This document is a modified version of the cost estimates chart provided by the National Park Service in the Museum Handbook, Part I (2005). The prices listed here can be used to develop initial cost estimates for constructing, renovating, and equipping a museum facility, and for preparing museum planning documents. Updated product descriptions and prices reflect improvements in technology, changes in best practices, and rising costs due to inflation. Estimates were based on current Federal contracts (see the GSA Advantage website at: http://www.gsaadvantage.gov), information provided by individual vendors, subject matter experts, and changes in prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index (see the Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator at: http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm). Costs for equipment do not include shipping. Shipping costs can be up to an additional one-third of the purchase price when shipped in the contiguous United States, and much higher when shipped to Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and other locations outside the continental United States.

Note: $/SF = cost per square foot

**Museum Collection Storage**

**Museum Facility**

- Renovating an existing facility ........................................................................... 81-135/SF
- Constructing a new facility ................................................................................ 297-434/SF

**Note:** Construction costs vary with the type, size, and configuration of the structure; the locality (costs in Alaska and other remote areas could double those cited); the difficulties of site preparation; and the complexity of the HVAC, security, and fire protection systems.

**Equipment and Supplies**

- Retrofit gasket kit .............................................................................................. 40
- Sash lock .............................................................................................................. 16
- Standard museum cabinet w/10 drawers .......................................................... 775-1,520
- Doublewide museum cabinet w/10 drawers ................................................... 1,591-2,160
- Wardrobe cabinet w/specialized storage interiors (depends on interior) ....... 1,700-3,300
- Herbarium cabinet, counter height (12 compartments) .................................. 590
- Herbarium cabinet, full height (26 compartments) ......................................... 830
- Entomology cabinet, counter height (15 drawer openings) ......................... 918
- Entomology cabinet, full height (24 drawer openings) .................................... 953-1,069
- Cornell drawers for entomology cabinets ......................................................... 82
- Security gun vault with acrylic museum assemblies ........................................ 1,000-2,400
- High density moveable-aisle storage systems ............................................... 149/SF
- Slotted metal angle for constructing large shelving units ............................... 171/bundle
  (Each bundle includes ten 12’ angle pieces with 75 nuts and bolts.
  Two bundles are needed for a 3-shelf unit measuring 4’x8’.
  Three bundles are needed for a 5-shelf unit measuring 4’x8’.)

Note: Construction costs vary with the type, size, and configuration of the structure; the locality (costs in Alaska and other remote areas could double those cited); the difficulties of site preparation; and the complexity of the HVAC, security, and fire protection systems.
Steel shelving units ................................................................. $285/unit
5/8”-3/4” plywood sheets for shelving ........................................ $45/sheet
Map cabinet 5-drawer unit (need 2 units for counter height) .......... $760
Map cabinet base units .......................................................... $250
Sanitary platform for standard museum cabinet ......................... $82
Sanitary platform for doublewide museum cabinet ..................... $105
Sanitary platform for wardrobe cabinet .................................... $155
Safety stacking rim for standard cabinet .................................. $35
Lumber, plywood and paint to construct wooden platform (labor not included) for:
  Standard museum cabinet....................................................... $50
  Doublewide and wardrobe cabinet ....................................... $60
GSA utility cabinet for forms and museum supplies .................... $280
Costs for polyethylene foam, specimen trays, specialized containers, and other types of museum supplies can be found by consulting the websites and catalogs of various archival supply firms.

