CAFE FEAF MUSEUM (CFM) FAQ

Mission
Cape Fear Museum collects, preserves and interprets objects relating to the history, science, and cultures of the Lower Cape Fear. The Museum makes those objects and their interpretation available to the public through educational exhibitions and programs.

Our Vision

GENERAL
- American Alliance of Museums Accreditation – One of only 1,030 museums in the US to receive this designation; Accreditation recognizes that CFM commits to a culture of excellence in carrying out its public trust, collections stewardship, educational roles and quality of operations distinguishing itself amongst peers.
- Smithsonian Affiliate – A designation given to 215 museums in the country and establishes a collaboration with the world's largest museum, education and research complex.
- Museum Staff: 14 full-time and 8 part-time employees – Museum employees have a combined 225 years of professional museum experience with a PhD historian, PhD scientist and nine members holding Master's degrees on staff.
- CFM has a Museum Advisory Board, made up of citizen volunteers, and the CFM Associates Board, a non-profit 501(c3) whose purpose is to solicit contributions in support of museum programs and exhibits.

PEOPLE SERVED
- 56,622 (FY18, 5% increase over FY17)
  - 17,634 students
  - 10,000 citizens through outreach programs
- Cape Fear Museum provides library passes at each NHC branch that may be checked by residents providing free museum admission. The museum also has a community membership program that has provided free memberships to more than 130 families in the last 2 years.
- CFM participates in the Blue Star Museums program each year, providing free admission to active duty military and their families during the summer months.
- CFM serves as the regional host for History Day, a national initiative promoting the study of history. This year, 300 middle and high school students participated in the program held in March.
- CFM hosts an annual Star Party, a partnership with Carolina Beach State Park and the Cape Fear Astronomical Society, which has been recognized as a statewide signature event of the NC Science Festival. Typically, 600-800 citizens attend the event each year in April.
PROGRAMS

- Educational programs provided for all ages, from Pre-K to Adult
- Offering 12 on-site and 5 outreach history & science programs for K-12th grade
  - All NHC 4th graders participate in People of the Past, Lower Cape Fear history program, and all 1st graders attend Forces and Motion, learning about Newton's laws of motion.
  - CFM also offers a 7th-8th grade program on the history of 1898 and Health Matters, a science program on body systems for 5th graders.
- Little Explorers Pre-K programs for ages 3-6 are offered 2 days each week at CFM and weekly in the community at the MLK Center and BRC-Hemenway Center. 2,900 children and caregivers participated in programs last year.
- Educational outreach provided at festivals, parks, classrooms, libraries, community centers and more.
- Our new Science Cycle mobile program brings science and hands-on activities to outdoor settings.

Public programs offered regularly
  - Portable, digital planetarium shows
  - Weekend STEM labs with varying themes and topics
  - Family events such as Dino Day and Maker Mania
  - Lego Robot workshops and other science programs
  - Girl Scout workshops

- Adult programs include Museum After Dark, What's Brewing in Science, educational talks and more.

COLLECTION

- 56,000 artifacts (photographs, documents and 3D items) in the Museum collection; on average, 1,000 objects are on display.

Stats for FY17 & FY18

- 73 acquisitions accepted into the collection
- 180 photo images provided to citizens
- 313 research assistance provided to citizens
- 362 people toured the collection

EXHIBITS

- Museum staff research, design and build exhibits on site, averaging 2 new exhibits each year.

Current exhibits:
  - Cape Fear Stories – history, science and cultures of the Lower Cape Fear region
  - Space Place – space-themed learning center modeled after the International Space Station
  - Michael Jordan Discovery Gallery – learn about the region's natural environment
  - Giant Ground Sloth – history and skeleton replica
  - Michael Jordan: Achieving Success – Jordan's early years and Wilmington roots
  - Williston Auditorium – artifacts related to the only African American high school in NHC
  - PlayTime! (through 9/19) – history of toys and games
  - Collection Selections: Fashionable Hats (through 2/20) – popular hat styles from the area
  - NHC Museum Park – park-like landscape to explore gardens and native and adaptive plants

Upcoming traveling exhibits:
  - Dinosaur Discovery (summer 2019) – showcases the world of modern paleontology and new discoveries revealing how dinosaurs lived, moved and behaved
  - To the Moon: Snoopy Soars with NASA (fall 2019) – examines the history of Apollo 10 and the Peanuts characters' role in that flight and the NASA Manned Flight Awareness safety program
  - We Are The Music Makers (spring 2020) – educate and engage viewers in the cultural history of Southern traditional music
  - Fighting for the Right to Fight (summer 2020) – highlights extraordinary achievements of African Americans during World War II, both overseas and on the Home Front
  - Hometown Teams (summer 2020) – examines the many roles that sports play in American society