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

Fiscal Year FY 2027-2028

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*		Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
		Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*		Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*	X	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
PROVISOS *(FORM D)*		Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	X	Not requesting any proviso changes.

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

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Amy Bartow-Melia	(803) 898-4930	Amy.Bartow-Melia@scmuseum.org
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Emily Gallo	(803) 898-4940	Emily.Gallo@scmuseum.org

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2027-2028 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:	Amy Bartow-Melia	
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	September 25 2026	September 25 2026

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 Infrastructure and Gallery Renovations	67,522,349	0	0	0	67,522,349	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			67,522,349	0	0	0	67,522,349	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

South Carolina State Museum Infrastructure and Gallery Renovations

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$67,522,349

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY

- FY2028 CPIP Priority 1
- Original Year CPIP Requested: 2019
- If appropriated funds are not approved, the South Carolina State Museum's Contingency Plan includes a combination of additional fund raising support by the South Carolina State Museum Foundation, enhanced revenue generation initiatives, and the use of carryforward funding.

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 South Carolina State Museum (SCSM) is working in collaboration with the Department of Administration to obtain the proper approvals to move forward with construction projects, to include JBRC, etc.

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

Please see the chart below for specific details on previous allocations and expenditures. Should this request be fulfilled in totality, no other capital requests related to this project will be requested in future fiscal years, as this amount will address the infrastructure and gallery upgrades required as outlined in the summary below. In addition to the below allocated funds received from the State, the SCSM Foundation has committed to raising $15 million to support the project.

Fiscal Year	Amount Appropriated	Amount Expended	Balance	Appropriation Description
Pre-2022	$2,982,570.64		$2,982,570.64	Exhibit Renovations
2022	$3,750,000.00	$540,368.35	$6,192,202.29	Exhibit Renovations
2023	$3,375,000.00	$1,010,345.04	$8,556,857.25	Exhibit Renovations
2024	$0.00	$428,355.87	$8,128,501.38	Exhibit Renovations
2025	$4,255,465.00	$577,880.90	$11,806,085.48	Reimagine the Experience Permanent Gallery Improvement & Exhibit Renovations
2026	$20,000,000.00	$28,065,516.79	$3,740,568.69	Reimagine the Experience Permanent Gallery Improvement & Exhibit Renovations
2027	$3,000,000.00	$553,357.68	$6,187,211.01	Reimagine the Experience
TOTAL	**$37,363,035.64**	**$31,175,824.63**	**$6,187,211.01**	

H950 RTE Fund Balances as of 9/21/2026
**"Amount expended" includes funds encumbered to begin construction with the Department of Administration.*

No capital improvement/infrastructure upgrade project of this magnitude has been conducted at the SCSM since its founding in 1988. The SCSM engaged international museum experts Gallagher and Associates in 2023 to develop a Visitor Experience Plan, which details projected outcomes related to these improvements. Highlights include:

- School group visitation is expected to increase to 86,200 students (currently just over 37,000 visitations) once renovations are completed, based on the 2023 Visitor Experience Plan.

- The 2023 Visitor Experience Plan projects attendance to increase to 222,000 visitors annually once renovations are complete. This calculation does not include visitation related to the new 4th floor special events wing space.
- Completion of the Museum's expanded event rentals space is expected to double revenue in this area, from approx. $300,000 annually to $600,000 annually.

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?

Protecting State Heritage, Expanding Opportunity, and Driving Economic Growth

Introduction:
Since 1988, the South Carolina State Museum has served as an educational anchor for our state, welcoming millions of visitors from around the world and educating generations of South Carolina students. As the steward of more than 1.1 million irreplaceable historical, scientific, and cultural objects and specimens belonging to South Carolina, we take our duty as guardians of the public trust seriously.

Today, we are looking toward the future: to modernize our infrastructure, maximize efficiency, and better serve our citizens through the *Reimagine the Experience* (RTE) initiative.
As South Carolina experiences historic population growth, the State Museum must evolve to meet the needs of an expanding, multi-generational public. People are choosing to move to South Carolina for its vibrant economy and unmatched quality of life, bringing new families who require modern, high-tech educational amenities to prepare their children to enter the workforce.

