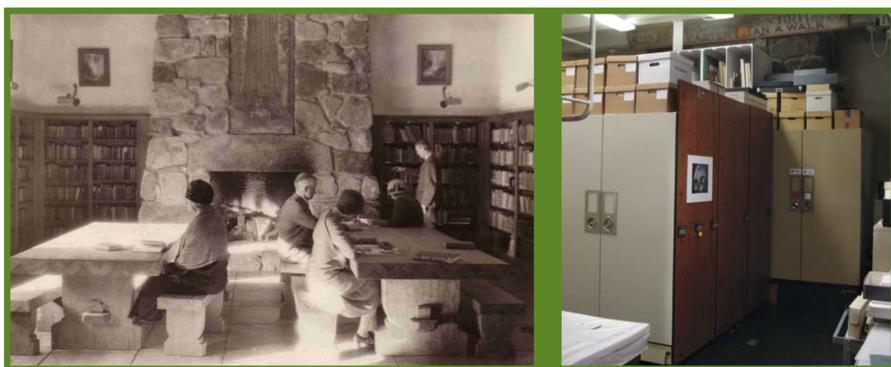# Yosemite Museum Master Plan

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

Yosemite National Park possesses one of the oldest and finest museum collections in the National Park System in size, value and complexity, with over two million items. Currently, museum objects are exhibited in a portion of the historic Yosemite Museum building, which was completed in 1925. Other portions of the historic museum building are now used as offices and storage for non-museum functions.

The museum building is a significant historic property, but there are limitations to the current museum facility and program, including:

• Insufficient space for exhibits, collections, and archival storage

• Problems controlling the environmental conditions in the historic building

• The small size of the current exhibit space prevents the public from fully experiencing the breadth and quality of the park's collection

• The majority of the archival collections are stored in facilities that cannot be brought to Park Service standards (NPS 80-1, special directive on museum storage and NPS-28 Cultural Resource Management Guideline).

A Yosemite Museum Master Plan is needed to provide the public with the opportunity to enjoy Yosemite's very special collection and properly preserve the objects that comprise it.

Library (1932) converted to storage

Club room (undated) converted to research library

Rear porch (undated) converted to museum staff offices

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Yosemite Museum Master Plan

PURPOSE OF PROJECT

The purpose of the Yosemite Museum Master Plan is to design a museum to house the exhibits, museum collections storage, work spaces, library and archives of Yosemite National Park. The master plan will be accompanied by a review of the museum program and completion of a new business plan. The plan will also address the consolidation of museum collections that are currently stored at multiple locations in the park, including Yosemite Valley, El Portal, and Wawona. A newly designed facility will reduce risk to collections and archives from theft, fire, and environmental decay. The design will highlight sustainability and integrate architecturally into the historic district of Yosemite Valley, and will involve the restoration of the historic Yosemite Museum to its original function.
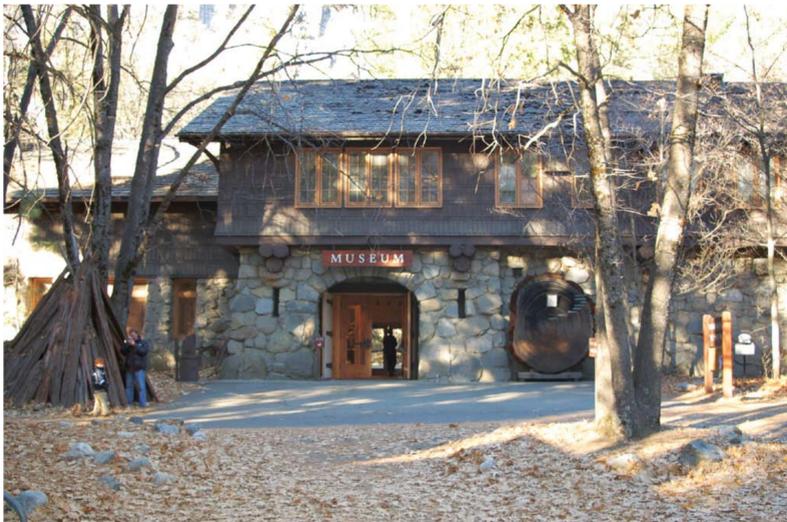
Yosemite Museum Master Plan

HOW MUCH SPACE DOES THE MUSEUM FUNCTION CURRENTLY USE AND HOW MUCH IS NEEDED FOR AN IDEAL PROGRAM?

