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## COOPER HEWITT FACT SHEET

### MISSION

The only museum in the nation devoted exclusively to historic and contemporary design, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum was founded in 1897 and has been part of the Smithsonian since 1967. Cooper Hewitt educates, inspires and empowers people through design by presenting exhibitions and educational programs and maintaining active publications.

### LEADERSHIP

Caroline Baumann, Director; Brooke Hodge, Deputy Director; Barbara A. Mandel, Chairman, Board of Trustees; Beth Comstock, President, Board of Trustees

### TOTAL FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

92

### ANNUAL BUDGET (FEDERAL AND TRUST) FY 2015

\$18 Million

### COLLECTION

Cooper Hewitt's collection is international in scope and contains more than 210,000 objects spanning 30 centuries in four curatorial departments—Drawings, Prints and Graphic Design (137,636 objects), Product Design and Decorative Arts (37,910 objects), Textiles (26,725 objects) and Wall Coverings (10,001 objects)—and is supported by the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Library and archives with more than 80,000 volumes, including 5,000 rare books.

### RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

The museum renovation is part of a \$91 million capital campaign that includes enlarged and enhanced facilities for exhibitions, collections display, education programming and the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Library, as well as an increased endowment. The renovated facility opened on December 12, 2014, with 60 percent more gallery space and an entirely new visitor experience, with interactive, immersive creative technologies.

### EXHIBITIONS

Cooper Hewitt's outstanding exhibitions program, which includes the "National Design Triennial," has expanded with the reopening of the renovated and transformed Carnegie Mansion. The museum now can offer four floors of exhibitions, including its first long-term installation of objects from the permanent collection.

### EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The museum's Design in the Classroom program, which teaches 21st-century skills by using design as a tool across the curriculum, has served more than 60,000 New York City

K-12 public school children during the past three years. Design in the Classroom launched nationally in July 2014 in New Orleans, San Antonio, Washington, D.C., Cleveland and Minneapolis. The museum also offers professional development programs for K-12 teachers, including lesson plans aligned to national standards, which highlight design as a teaching tool across the curriculum. The Cooper Hewitt Design Center in Harlem, which opened in May 2012, has served more than 25,000 people with programs that include Target Design Kids, drop-in design programs with free workshops for children ages 5 and older, and evening public programs for adults, including the Design Talks and Harlem Focus series.

Also a center for scholarly and applied research, the museum provides professional development and museum training to students through a graduate-level program in the history of decorative arts and design conducted in partnership with Parsons The New School for Design. The program, based at Cooper Hewitt, emphasizes object-based teaching, using the museum's collections.

## WEB

To complement its physical transformation, cooperhewitt.org serves the expanding digital needs of the museum. Optimized for mobile devices, the website is the home for all the activities of the museum, its newly digitized collections, videos, program calendar, and blog.

## PUBLICATIONS

The museum publishes catalogs of its collection and exhibitions, as well as independent publications related to the museum's resources. Fully illustrated catalogues accompany two inaugural exhibitions—"Tools: Extending our Reach" and "Beautiful Users" (published by Princeton Architectural Press). Other reopening publications include *Making Design: Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum Collection*; *Life of a Mansion: The Story of Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum*; *My Favorite Things* (published by HarperCollins); and *Ah-ha to Zig-Zag: 31 Objects from Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum* (published by Skira/Rizzoli). All titles are available in hard copy and e-book versions for all e-book readers. Cooper Hewitt also publishes DesignFile, a line of ebooks on design writing and research published in consortium with academic and institutional partners.

## NATIONAL DESIGN AWARDS

Cooper Hewitt's most visible public program honors the year's most outstanding contributions from the design world. Now in their 16th year, the awards recognize the very best in American design across a range of disciplines. First Lady Michelle Obama served as the Honorary Patron for the 2014 National Design Awards.

## NATIONAL DESIGN WEEK

Inaugurated in 2006, National Design Week aims to promote a better understanding of the role that design plays in all aspects of daily life. This educational initiative makes great design widely accessible to the public through interactive events and programs for all audiences.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cooper Hewitt's board includes 35 distinguished civic and business leaders dedicated to the continued growth of the museum.

Barbara A. Mandel, Chairman  
Nancy A. Marks, Vice Chairman  
Enid W. Morse, Vice Chairman  
Beth Comstock, President  
Agnes C. Bourne, Vice President  
Michael R. Francis, Vice President  
Lisa S. Roberts, Vice President  
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### Ex Officio—Smithsonian Institution

G. Wayne Clough, Secretary  
Richard Kurin, Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture  
Caroline Baumann, Director, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum

## **SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION**

Since its founding in 1846, the Smithsonian Institution has been committed to inspiring generations through knowledge and discovery. The Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park and nine research facilities. There are 6,500 Smithsonian employees and 6,300 volunteers. There were 30 million visits to the Smithsonian in 2013. The total number of objects, works of art and specimens at the Smithsonian is estimated at nearly 138 million, including more than 126 million specimens and artifacts at the National Museum of Natural History. [www.smithsonian.org](http://www.smithsonian.org)