Simultaneously, our growing senior population relies on accessible, enriching state resources for lifelong learning and family engagement. The Reimagine the Experience renovation ensures South Carolina's flagship museum keeps pace with our state's momentum—providing a modern asset that welcomes new residents, honors our aging population, and showcases South Carolina's bright future.

Budget Request:
The Museum requests a one-time capital investment of $67,522,349 to modernize the State's premier cultural institution.

In 2014, South Carolina made a foundational investment that added 75,000 square feet of public space, including advanced planetarium, observatory, and educational facilities. Now, 12 years later, we are poised to finish the job by redeveloping over 220,000 square feet of immersive exhibitions, hands-on STEM-aligned education spaces, and state-of-the-art collections storage and research facilities.

Central to this capital request is resolving chronic, systemic facility challenges that divert public resources away from our core mission. Housed in the historic 1894 Columbia Mills building, Collections Management and Public Safety staff currently spend approximately 10% of their time managing ongoing leaks, climate control failures, and outdated infrastructure; systems that have not received major updates since the Museum opened nearly 40 years ago, or earlier. These unaddressed facility issues compromise the integrity of the state's 1.1 million object collection and force the Museum to repeatedly spend time and money reprinting materials and repairing exhibitions damaged by environmental issues. Simply put: it is time to stop fighting the building.

A focused, one-time investment in modernizing foundational infrastructure will allow programmatic transformation of the Museum through a new education wing, exhibitions, and visitor experience. Investing in both infrastructure and experience together will protect an irreplaceable state-owned asset, eliminate recurring waste, and ensure the South Carolina State Museum is structurally equipped to safeguard our history and serve the next generation of South Carolinians, while accomplishing our programmatic and educational goals.

Why invest in the South Carolina State Museum?

- **A Force Multiplier for Education**: We provide a vital, cost-effective resource for teachers and students across all 46 counties, reinforcing critical thinking, history, and STEM education outside the traditional classroom. Students on field trips access the Museum free of charge.
  o In FY26, the Museum welcomed nearly 38,000 field trip students up from 36,981 in FY25.
  o School group visitation is expected to increase to 86,200 students once renovations are completed, based on a 2023 Visitor Experience Plan developed in preparation for RTE.

- **Tourism and Economic Development**: As a statewide destination, the modernized Museum will drive tourism revenue—supporting local hotels, restaurants, and small businesses—and yield a strong return on investment for the state's economy. With the state's population expected to grow to 6.6 million by 2040, the Museum wants to be an affordable first stop for our new residents to learn about the place that they choose to call home, generating revenue that goes back to the State. This is only feasible by updating our infrastructure and galleries to modern museum standards.
  - o In FY26 the Museum welcomed 169,649 visitors.
  - o The Museum's 2023 Visitor Experience Plan projects attendance to increase to 222,000 visitors annually once renovations are complete. This calculation does not include visitation related to the new 4th floor special events wing space.
  - o The SCSM recently acquired "Big Percy," a hand-woven sweetgrass basket created by artist Corey Alston that was awarded a Guinness World Record in August 2026 for "Largest Sweetgrass Basket." Interest in the basket drove media coverage statewide, regionally, and nationally, with a combined potential audience reaching over 500,000,000. Social media engagement from the Museum on posts related to "Big Percy" reached over 1 million users on Facebook and Instagram.
- **Fiscal Prudence**: Upgrading our collections storage and research facilities ensures the long-term preservation of the state's historical assets, preventing costly degradation or future emergency interventions. We greatly appreciate the Department of Administration's hard work replacing the roof and windows of the Columbia Mills building, as well as current HVAC upgrades taking place. In order to move forward with significant programmatic and exhibition upgrades, as well as maintaining the safety of the State's collections, the interior of the Museum requires additional significant infrastructure upgrades. We need the State's support to enter into the next chapter of telling South Carolina's stories.
  - o Together the Museum and Department of Administration are addressing long-overdue infrastructure issues. In FY26, the Museum submitted over 180 work orders to the Department of Administration related to infrastructure.
  - o Our failing infrastructure creates significant physical barriers that regularly prevent our growing senior population, whether visiting on organized group tours or sharing a day of discovery with their grandchildren, from safely and comfortably accessing the state's treasures.

