



The *Civil War 150* Consortia team receives a Secretary's Award for Excellence for the book *Smithsonian Civil War: Inside the National Collection*, highlighting research and objects across 13 museums.

How You Can Connect

The Grand Challenges Consortia are creating an exciting new culture within the Smithsonian, one where collaboration is the norm. What's more, Consortia projects benefit from the added value of the Smithsonian's sophisticated education programs that translate impact into public learning opportunities — as well as connections to the Smithsonian Channel, Smithsonian Books, and *Smithsonian Magazine* which broadcast those opportunities worldwide.

Would you like to connect with the Consortia through philanthropy, research collaboration, or public programming? To discuss your idea, or simply to learn more about what the Consortia do in your area of interest, contact:

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Imagine what can happen when we bring together smart people from diverse fields to tackle issues that pose significant challenges to our nation, planet, and Universe.

In a world where problems are too complex for any one branch of knowledge to solve alone, answers are more readily found where *disciplines intersect*. At the Smithsonian, our expertise runs deep and broad, encompassing history, art, science, and culture and built upon our unsurpassed collections of 138 million objects and specimens.

In 2009, the Smithsonian community defined *four Grand Challenges* drawn from its research strengths and institutional aspirations. To stimulate intellectual exchange and collaboration, the Smithsonian, working with a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, formed the Consortia to focus on the Grand Challenges. The charge is to incubate, develop, and support collaborations across the Institution's **multiple disciplines**, connecting Smithsonian collections and intellectual capital in ways that combine fresh thinking with emerging technology to explore weighty questions and design appropriate answers.

The Smithsonian Advantage

Catalyst and convener, the Smithsonian is uniquely equipped for this endeavor. We have brought artists together with astrophysicists to interpret the cosmos. Marine biologists researching how the ocean is changing today work side by side with paleobiologists who understand how and why the ocean changed millions of years ago. We advance knowledge in ways that contribute to a healthier, sustainable planet.

The Smithsonian supports a singular range of scholarship and research sites throughout the world. With 160 years of research in science, history, art, and culture, we undertake studies that yield data and information enriched by scholars working in many areas. Through large-scale and traveling exhibitions, external partnerships, publications, documentaries, and online and in-person education programs, we share our results directly with the public.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

The Grand Challenges Consortia have raised the Smithsonian's research profile and brought new resources to big endeavors through:

- More than 100 interdisciplinary research projects that explore important issues such as sustainability, the demographics of the nation, and revitalization of culture after man-made or natural disasters.
- Collaborations that involve more than 365 scholars, scientists, and educators from 40 Smithsonian museums, research institutes, and outreach programs.
- Innovative partnerships with organizations such as national laboratories, regional museums, and relief agencies.