



ESTABLISHING A WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

*In November 2016, a bipartisan Congressional Commission — created by a bill sponsored by Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-12) — issued a report recommending the creation of a new Smithsonian Museum dedicated to women's history. Recently, Reps. Maloney and Ed Royce (CA-39) introduced **H.R. 19, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act**, to establish such a museum National Mall. The bill has 136 bipartisan cosponsors. The bill number was reserved by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi as a symbol of one of the most important moments in women's history—the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1919 granting women the right to vote.*

WE NEED A WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

Currently, depictions of our nation's history are incomplete as they often fail to tell the stories of half our population — women. A national museum dedicated to recounting this history will show not only our country, but the world, that the U.S. values and appreciates women and what they have done to help build this great country.

- ⇒ There is no comprehensive museum anywhere in the U.S. dedicated to the full story of women's history
- ⇒ Only 9 out of 91 statues in the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall depict women;
- ⇒ Only 5% of the approximately 2,400 national monuments honor women
- ⇒ Women are underrepresented in the history textbooks taught in schools

BILL SUMMARY OF H.R. 19

- ⇒ Establishes a Smithsonian national museum for the collection, study and establishment of programs covering the contributions of women to various fields throughout history
- ⇒ Establishes an advisory council consisting of 25 members appointed by the Smithsonian Board of Regents to make recommendations concerning planning, design and construction, operations and finances, and programming for the museum
- ⇒ Directs Smithsonian to appoint a Director to manage the museum and carry out educational programs in cooperation with other Smithsonian Institutions and schools
- ⇒ Instructs the Board of Regents to choose one of two locations for the museum site, both located on the National Mall and recommended by the Congressional Commission and authorizes the transfer of the chosen site to the Smithsonian Institution
- ⇒ Ensures that private funds finance the construction of the museum building, while authorizing federal funds for the planning, design and operation of the museum by the Smithsonian

History of Effort to Create a Women's History Museum

Rep. Maloney worked for 16 years to create a Congressional Commission to study the need for a women's history museum. In 2014, her legislation, introduced with Marsha Blackburn (TN-7) in the House and former Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) in the Senate, was passed and signed into law.

The bipartisan American Museum of Women's History Congressional Commission submitted its report to Congress in November 2016 with its unanimous recommendation that a comprehensive women's history museum should be established on or near the National Mall as part of the Smithsonian Institution.

Main Findings of the American Museum of Women's History Congressional Commission

- ⇒ The U.S. needs and deserves a comprehensive museum dedication to women's history in Washington, D.C.
- ⇒ The future Museum of Women's History should be part of the Smithsonian;
- ⇒ The exhibits and collections should be inclusive and represent a diverse array of viewpoints and perspectives of women who have helped shape America;
- ⇒ The museum deserves a prominent location on or very close to the National Mall;
- ⇒ Private sector money should finance the construction of a world-class museum.

The full Commission report can be found at amwh.us/report.

"How can we empower women if we don't even recognize them? We need this new museum to preserve the full story of our past and ensure that women are empowered to strive for their full potential."

- Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney -

*For more information:
Visit the Congresswoman's website at www.maloney.house.gov
Follow her on Twitter & Instagram at @RepMaloney*