To finalize this critical modernization and ensure the Museum remains self-sustaining for decades to come, **we are requesting a one-time, non-recurring allocation of $67,522,349 to complete critical infrastructure updates and modernization projects of the *Reimagine the Experience* initiative**. This single capital investment secures our state's cultural assets, eliminates the need for ongoing surprise operational bailouts, and cements the Museum as an efficient, world-class educational asset for South Carolina families.

***Reimagine the Experience*: Investment and Master Planning**

To date, the State has invested $37,363,035.64 towards the Reimagine the Experience project. $25 million is encumbered with the Department of Administration, and we are encumbering an additional $5 million of funds in-hand towards this project.

Responsible stewardship of state resources requires thorough professional planning. Throughout FY26, the Museum, in close collaboration with the Department of Administration, conducted comprehensive concept design and space planning in partnership with world-renowned exhibition design firm Roto, Inc. This process established the overall layout and content strategy across the entire facility—including a new Education Wing, Innovation Wing, Programs and Special Events Wing, lobby, office spaces, and core galleries. Internal working groups and a central leadership team guided this work to ensure all visitor and stakeholder needs were addressed.

To validate this master plan, Charleston-based Liollio Architecture performed an architectural and engineering assessment. Liollio provided detailed cost estimates and developed a strategic three-phase construction plan prioritizing the Innovation Wing, Education Wing, office space, revenue-generating event space, lobby experience, and accessible circulation for our visitors. The phasing plan developed (outlined below) ensures the Museum remains open to the public and continues generating operational revenue throughout the entire renovation.

Liollio's total cost estimate to achieve both the necessary infrastructure improvements and programmatic enhancements is $119,885,384. Deducting previous financial State support, and a $15 million commitment to be raised by the SCSM Foundation through private funds from donors and grants, the remaining project balance is $67,522,348.

Across each phase, infrastructure improvements are included throughout the entire Columbia Mills building. Examples of necessary infrastructure improvements to be made throughout the project include:

- Electrical panels and wiring

- Asbestos abatement
- Fire code requirements (ex. Sprinkler heads, fire alarms, smoke evacuation fan)
- Plumbing (Event Wing, Conference room support)
- Mechanical Systems: HVAC Units, ductwork, temperature controls
- Cafe Kitchen (Plumbing, hoods, electrical requirements)
- IT/AV Cabling, Servers and Racks

Below is a breakdown of the total cost by phase.

Phase 1 (Jan 2028 – April 2029): $57,324,564
Renovations include:

- Main entrance (lobby) including new ticketing desk and cafe
- First floor administrative space
- Updated Atrium stairs and elevator to provide better wayfinding into galleries
- New exterior stairs serving 4th floor to meet fire code
- Education Wing
- 2nd floor South galleries including expanded Art Exhibition space
- 3rd floor South galleries including South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame/SC Sports Gallery
- 4th floor South galleries (Innovation Wing including Smithsonian Spark!Lab)
- 4th floor revenue-generating event wing
- Auditorium renovation
- Lower-level administrative space
- Exterior scope: signage, awnings

Phase 2 (July 2029 – July 2030): $42,729,260
Renovations include:

- Central open storage and access point (Hub)
- Exterior scope: paving and earth work, to include new accessible ramp from lower parking lot
- Natural History Galleries
- 3rd floor North Galleries
- 4th floor North Galleries

SUMMARY

Phase 3 (October 2030 – December 2031): $19,831,559
Renovations include:

- Collections storage
  - o Registration and Cataloging
  - o Intake and Processing of Objects
  - o Conservation Lab and Freezer for Object Prep
  - o Photography and 3D Scanning Rooms
  - o Secure and climate-controlled Collection Storage
  - o Office Space and Secure File Storage

