

Maryland Federal Facilities Profile

Smithsonian Institution



SI Building
Washington, DC 20013

www.si.edu

Secretary: David J. Skorton

Department: Independent

Maryland Employees: 433

Procurement Contracts in 2015:

- \$294,992,622 US Total
- \$22,267,469 Performed in Maryland

History & Mission: In 1826, James Smithson, a British scientist, drew up his last will and testament, naming his nephew as beneficiary. Smithson stipulated that, should the nephew die without heirs (as he would in 1835), the estate should go “to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.” The Mission from James Smithson's Gift, "I then bequeath the whole of my property...to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase & diffusion of knowledge..." James Smithson (1765-1829).

Maryland Facilities

Museum Conservation Institute (Prince George's County)
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (Anne Arundel County)

Resources

[Acquisition Forecast](#)

[Office of Equal Employment and Minority Affairs](#)

[Contracting](#)

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Branches and Contacts

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Museum Conservation Institute

The Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute was founded in 1963 as the Conservation Research Laboratory of the United States National Museum. A year later it became the Conservation Analytical Laboratory (CAL), a name it retained for almost 25 years. It was renamed the Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education (SCMRE) in 1998 when its new mandate was to formulate and conduct training and education programs in conservation. The name Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) better reflects its new mission: to become the center for specialized technical collections research and conservation for all Smithsonian museums and collections.

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Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

In 1964, Mr. Robert Lee Forrest of Baltimore bequeathed his 365-acre Java dairy farm and other holdings on the Rhode River in southern Anne Arundel County to the Smithsonian Institution. The center was officially established in 1965 as the Chesapeake Center for Field Biology. The center continued to grow throughout the 1970s and early 1980s with the construction of a laboratory building, the formal establishment of an education program for young scientists, and later a program for public education, and the continued production of important scientific results. Between 1983 and 1985, some members of the Smithsonian Radiation Biology Laboratory (RBL) in Rockville moved their studies to the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Research Center and after the RBL closed in 1985, the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Research Center was renamed the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

SERC's diverse staff of 16 senior scientists and an interdisciplinary team of more than 180 researchers, technicians, and students conduct long-term descriptive and experimental research addressing such issues as global change, the effects of nutrients and chemicals passing through our landscapes, maintenance of productive fisheries, changes to our environment from biological invaders, and protection of fragile wetlands and woodlands.

Though initially focused on the Rhode River and Chesapeake Bay, the research quickly took on global significance as researchers began seeing the Chesapeake Bay as a model for the complex environmental issues facing the world. SERC leads the nation in research on linkages of land and water ecosystems in the coastal zone and provides society with knowledge to meet critical environmental challenges in the 21st century.

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