

# New York State Museum: My First 100 Days and the Path Ahead

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Washington State Historical Society



Harbor History Museum

# A Quick Introduction





# Guiding Principles

- Tell a true, whole history
- Consult with community and Tribes
- Everyone should feel they belong
- Interactivity/multiple modes of learning
- Accessibility is required
- Endeavor to be a beloved community center and respected, valued statewide institution



Photo credit: Washington State Historical Society

# First Steps

- Met with every department and sub-unit
- Toured collections spaces and facilities
- Met with key legislators
- Reviewed existing budget, staffing, program and exhibition plans



# Key Takeaways

## We are much more than a museum:

State Biological Survey

State Science Survey  
(state geologist,  
paleontologist,  
botanist, entomologist,  
and archaeologist)

New York State  
Biodiversity Institute

Lead state response to  
unmarked graves

Cultural Resource  
Survey Program

Office of State History



A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt, is looking intently at a display in a museum. The display appears to be a large rock or mineral specimen. The background is slightly blurred, showing other museum exhibits and a sign that partially reads "S YORK".

# Case Study: Critical Minerals in Lewis County

# Barbie™

## A CULTURAL ICON EXHIBITION

SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF FASHION AND INSPIRATION



## Key Takeaways

We have an incredible staff who are excited to invigorate the NYS Museum and are dedicated to its mission.

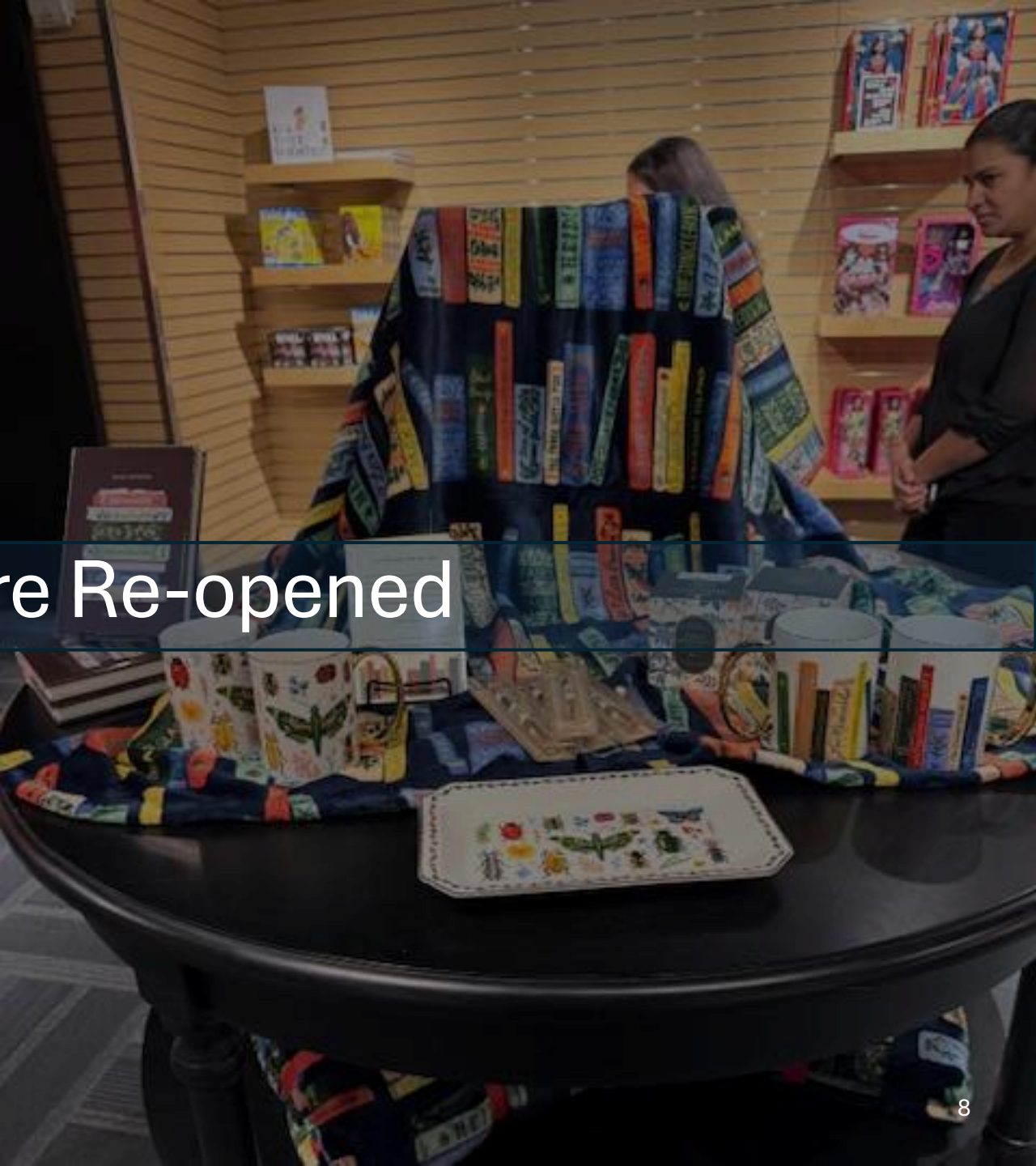
Together we have:

- Brought a major traveling exhibition to the Museum
- Continued to offer daily public programming
- Begun a lobby makeover





## Museum Store Re-opened





# Key Takeaways

**We need a long-term funding solution to support world-class operations.**

Needs include:

- Collections care
- Educational programming
- Scientific and historical research
- Original exhibitions





# Exhibition Plans

- 6-8 new exhibitions each year
- Major traveling exhibitions
- Original NYS Museum exhibitions
- Diverse content





A photograph of two blue ceramic coffee cups filled with latte, featuring intricate white foam art. The cups are set on matching blue saucers and are placed on a rustic wooden table. A semi-transparent dark blue banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "New Café – Coming Soon" in white. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a cozy atmosphere.

New Café – Coming Soon



The background image shows a museum gallery with large steam locomotives. The locomotives have prominent red wheels and black metal frames. Informational displays with red backgrounds are placed in the foreground. The lighting is dramatic, with spotlights highlighting the exhibits.

# The Path Ahead

- Visitor Study
- Institutional Strategic Planning
- Fundraising Framework
- Gallery Renewal – Visioning Process
- Gallery Renewal – Comprehensive Planning, Design, Execution