



Behind  
every  
invention,  
there's  
a story.

## About The Lemelson Center

### Mission

To document, interpret, and disseminate information about invention and innovation, to encourage inventive creativity in young people, and to foster an appreciation for the central role that invention and innovation play in the history of the United States.

### Namesake

The Center was named after one of the most prolific inventors in American history, Jerome Lemelson (1923–1997), and his wife, Dorothy. Jerome Lemelson was an independent inventor who earned more than 550 patents, representing one of the largest patent portfolios in the nation's history.

### Programs

The Center offers research and educational outreach programs, including:

- **Innovative Lives**—Introduces living inventors to young people and inspires them to think inventively
- **Invention at Play**—A highly interactive and engaging traveling exhibition that focuses on the similarities between the way children and adults play and the creative processes used by innovators in science and technology
- **Modern Inventors Documentation (MIND) Program**—Preserves, documents, and promotes access to historical materials of inventors
- **Fellowships**—Brings scholars and professionals to the Center to work on historical research projects, products, and educational initiatives
- **Internships**—Benefiting deserving college students
- **Workshops**—Hands-on opportunities to experiment and learn
- **Symposia, lectures and conferences**—Hosting industry-leading speakers on key issues in invention and innovation

### Endowment

The Lemelson Center was established in 1995 by a \$10.4 million gift from The Lemelson Foundation, which has since pledged additional funds to fully endow the Center.

### How to contact

For more information, call (202) 633-3450 or visit the Center on the Internet at [invention.smithsonian.org](http://invention.smithsonian.org). E-mail us at [lemcen@si.edu](mailto:lemcen@si.edu).