Total project cost: $119,885,384
$37,363,035.64 investment from the State
$15 million private fundraising commitment from SCSM Foundation
Remaining balance to be funded: $67,522,349

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H950 RTE Fund Balances as of 9/21/2026
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Projects Completed:

To date, the Museum has completed critical infrastructure needs to achieve overall project success thanks to funds received by the State Legislature, grants, and private philanthropic support. This included basic 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. Major projects that have been completed to date 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 maximized 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.
- *American Battleground: South Carolina's Revolution,* developed to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War, opened June 28th, 2026. The State Museum received an $800,000 grant from the SC250th Commission to begin this work in FY25, which was matched with capital funds in hand from the Legislature.
- 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, thanks to the Legislature's budget allocation. 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.
- IT and Digital Infrastructure:?We updated 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 Wi-Fi coverage for the entire building.
- 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-opened to the public in September 2025.
- 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 $400,000 towards this project.
- ADA Restroom Project: The Museum invested $1 million in 16 updated public and staff bathrooms to make them fully ADA compliant. In collaboration with the Department of Administration, JBRC approval was received.
- 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 revitalizing 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 visitor experience 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, 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.

Projects currently underway:

- Sports in South Carolina Exhibition: In FY25, the Museum signed an MOU with the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame (SCAHoF) 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 will oversee the collecting for and curation of this exhibition and related programming. A multi-day planning workshop took place with Lovejoy Strategies, which specializes in integrating cultural entities with professional and collegiate sports programs to create dynamic exhibitions and STEM-based educational programming.
- The South Carolina Innovation Wing will feature the many ways South Carolinians, past and present, have shaped our world. This 13,500 square foot 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.
  o We will build a hands-on interactive learning space called the Spark!Lab, designed for STEM learning for schools and families. 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.
  o These spaces are being developed in consultation with an advisory board of inventors across the state.
  o To introduce our innovative and inventive experience to stakeholders, the Museum will host a South Carolina Invention Education Ecosystem Summit in October 2026. The summit will introduce participants to the power of Invention Education (IvE) and potential of Invention Education Ecosystems to help South Carolina prepare its young people to invent their own future and solve South Carolina's most pressing challenges.
- 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 workspaces. Upgrades, such as non-leaking doors and windows, will continue to ensure that equipment is functioning safely and is ready to support the new exhibitions being installed throughout the RTE project.

Comparative Data:
To ensure South Carolina remains competitive in education and tourism, this request mirrors successful capital investment models implemented by peer state legislatures across the nation. State leaders in neighboring jurisdictions have recognized that appropriations toward State Museums yield exponential returns in tourism revenue and workforce preparation. The following recent state investments demonstrate how counterpart legislatures have leveraged state capital to transform their primary public museums into major economic and educational engines:

- North Carolina Museum of History: $180 million (Legislative Appropriation)
  o Construction began summer 2025 - slated to reopen in 2028.
- Tennessee State Museum: $160 million ($120 million Legislative Appropriation; $40 million private philanthropy – October 2018)
  o Phase 2: $32.5 million Collection Storage Facility
- The Museum of Utah: $320 million
  o Originally budgeted at $165 million - Note this included renovation of the Utah State Capitol Complex.
- Wisconsin History Center (Madison): $161 million ($112.3 million Legislative Appropriation, $48.3 million private philanthropy)
- State Museum of Pennsylvania: $79.7 million
- New York State Museum: $150 million (Legislative Appropriation)
- Ohio History Center (Columbus): $58.1 million

Conclusion:

A $67,522,349 million one-time investment in the *Reimagine the Experience* transformation represents an opportunity to secure South Carolina's legacy while fueling its economic and educational future. This execution-ready plan takes immediate action to resolve chronic, costly infrastructure vulnerabilities in our historic building, turning operational inefficiency into long-term fiscal stability.
In doing so, it equips our state with a world-class educational engine by delivering STEM learning to every rural and urban school district, preparing our rising workforce for high-growth industries, and provides our rapidly expanding population with a modern destination worthy of South Carolina.
Crucially, this modernization guarantees universal accessibility across all four floors, ensuring multigenerational visitors can comfortably navigate and engage with our shared history. This one-time capital commitment yields long term returns in tourism revenue, workforce readiness, and public access.
We appreciate your dedicated stewardship of public resources, your commitment to South Carolina's future, and your consideration of this historic request.

