





THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

**TO:** Cultural Education Committee  
**FROM:** Mark Schaming   
**SUBJECT:** Overview of State Museum's Natural History Collections  
**DATE:** April 25, 2019  
**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

## SUMMARY

### Issue for Discussion

State Museum staff will provide an overview of how the Museum's natural history collections are used for diverse research and education applications that are valuable to society.

### Reason for Consideration

For information.

### Background Information

The New York State Museum serves the lifelong educational needs of New Yorkers and visitors and supports academic scholarship of researchers around the world through its collections, exhibitions, programs, and publications in biology, paleontology, and geology. The Museum's natural history collections are at the core of these activities. The Museum's natural history curators collect, interpret, and make available important specimens from the state's past and present to document our changing natural environment. The Museum also supports students (high school and undergraduate interns, and graduate-student fellows) and researchers from the NYSDEC and other state agencies that pursue research on the natural history collections. Dr. Jeremy Kirchman, Curator of Ornithology, will review some of the ways new technologies are enabling novel uses of natural history collections and making well-curated collections more important than ever. He will also briefly review some of recent scholarship and scientific training based on State Museum collections.