

Timeline for Michael Wiant Interview

Organizations and Agencies – IL State Museum

Timeline of events pertaining to Illinois State Museum closure, reopening, and accreditation as part of an Oral History interview with Dr. Michael Wiant.

February 2015

Gov. Rauner administration FY2016 budget proposal cuts the Illinois State Museum budget by \$1 million, but the museum will remain open and admission-free.

June 2, 2015

In response to the state budget passed by the legislature, the Gov. Rauner administration threatens to close the Illinois State Museum (ISM) among other reductions in state services.

July 2015

Commission of Government Forecasting and Accountability (COFGA) holds hearings to examine the Gov. Rauner administration's proposal to shut down the ISM system, which would reduce the staff from sixty-eight to three people to secure and maintain remaining museum facilities.

August 2015

COFGA votes 7-2 against closing the ISM system. As of August 11, 2015, the Committee on Forecasting and Accountability had received letters totaling 769 pages urging Governor Rauner not to close the ISM.

September 2015

ISM Director Dr. Bonnie W. Styles retires. Nine members of the ISM's management team are laid off.

September 2015

AFSCME files suit to prevent layoffs of the ISM's union employees.

September 18, 2015

AFSCME is notified by the Gov. Rauner administration that layoffs will be delayed while litigation of state cuts is resolved.

October 1, 2015

The Illinois State Museum is closed to the public.

October 2015

American Alliance of Museums (AAM) places the ISM on probation while evaluating if it remains accreditable.

February 2016

The ISM submits a self-evaluation study to the AAM.

February 8, 2016

The Department of Natural Resources announces the ISM to reopen to the public.

July 1, 2016

The Illinois State Museum opens to the public.

September 24, 2016

The ISM's Lockport Gallery reopens.

February 2017

The ISM submits an application for re-accreditation to the AAM.

August 2017

The AAM accreditation evaluation team visits the ISM's facilities

November 17, 2017

The AAM Accreditation Commission tables the ISM's application. The Commission requires the ISM to submit a Progress Report addressing commission concerns by April 25, 2018 and to submit a final report in December 2018.

March 13, 2019

The ISM is re-accredited by the AAM.