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	South Carolina State Museum Commission Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$336,311 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	The South Carolina State Museum would be reduced by five (5) FTE's if the 3% budget cut were implemented. These include three (3) x Education Program Specialists and two (2) x Visitor Services Supervisors. *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	The programs supported by the General Funds identified for reduction/elimination are Marketing, Curatorial, Collections, Exhibits, Engagement & Content, Education and Visitor Services. • The reductions identified will eliminate all Museum Marketing/Advertising, which would likely result in a significant drop in paid visitors, especially for special programs and events. • In addition, a complete travel freeze would be put into effect, which would eliminate all Staff Professional Development travel, as well as travel to provide scheduled exhibits and educational programs around the state. • Finally, all temporary and part-time Education staff positions would be eliminated. These personnel are a key resource in support of school and group visits to the Museum. Their loss would have a significant negative impact on the educational support and visitor services provided to South Carolina school children who visit the Museum on these trips. • In addition, their loss would create a staffing shortage that would require the Museum to close to the public 2 days per week, rather than the current schedule of being open 6 days per week. *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	To meet the South Carolina State Museum's 3% General Fund Reduction contingency amount of $336,311: • The first reduction would be a $105,161 reduction in rent paid for the Columbia Mills Building. In the Museum's proviso, a cut in appropriations results in a reduction by the same percentage of the lease amount the Museum is required to pay to the South Carolina Department of Administration for the Columbia Mills Building. • Second, Marketing/Advertising for the Museum would be eliminated, reducing the budget by $50,000. This cut would eliminate all advertising, which would likely result in a significant drop in paid visitors, especially for special programs and events. • Also, a complete travel freeze would be put into effect, reducing the budget by $47,919. This would eliminate all Staff Professional Development travel, as well as travel to provide scheduled exhibits and educational programs around the state. • Finally, all temporary and part-time Education Staff positions would be eliminated, reducing the budget by $133,231. These personnel are a key resource in support of school and group visits to the Museum. Their loss would have a significant negative impact on the educational support provided to South Carolina School Children who visit the Museum on these trips. In addition, their loss would create a staffing shortage that would require the Museum to close to the public 2 days each week, rather than the current schedule of being open 6 days per week.

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

- The South Carolina State Museum's costs and operating expenses would be reduced by $105,161 if a 3% General Fund Reduction were implemented. This would be accomplished through the execution of the proviso that allows the lease the Museum is required to pay to the South Carolina Department of Administration for the Columbia Mills Building to be reduced by the same percentage as a cut in appropriations.
- The Museum would also reduce operating costs by closing to the public an additional day each week, being open only 5 days per week, rather than the current 6 days per week schedule.

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

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 buses 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), WIC, 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 War. 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 neurodiversity 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 admission to all on the first Sunday of each month.

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.
X	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	The calculated method used is the difference between full museum ticket price and various program discounted price per visitor. Museum General Admission Prices: • Adults: $13.00 • Seniors (ages 62+): $12.00 • 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	No amendments.

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 dedicated to making its experiences accessible to everyone in the state by offering a wide range of free and reduced-cost admission programs. All South Carolina K–12 students receive free admission during field trips, which include access to the observatory and hands-on STEAM activities, with additional grant support available for Title I transportation needs. Through the National Museums for All initiative, visitors who receive SNAP, EBT, WIC, or Medicaid benefits can enjoy the museum for just $2. The museum also honors military communities by providing free admission for personnel in uniform every Thursday, discounted admission for active and retired service members, and free entry on Veterans Day. Beginning summer 2024, participation in Blue Star Museums extends free admission to active-duty military families from Armed Forces Day through Labor Day. To further support accessibility, the museum offers free admission one Saturday each month for visitors with disabilities or neurodiversity and their families, along with additional free-entry opportunities during Disability Celebration Day and other public programs throughout the year.

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?