	<b>27.4 (93%)</b>
	Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)	<b>0.5 (1.7%)</b>
<b>Sources of Funding</b> <i>(How We Pay For All of This)</i>		<b>\$29.5</b>
	Federal Assistance	--
	State Assistance	--
	Fees/Charges for Services*	--
	Other Resources**	<b>0.1 (&lt;1%)</b>
<b>Net County Cost</b> <i>remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues</i>		<b>29.4 (99%)</b>

\* 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

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- **Increase visitation** to Museums
- **Provide educational opportunities** through museum programming
- **Complete Tar Pits Master Plan renovation** on time and on budget

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- 1.3M visitors
- 35% (455,000) attended for free

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- ~190,000 students visited Museums free
- 31,000 students participated in mobile museum outreach

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- 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)

<b>Total New Appropriation Request*</b>	<b>\$44.3M</b>
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

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#### Rising costs

### Mitigation Strategy

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

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#### Slower revenue growth

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

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#### External factors dampening attendance

- Marketing to local markets