



National Science Foundation

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2415 Eisenhower Ave,
Alexandria, VA 22314

National Science Foundation HISTORY WALL



ABOUT THE ARTIST Nicolle R. Fuller created the NSF history wall art using 3d software and digital painting, and incorporating select photos graciously provided by NSF friends and partners. Fuller holds a graduate certificate in science illustration, and a bachelors in biochemistry. In 2007 she founded Sayo-Art LLC to help scientists communicate with a wider audience. Fuller lives in Bellevue, WA with her two children and husband.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



This beautiful mural provides a visual history of the National Science Foundation (NSF), spanning nearly 7 decades of scientific discovery and innovation and depicting NSF's impact on the nation. This is a legacy that belongs to all of us, and to the nation.

We've often heard it said, "what's past is prologue." If NSF's history is any indication of what we can expect to achieve over the next 70 years, then the decades ahead will be filled with transformative discoveries, and we will need a lot more wall space.

Dr. France A. Córdova

It is a measure of NSF's success that we could not capture all of our many achievements on one wall. What is captured, though, vividly reinforces how we are meeting the directives of our original mandate: "To promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense."

History is an integral part of knowledge management within a federal agency. Remembering the road NSF has traveled—with all of its twists and turns—helps us navigate the road ahead. Furthermore, an accounting of our history is an accounting of the growth of the science and engineering enterprise in the United States.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Established by Congress in 1950, the National Science Foundation (NSF) embodied Vannevar Bush's vision for basic research in the United States. As he wrote in 1945, in *Science, The Endless Frontier*: "Scientific progress is one essential key to our security as a nation, to our better health, to more jobs, to a higher standard of living, and to our cultural progress."

Today, NSF remains an independent federal agency, one that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. In fiscal year (FY) 2017, its budget was \$7.5 billion. NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to nearly 2,000 colleges, universities and other institutions. Each year, NSF receives more than 48,000 competitive proposals for funding and makes about 12,000 new funding awards.



