

## AMNH's Incorporating Purpose vs. Current Purpose

AMNH was envisioned as an institution for public education with a founding purpose of “advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects, and, to that end, of **furnishing popular instruction**” to New Yorkers. City leaders should not authorize the AMNH's current "global purpose" **at the expense of New Yorkers' right to free access and popular instruction** nor at the expense of the **AMNH's obligation to bolster** our city's education system, especially considering New Yorkers' substantive investment in AMNH in compliance with the terms of our Public Private Partnership [see [PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP](#)].

The juxtaposition between AMNH's initial purpose versus its current purpose makes clear that New York City's Office of Mayor must have controlling laws and contracts codified so that the City's oversight agencies can ensure that the policies and practices that AMNH and the other PEC institutions put in place are compliant [see [PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP](#), [PARK INSTITUTIONS](#) and [LAWS](#).]

| Incorporating Purpose of AMNH   | Current Purpose of AMNH  |
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| <p>See: <a href="#">Chapter 119 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1869</a></p> <p>“Sec. 1 ... the American Museum of Natural History, to be located in the City of New-York, for the <b>purpose of establishing and maintaining in said City a museum and library of natural history</b>; of encouraging and developing the study of natural sciences; of advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects, <b>and to that end of furnishing popular instruction and recreation.</b>” [emphasis added]</p> <p><a href="#">Chapter 162 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1909</a> amended the founding purpose of AMNH as provided for in Chapter 31 of the Laws of 1893 as follows:</p> <p>“Section 1. Para. 1 ... for the purpose of establishing and maintaining in said city a Museum and Library of Natural History; of encouraging and developing the study of Natural Science; of advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects, and <b>to that end of furnishing popular instruction <i>[and recreation]</i>.</b>” [emphasis added]</p> <p>[Footnote in original, italics DELETED: 1. Formerly ‘popular instruction <i>and recreation</i>.’ 2. Superseded by General Corporation Law (L. 1909, ch. 28). 3. “Classification as education institution new.” (emphasis in original)] [see definition of “<a href="#">education institution</a>”]</p> | <p>See: <a href="#">About the Museum</a></p> <p>“Since its founding in 1869, the Museum has advanced its <b>global mission</b> to discover, interpret, and disseminate information about human cultures, the natural world, and the universe through a wide-ranging program of scientific research, education, and exhibition.” [emphasis added]</p> |