Smithsonian Exhibits manages projects of all sizes and levels of complexity, from stand-alone exhibits to multi-year collaborations. We know there is no “one size fits all” for exhibits. Each project is unique and requires an individualized approach and careful coordination. Our project managers help develop the project’s scope, schedule, and budget, and guide the process through every stage, from concept to completion. We can provide exhibit planning consultation, facilitate brainstorming meetings and charrettes, and assist with presentations to stakeholders. What can we do for you?

Services:
- Contracting
- Cost estimating
- Project scoping
- Registrarial services
- Scheduling
- Value engineering

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Smithsonian Exhibits writes, edits, and develops exhibits. Our exhibit developers/writers work with curators and subject experts to develop and refine exhibit content. We tease out main ideas from huge concepts and help shape the tone of an exhibit. We edit exhibit text to ensure that it’s accurate, clear, concise, and engaging and proofread production files before they go to print. We help create interpretive master plans and develop exhibits from scratch. What can we write for you?

Services:

- Concept development
- Interpretive master planning
- Script writing
- Script editing
- Script reviewing
- Proofreading

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The design studio at Smithsonian Exhibits creates distinct and compelling identities that support each exhibit’s thesis and engage visitors to create memorable and meaningful experiences. We tailor and refine the designs to help bring the project team’s vision into focus, and we collaborate with all team members to incorporate best practices across disciplines, stay on schedule, and work within your budget to ensure success. What can we design for you?

**Services:**

**Three-Dimensional Design:**
- Exhibit design from concept to construction
- Design charrettes and workshops
- Interactive design
- Design consultation and advocacy
- Construction oversight

**Two-Dimensional Design:**
- Exhibition graphics (Interior and exterior)
- Environmental graphics
- Infographics
- Master planning graphics
- Wayfinding signage
- Banners

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Smithsonian Exhibits produces and installs murals, text panels, object labels, vinyl lettering, and other two-dimensional graphic elements. We operate state-of-the-art equipment, including plotters, laminators, and CNC mat cutters, and are also skilled in traditional techniques, such as archival matting and framing. Our wide-format aqueous, solvent, and direct-to-surface flatbed printers allow us to print on a wide range of materials, including paper, fabric, wood, metal, vinyl, and acrylic—appropriate for both indoor and outdoor settings. What can we produce for you?

Services:
- Archival matting and framing
- Comic illustrations
- Direct printing
- Eco-solvent printing
- Installation
- Vinyl lettering
- Wide-format mounting and laminating
- Refurbishments

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Prototyping allows you to test your ideas before investing time and money in a final product. The process adds value to exhibits, helps make them more effective and engaging for visitors, and saves time and money in the long run.

Prototyping is an iterative process. It can include several rounds of designing, building, testing, analyzing, and refining your ideas. Because each project is unique, SIE will create a schedule specific to your prototyping project. Prototyping projects can take as little as two weeks or require several months, depending on their complexity.

What can we prototype for you?

What exhibit elements can be prototyped?

• Mechanical interactives
• Digital interactives
• Tactile elements
• 3D models
• Graphics
• Exhibit titles and text

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Smithsonian Exhibits fabricates all types of exhibit elements, from small displays to entire galleries. Our fabrication team can produce all exhibit components, including cases, acrylic vitrines, graphic panels, object mounts, and platforms. We can provide CNC machining and specialized object packing and crating. We have expertise in a wide range of materials, including metals, woods, acrylics, and composites. We use conservation-approved materials and offer expert object handling and exhibit installation. What can we build for you?

Services:
• Acrylic work
• Cabinetry
• Exhibit installation
• Frank Acrylic Component System — Cases/vitrines
• Metal fabrication
• Prototyping
• Specialty painting and finishing
• Value engineering

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Smithsonian Exhibits installs all types of exhibits, from full galleries to individual graphics and display cases. Our installation team members are the same people who design and build our exhibits, so they know exactly how everything fits together. We are also available to install exhibits from outside sources. Our staff are trained in art and artifact handling and secure all exhibit elements expertly and efficiently. What can we install for you?

**Services:**
- Exhibit installation
- Mural and graphics installation
- Art and artifact handling and installation

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Smithsonian Exhibits’ 3D Studio is the only one of its kind at the Smithsonian. It is a full-service operation producing replicas, dioramas, mannequins, touchable 3D maps, object mounts and brackets, and more. Our model makers and artists use traditional methods along with the latest technology, including 3D scanning and printing, to replicate the precise details of an object and produce an exact copy. We fabricate everything from skulls to artificial mountains, and we devise hands-on interactives that keep museum visitors engaged. What can we make for you?

**Services:**
- 3D printing
- 3D scanning and file manipulation
- Artifact mount making and installation
- CNC milling and routing
- Mannequins and forms
- Mechanical interactives
- Prototyping
- Traditional model making

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Smithsonian Exhibits provides a unique range of specialty services to enhance exhibits. We build custom-made Frank vitrines that beautifully and safely showcase artifacts, create comic illustrations that immerse visitors in an exhibit’s story, and develop prototypes that allow museum staff to test exhibit components with audiences. As experts in a wide range of exhibit techniques and processes, we consult with museums across the Smithsonian and around the world. We are available to brainstorm solutions to specific challenges or to develop new interpretive strategies. What can we bring to your exhibit?

Services:
• Archival matting and framing
• Comic illustrations
• Concept development
• Consultation
• Design advocacy
• Frank Acrylic Component System — Cases/vitrines
• Project scoping
• Prototyping
• Registrarial services

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The Smithsonian Institution is committed to creating exhibits that are accessible to all visitors. Access Smithsonian, the Smithsonian’s central office devoted to visitor accessibility and inclusion, strives to provide consistent, effortless access to the Institution’s programs, collections, and facilities.

Smithsonian Exhibits works with Access Smithsonian, our clients, and visitors with disabilities to provide advocacy and support for accessibility throughout the exhibit process. We help determine accessibility objectives and strategies. We follow universal design principles and develop innovative solutions. And we prototype exhibit components to ensure that they meet the needs of all visitors.

What can we do for you?

Services:

- Exhibit Development
  Verbal/audio descriptions
- Exhibit Design
  Universal Design
- Graphics
  Braille, raised-line, raised-character, and large-print materials
- Fabrication
  Prototypes
- 3D Studio
  Tactile elements

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