



Klaus,

Trump's draconian threats have forced American companies, institutions, and schools to make a decision: **Stand up for what's right or give in to the demands of a dangerous authoritarian regime.** The Smithsonian is facing that choice right now.

The White House is threatening to cut the Smithsonian's funding if it holds firm against the administration's directive to align with Trump's far-right views.¹

Trump even ranted on Truth Social that the historical institution focuses too much on "how bad slavery is."²

The White House released a list of Smithsonian art and exhibits it finds objectionable — all focused on race, slavery, immigration, sexuality, and America's diversity — because **they don't align with the Trump 2.0 worldview.** The list mirrors an online right-wing media outlet that claims the museums feature **"wall-to-wall, anti-American propaganda."**³

This all-out attack on the Smithsonian is Trump's push to rewrite history and remake every part of America. Demand Progress is running a dedicated campaign calling on the Smithsonian to stand strong against the White House's threats. We are mobilizing our supporters to fight Trump's strongman tactics at every turn. We will not stop organizing *nationwide* to block Trump's quest for a full authoritarian takeover of America.

[Will you make a donation today to support our work, including our fight to protect America's institutions from Trump's tyrannical demands?](#)

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Big Tech CEOs, universities, law firms, and the country's largest media corporations have all folded to pressure from the White House. The Smithsonian is the latest front in Trump's attempt to take complete control of the country.

In response to Trump's orders for the "OUT OF CONTROL"⁵ Smithsonian, the American Historical Association said, "Such political interference stands to impose a single and flawed view of American history onto the Smithsonian, placing at risk the integrity and accuracy of historical interpretation."⁶

Trump's effort to put his stamp on the historical record is wide-reaching. **He cemented over the White House Rose Garden and pledged to build a \$200 million WH ballroom.**⁷ His MAGA sycophants in Congress have also pushed to put his face on Mount Rushmore and U.S. currency, and his name on the Kennedy Center, airports, and transit systems.⁸

"The president's assault on U.S. museums, education and memory is a critical dimension of his fascist aims", said two history scholars in *The Guardian*.⁸

Our campaign to save the Smithsonian's integrity is a fight to protect American history from Trump's hardline ideology. It's an urgent fight for the Smithsonian, whoever Trump is planning to target next, and our entire country.

[Will you make a donation today to support our work, including our fight to block Trump from rewriting history and completing his authoritarian takeover.](#)

With gratitude,

The team at Demand Progress Action

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Sources:

1. Reuters, "Trump targets the Smithsonian again, says it focuses too much on how bad slavery was," [August 20, 2025](#).
2. The New York Times, "Trump Says Smithsonian Focuses Too Much on 'How Bad Slavery Was'," [August 19, 2025](#).
3. NPR, "Smithsonian artists and scholars respond to White House list of objectionable art," [August 24, 2025](#).
4. The New York Times, "Trump Says Smithsonian Focuses Too Much on 'How Bad Slavery Was'," [August 19, 2025](#).
5. CNN Business, "Trump's 'chilling effect' is coming for museums, historians warn," [August 20, 2025](#).
6. The Guardian, "'Trump is a wrecking ball': behind the president's \$200m plan to build a White House ballroom," [August 7, 2025](#).
7. AP, "All the ways Republicans want to honor Trump, from the \$100 bill to Mount Rushmore," [July 31, 2025](#).
8. The Guardian, "Why Trump's 'anti-woke' attack on the Smithsonian matters," [August 27, 2025](#).

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