The Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access enables young learners to explore their interests and collaborate with others to bring ideas to life. For 30 years, the center has published educational materials for millions of teachers and young people, delivered professional development, hosted public events and workshops and provided one access point to Smithsonian educational resources.

More recently, the center has pioneered ways in which museums can employ educational technology by creating online conferences, games, quests and competitions. Now, innovations in technology have provided the means and impetus for creating personalized digital experiences to reach even larger audiences and have a greater impact.

The center is developing a digital laboratory for educators, young people and families. This opens up a world of possibilities for visitors to develop their own interests or take action in their communities. The online lab also builds skills for school, future careers and lifelong learning.

The Smithsonian inspires people to explore the universe through a robotic telescope, submit projects to a Smithsonian mentor for feedback, talk with a Smithsonian expert virtually or create art with Smithsonian images. A gift to the center will help us reach our goal. No matter where you live, no matter how you learn, you can engage with the Smithsonian to pursue your own interests and discover new ones.

Leadership Message

THE SMITHSONIAN CENTER FOR LEARNING AND DIGITAL ACCESS was founded on the principle that education empowers a nation. Every year, Smithsonian educators share the institution’s knowledge, collections and research with more than 8 million learners, on-site and online. The Smithsonian Campaign will extend that reach as education becomes more and more technologically advanced and accessible, helping inspire the next generation of educators and building the spaces, resources and programs for learners of all ages engaged in exploring science, history, art and culture.
Building a Digital Future

Gifts to the campaign will strengthen the Smithsonian’s online capacity to connect to a larger audience through innovative educational programs.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The Center for Learning and Digital Access is developing new content and tools for its online portal, the Smithsonian Learning Lab, with a core group of educators from across the country. This portal will allow learners and educators to explore by subjects—science, history, art and culture.

Users can delve deeply into a topic, such as prehistoric climate change, through videos, games and audio lessons. The center will train educators to use these new resources and tools, both online and in person.

Gifts to the Smithsonian Campaign will strengthen the center’s capacity to connect to a larger audience through our innovative and engaging experiences.

At the same time, we will continue to serve our long-term audiences of teachers and schools.

SPACES FOR EDUCATION

Similar to a physical classroom, the Smithsonian Learning Lab will offer a place for discovery and rich educational experiences. As if in a science laboratory, students will examine and analyze our collections and share their findings. As if in an art studio, students will use Smithsonian digital assets to create and share with others. As if in a history seminar, participants will discuss ideas and find guidance from our experts. Learners will access all of the Smithsonian’s recordings and media with new tools for exploring, as though they were in a media center.

Your investments in the campaign will allow us to build the Smithsonian Learning Lab, which will keep pace with new media and technical advances.

LEADERS IN EDUCATION

The Smithsonian Campaign will provide us with the resources to become an education leader in the innovative use of museum digital resources. Campaign gifts will enable us to partner with major universities and other leading authorities in education and media. We will continually evaluate the Smithsonian Learning Lab to measure its impact and make improvements.
Our Campaign Priorities

Your investment in the campaign will enable the Smithsonian to build a digital platform to engage young audiences in learning and creativity.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION
We seek $2 million to provide professional development and technical support for educators to take full advantage of the Smithsonian Learning Lab’s innovative tools.

SPACES FOR EDUCATION
We seek $5 million for our Smithsonian Learning Lab, which will create personalized learning experiences targeted to educators and students, and open to all.

LEADERS IN EDUCATION
We seek $1 million to conduct research and evaluation and establish ongoing partnerships to expand the center’s network.

A student uses smartphone technology to explore a work of contemporary art at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden while participating in the ARTLAB+ program.

The Smithsonian Campaign will transform a national treasure into a catalyst for change. Please join us as we raise $1.5 billion to spark discovery, tell America’s story, inspire lifelong learning and reach people everywhere.

The Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access is raising $8 million of the Smithsonian Campaign’s overall goal.

For More Information, Call 202.633.5288 or visit SmithsonianCampaign.org.
SMITHSONIAN QUESTS is an interactive online program that offers students prompts for learning in and outside of the classroom, connects them to Smithsonian experts and awards them with digital badges for their projects in science, history, art, culture and more.

COVER  Online programs make the Smithsonian a learning laboratory for everyone. Campaign gifts will allow us to reach a wider audience.