Library & Research Functions	existing sf	needed sf
Library	914	1,450
Library Staff Offices	incl. in library	250
Research	incl. in storage	530
Classrooms/Conference Rooms	0	500
Subtotal	**914**	**2,730**

Storage & Processing	existing sf	needed sf
Collections	1,046	6,000
Archives	1,600	5,000
Receiving & Processing	incl. in storage	1,600
Conservation/Exhibit Prep	incl. in storage	1,000
Subtotal	**2,646**	**13,600**

Staff	existing sf	needed sf
Curatorial Staff Offices	724	840
Archival Staff Offices	384 off-site	400
Interpretive Staff Offices	1,600	400 onsite new location for remainder
Wilderness/District Ranger Offices	1,800	new location
Subtotal	**4,124**	**1,640**

Museum	existing sf	needed sf
Lobby & Orientation	1,370	800
Museum Court	0	3,000
Retail	740	1,100
Museum Exhibits	2,248	7,500
Subtotal	**4,358**	**12,400**

Visitor Center	existing sf	needed sf
Theater	2,550	2,550
Multi-purpose/Auditorium	2,980	2,980
Visitor Center Exhibits	3,410	3,410
Subtotal	**8,940**	**8,940**

Total Assignable square feet	21,366	39,310
Unassigned square feet (25% of total)		9,828
Total Square Feet		49,138

Additional unassigned spaces in gross building area: public restrooms, stairs & ramps, elevators, custodial services, computer server room, mechanical, electrical, telecommunications

EXISTING PROGRAM

PROPOSED PROGRAM
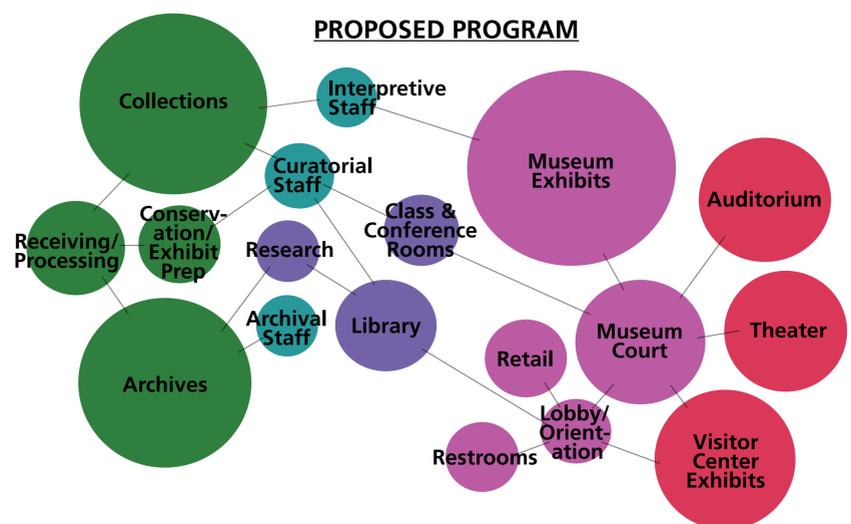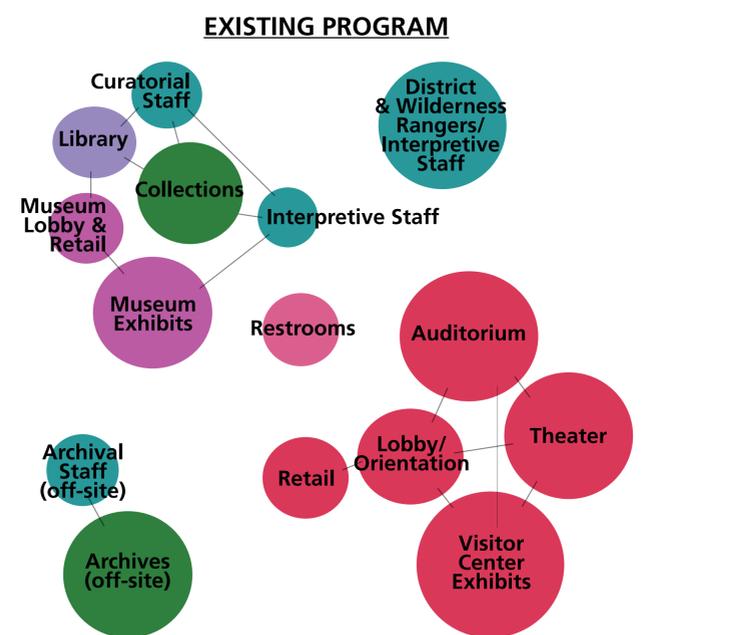
The size of each circle corresponds to relative size of the space occupied by that function. The location of the circles and the connecting lines indicate the relationship among the functions.

LEGEND
- Museum: Public Functions
- Museum: Semi-Public Functions
- Museum: Non-Public Functions
- Museum: Administrative Functions
- Visitor Center Functions

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