



## STRATEGIC PLAN

December 2022 - 2025

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Center for Biological Research Collections is to enhance collection-based research and education in biodiversity, zooarchaeology, paleontology, and related disciplines by providing shared infrastructure and data management support of IU's natural history collections. The Center's research focus is on 2- and 3D imaging of specimens, including biological, fossil, and archaeological remains, that have associated taxonomic, geographic, and temporal metadata. CBRC thereby provides stewardship for IU's formal paleontological and zooarchaeological repositories.

### Vision Statement

Indiana University's Center for Biological Research Collections supports the College of Arts and Sciences' vision of creating leaders and thinkers by developing digital infrastructure to advance a collaborative biodiversity platform, facilitate research on IU's natural history specimen collections, and promote educational enhancement to create citizen science leaders for the State of Indiana.

### Our Values

- Encourage and facilitate inquiry-based science
- Push the boundaries of understanding to reveal Earth's biological evolution
- Share digital infrastructure platforms
- Promote long-term preservation and stewardship of natural history specimens and associated metadata
- Embrace enjoyment by framing activities that spark curiosity, excitement, and joy
- Respect relationships by giving time, attention, and care to communicate, problem-solve, and build trust
- Articulate standards for inclusive and respectful shared activities and spaces

### Our Strategy

With knowledge of the value of the uniqueness of natural history collections, coupled with managerial and curatorial skills with which we care for the collections, and digital technology with which we preserve the specimens, we protect the history of the Earth embedded in these collections, and use and share these resources with researchers within and outside of the State of Indiana to introduce natural history and biological evolution of the Earth to the public

*Capitalizing on Opportunities* - CBRC is uniquely positioned to share digital infrastructure resources for an expanded audience within Indiana University. We continue to train graduate and undergraduate students in advanced digitization techniques and have opportunities for expansion into university classes across natural history disciplines. We have expertise and potential to integrate more firmly into the digitization community to learn and share new techniques and their applications to reveal Earth's biological patterns and processes.

*Maintaining Strengths* - CBRC's core strengths are in providing digital data infrastructure for integrated natural history collections across fields of vertebrate and invertebrate paleontology and zooarchaeology. Our graduate and undergraduate students are trained for research and scientific outreach careers. Our physical space is well-suited for browsing and formulating research questions.