

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION CHRONOLOGY

August 10, 1846	Smithsonian Act of Organization Passed
1846	Joseph Henry Elected First Smithsonian Secretary
1855	Smithsonian Building Completed
1858	Smithsonian Is Designated as the National Museum
1876	Centennial Exposition Collections Donated to Smithsonian
1878	Spencer Baird Elected Second Secretary
1879	Bureau of Ethnology Established at Smithsonian by Congress
1881	Arts and Industries Building Opened
1887	Samuel Langley Elected Third Secretary
1890	Astrophysical Observatory Established
1891	National Zoological Park Opened in the Valley of Rock Creek
1907	Charles D. Walcott Appointed Fourth Secretary
1910	Natural History Building Opened
1912	Helen Herron Taft Donated First of the "First Ladies Gowns"
1923	Freer Gallery of Art Opened
1928	Charles G. Abbot Appointed Fifth Secretary
1928	Spirit of St. Louis Donated to SI by Charles Lindbergh
1945	Alexander Wetmore Elected Sixth Secretary
1946	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Made Part of SI
1946	National Air Museum Established
1950	Smokey Bear Arrived at National Zoo
1952	Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service Established
1953	Leonard Carmichael Elected Seventh Secretary
1958	Hope Diamond Donated to SI by Harry Winston
1959	Fenykovi Elephant Placed on Display in NMNH
1964	National Museum of American History Opened
1964	S. Dillon Ripley Became Eighth Secretary
1965	The Smithsonian Associates Founded
1965	Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Established

1967 First Festival of American Folklife Held on the National Mall

1967 Anacostia Museum Opened

1968 National Museum of American Art Opened in Old Patent Office Building

1968 National Portrait Gallery Opened in Old Patent Office Building

1969 Conservation Analytical Laboratory Established

1970 "Smithsonian" Magazine Began Publication

1970 Archives of American Art Became Part of Smithsonian

1971 Smithsonian Marine Station at Link Port Established

1972 Renwick Gallery Opened

1972 Giant Pandas Arrived at National Zoo

1974 Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Opened

1975 Conservation & Research Center Established

1976 National Air & Space Museum Opened

1976 Cooper-Hewitt: The National Design Museum Reopened

1978 National Museum of African Art Established

1984 Robert McC. Adams Became Ninth Secretary

1987 Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Opened

1987 S. Dillon Ripley International Center Opened

1989 National Museum of the American Indian Established

1990 National Postal Museum Established

1994 I. Michael Heyman Became Tenth Secretary

2000 Lawrence M. Small Became Eleventh Secretary

2003 Udvar-Hazy Center of NASM Opened

2003 National Museum of African American History and Culture Established

2004 National Museum of the American Indian Opened

2007 Cristián Samper Appointed Acting Secretary

2008 G. Wayne Clough Became Twelfth Secretary