

Greetings!

Because you are a friend of the U-M Museum of Natural History, we want you to be among the first to know about some exciting news. Today, the U-M Board of Regents approved the schematic design for a new Biological Science Building, which will include a state-of-the-art space for UMMNH.

Prominent placement of the Museum within the Biological Science Building will provide visitors, U-M researchers, and Museum staff with numerous benefits:

- Visitor access to current U-M research in the biological and physical sciences, anthropology, and archaeology
- Exhibitions, programs, outreach efforts, and events designed to make some of the scientific research conducted in the building visible to all and to create a culture of open dialogue about science
- Better visibility for the Museum, making it easier to attract students and visitors to exhibitions and programs
- Back-of-house spaces that will be modern, efficiently arranged, and conducive to collaboration among staff, students, and faculty
- Hybrid spaces—or, “investigate labs”—integrated into core exhibits and designed for active, engaged learning for visitors and U-M students alike

As it has for decades, the Museum will continue to engage Pre-K–12 teachers and students in hands-on learning about the natural world and the processes of science. Public programs and exhibits for all visitors will emphasize the visual and visceral ways we learn in museums; they will cultivate wonder, immerse and transport visitors, and engage them in participatory programs.

Since 1928, the Alexander G. Ruthven Museums Building has been home not only to UMMNH but also to the treasured memories of those who have passed through its doors. The University has not yet reached a decision about future use of the building, but between now and our targeted opening date in 2019, the Museum will host several events and programs to honor the building’s role in our past and its place in your hearts.

Information on upcoming events and updates about the plans approved by the regents today will be posted on the [UMMNH website](#) as they become available. And if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [aharris@umich.edu](mailto:aharris@umich.edu).

We at the Museum are thrilled about this move to a new facility that will allow us greater visibility and more meaningful, immersive programs for the visitors we serve. We hope you share our enthusiasm, and you can rest assured about one important point:

The pumas are coming, too!

Sincerely,  
Amy Harris  
Director

