

# NEW JERSEY STATE MUSEUM



Inspiration. On display.

## A Brief History

1836 – NJ Geological Survey began the state's collection of Natural History Specimens

1895 – The Museum is established by the State Legislature and was the 1<sup>st</sup> State Museum established with Education as the primary mission. The Museum collected Natural History, Industrial History and Archaeology.

1920's – Newly constructed State House Annex gave larger exhibit space to Museum, Decorative Arts were added.

1922 – Ethnographic collections were added.

1964 – Fine Art collections were added.

1965 – The Cultural Complex was established and the Museum moved to a new building within that complex. The Planetarium was established in this new space.

1974 – American Association of Museums Accreditation

1983 – The Museum is established as part of the Department of State

- Today there are 4 collecting Bureaus: Cultural History, Fine Art, Archaeology and Ethnography, and Natural History
- The Exhibits Department and the Education Bureau support the collections by creating exhibits and programs to engage the public
- The Operations/Business department manage the Museum through Purchasing, Marketing and Staffing

In 2013 The Museum created a new 5-year Strategic Plan that resulted in a new Mission Statement. In 2015 a new logo was created.

**Mission:** The New Jersey State Museum is a center of cultural and scientific engagement, inspiring innovation and lifelong learning through its collections, ongoing research, exhibitions and programs in science, history and art. The Museum unites visitors of all ages and diverse backgrounds in a celebration and exploration of New Jersey's cultural and natural history presented within a national and global context, fosters state pride, and serves as a catalyst and cultivator of tomorrow's scientists, artists and history makers.