Museum Environment (Storage and Exhibits)

Museum Facility

HVAC System ................................................................................. $24-46/SF

Equipment and Supplies

- Datalogger (temperature and RH recording) .......................... $55-580
- Remote probe for datalogger .................................................. $230
- Electronic thermohygrometer (depending on brand and style) .. $200-900
- Hygrometer .......................................................................... $30-500
- Portable dehumidifier (refrigerant type) ................................. $300
- Portable dehumidifier (desiccant type) .................................... $1,000
- Humidifier ............................................................................ $340
- Portable air purifier with HEPA and activated carbon filters .... $450
- Visible light meter ................................................................. $100
- UV (ultraviolet radiation) meter .............................................. $500
- Vacuum cleaner (HEPA) ......................................................... $300-700
- UV fluorescent filtering sleeves ............................................. $15
- UV filtering Clear Acrylic (Plexiglas® or similar)
  8” x 10” sheet ....................................................................... $12
  20” x 24” sheet ..................................................................... $76
  4’ x 8’ x ¼” sheet ................................................................. $300
- UV filtering film professionally installed on windows ............ $14/SF

Museum Exhibits

- Replacing an exhibit case
  Table top or pedestal exhibit case ............................................ $2,800-11,000
  Walk-in-style exhibit case ...................................................... $11,000-33,000
• Retrofitting existing exhibit case
  Retrofit of exhibit case (surfaces, paint, graphics, furniture, etc.) .................. 2,200-5,500
  Retrofit of exhibit case structure (security, lighting, etc.) ............................. 3,000-11,000
  Retrofit of object mount (single mount or a garment mannequin) ..................... 550-3,300

Note: Exhibit replacement and retrofitting costs vary with the size and complexity of the exhibit case. Factors affecting cost include specialized humidity control (if needed); lighting, security, and mounts; and the availability and location of specialized contractors.

Security

Museum Facility

Intrusion detection system (approximate minimum $2,000) .................................................. 5-7/SF

Equipment and Supplies

• Recoring locks ........................................... (contact locksmith or maintenance staff for costs)
• Locking key boxes .......................................................... 70-90
• Metal or solid core doors .......................................................... 300-475
• Deadbolt locks .............................................................................. 70

Fire Protection

Museum Facility

• Fire detection system ............................................................................. 6-8/SF
• Fire suppression system
  Wet pipe system (includes smoke or heat detection system) ............................. 12-18/SF
  Dry pipe system (includes smoke or heat detection system) ......................... 14-19/SF

Note: Costs increase if the system requires the installation of a new dedicated National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) approved 4" or 6" water line or if there is a need for a water storage reservoir. Estimated costs for installation of a water line and storage reservoir include:

• Pipe installation ...................................................................................... 45/LF
• Backflow preventer ................................................................................ 14,500
• Gate valve ............................................................................................. 1,500-2,200
• Water meter and box ............................................................................... 11,400
• Connection to an existing water line ..................................................... 5,000
• 10,000 gallon steel on-grade storage reservoir ........................................ 46,300
  (Prices vary with capacity and type of construction.)

Equipment and Supplies

• ABC fire extinguisher (20 pound unit) .......................................................... 85
• ABC fire extinguisher (10 pound unit) .......................................................... 58
• Flammable liquid cabinet ......................................................................... 350-745
• Four-drawer insulated file cabinet ............................................................... 790
- Media vault.......................................................... 265
- Media safe (various sizes)................................. 1,500-5,000

Professional Assistance and Museum Planning

- Assistance with establishing optimum relative humidity and temperature levels . 4,000-7,000
- Collection Condition Survey ................................. 12,000-24,000
- Collection Management Plan .............................. 15,000-30,000
- Collection Condition Survey ................................ 12,000-24,000
- Collection Storage Plan ....................................... 10,000-15,000
- Emergency Management Plan ............................ 10,000-20,000
- Fire Protection Survey and Plan ............................ 10,000-15,000
- Housekeeping Plan ............................................. 10,000-20,000
- Integrated Pest Management Plan ....................... 10,000-20,000
- Security Survey and Plan .................................... 10,000-15,000
- Scope of Collection Statement ............................. 10,000-15,000

Note: Museum planning costs include on-site assessments, research, development, plan preparation, and implementation of the final approved plan.

This document is provided as a reference for curators and museum property management staff. Mention of a product, a manufacturer, or a supplier by name does not constitute an endorsement of that product or supplier by the United States Department of the Interior. Sources named are not all inclusive. It is suggested that readers also seek alternative product and vendor information in order to assess the full range of available sources, supplies, and equipment.