

## Grant Applicants Program Guidelines

### Museum Grants for African American History and Culture -- FY 2011 Guidelines

#### Navigating the Guidelines

You are currently on: [Home page](#)

[Contents](#)

[Section One: General Information](#)

[Section Two: Preparing and Submitting an Application](#)

[Section Three: IMLS Assurances and Certification](#)

CFDA Number 45.309

**Application Deadline: January 18, 2011**

Applicants must apply through [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov)  
(see [www.ims.gov/grantsgov](http://www.ims.gov/grantsgov) for more information).

#### Dear Colleagues



I am pleased to present the 2011 guidelines for Museum Grants for African American History and Culture. These grants provide opportunities for African American museums to strengthen the knowledge and abilities of current staff and attract other professionals and new staff to African American museum practice.

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture are intended to build expertise and improve skills in management, operations, programming, collections care, and other areas. We encourage African American museums to design projects that will enhance institutional capacity and sustainability through professional training, networking and mentoring opportunities, internships and fellowships, technical assistance, outside expertise, and other tools.

This historic program was established by the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act, which calls upon the Director of the Institute to create a funding opportunity in consultation with the Director and Council of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Since the launch of this program in 2006, these grants have made a real difference and are helping to keep the African American story alive in communities across America.

The mission of the Institute of Museum and Library Services is to strengthen museums and libraries so they can better serve the American people. Our nation's museums connect people to information and ideas; they help us know about and understand culture, art, history, nature, and science. Through the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture, the Institute is proud to support a growing number of institutions throughout the country as they enhance their abilities to serve communities.

I encourage you to read these guidelines, speak with IMLS staff, and consider applying for funding. I also encourage you to contact IMLS if you are interested in becoming a peer reviewer. The expertise you bring is invaluable to us in this process, and we are always looking for new and fresh perspectives.

Sincerely,

Marsha L. Semmel  
Acting Director, IMLS

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## Contact Information

For more information, call or write:

### Museum Grants for African American History and Culture Program Staff

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Senior Program Officer  
Phone: 202/653-4667  
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### Institute of Museum and Library Services

1800 M Street, NW, 9th Floor  
Washington, DC 20036-5802  
General phone: 202/653-IMLS (4657)  
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Web site: [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov)

**Teletype (TTY/TDD) (for persons with hearing difficulty):** 202/653-4614

Upon request, the Institute will provide an audio recording of this or any other publication.

### Office of Management and Budget Clearance Numbers

Guidelines: OMB No. 3137-0029; Expiration Date: 8/31/2013  
Forms: OMB No. 3137-0071; Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

### Burden Estimates and Request for Public Comments

Public reporting burden for the collection of information per the guidelines' instruction is estimated to average 9 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Institute of Museum and Library Services at the address above; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (3137-0029), Washington, DC 20503.

Public reporting burden is estimated to average 15 minutes per response for the Program Information Sheet, 3 hours per response for the Detailed Budget and Summary Budget, and 10 minutes per response for the Partnership Statement. Send comment regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestion for reducing this burden, to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Chief Information Officer, 1800 M Street, NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20036-5802; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (3137-0071), Washington, DC 20503.

IMLS programs do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. For further information, write to the Civil Rights Officer, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 1800 M Street, NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20036-5802.

Note: IMLS operates on an annual fiscal year cycle. Its grant programs are subject to the availability of funding.

[back to top](#)

## Grant Applicants

### Program Guidelines

## Museum Grants for African American History and Culture -- FY 2011 Guidelines

---

### Navigating the Grant Program Guidelines

[Home page](#)

**You are currently on: Contents**

[Section One: General Information](#)

[Section Two: Preparing and Submitting an Application](#)

[Section Three: IMLS Assurances and Certification](#)

---

### Contents

#### Section One: General Information

##### About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

[Museums and Libraries Strengthen 21st Century Skills](#)

[Museums and Libraries Engaging America's Youth](#)

[Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action](#)

##### About Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

##### Web Conferencing with Program Staff

##### Eligibility

[Partnerships](#)

[Federal Partnerships](#)

##### Application Review Process

[How to Serve as a Reviewer](#)

##### Award Information

[Project Start and End Date](#)

[Award Amounts](#)

[Cost Sharing](#)

[Award Announcements](#)

[Use of Funds](#)

[Project Evaluation](#)

[Copyright/Work Products](#)

[Guidance for Projects That Develop Digital Products](#)

---

#### Section Two: Preparing and Submitting an Application

##### Grants.gov Information and Instructions

[Grants.gov Help](#)

[Tips for Working Successfully with Grants.gov](#)

**Preparing an Application**

- [Application Component Formats](#)
- [Application Component Naming and Sequencing](#)
- [Application Components](#)

**SF-424S: Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organizational Form**

**Abstract**

**Program Information Sheet**

**Organizational Profile**

**Strategic Plan Summary**

**Narrative**

**Schedule of Completion**

**Budget**

- [Detailed Budget](#)
- [Use of Indirect Cost Rates](#)
- [Summary Budget](#)
- [Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement](#)
- [Budget Justification](#)

**Specifications for Projects that Develop Digital Products**

**Partnership Statement**

**List of Key Project Staff, Consultants, and Service Providers**

**Resumes for List of Key Project Staff, Consultants, and Service Providers**

**Proof of Nonprofit Status**

**Supporting Documents for Museum Grants for African American History and Culture Applicants**

---

**Section Three: IMLS Assurances and Certification**

**Assurances Statement**

**Certifications Required of All Applicants**

**Certifications Required of Some Applicants**

[back to top](#)

## Grant Applicants

### Program Guidelines

## Museum Grants for African American History and Culture -- FY 2011 Guidelines

### Navigating the Grant Program Guidelines

[Home page](#)

[Contents](#)

**You are currently on: Section One: General Information**

[Section Two: Preparing and Submitting an Application](#)

[Section Three: IMLS Assurances and Certification](#)

### General Information

#### About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute and its resources, please visit [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov).

The Institute supports the full range of museums, including art, history, science and technology, children's, natural history, historic houses, nature centers, botanical gardens, and zoos; and all types of libraries, including public, school, academic, research, and archival. Our robust capacity for research, evaluation, policy analysis, grantmaking, and partnerships helps make it possible for libraries and museums to be leaders in their communities.

Museums and libraries are America's leading public institutions, making knowledge available to millions at little or no cost. As public institutions they must meet a very high threshold of mission accountability and use resources wisely for public good.

Through grants and information resources, we annually reach thousands of museums and libraries in myriad ways—from providing much needed technical assistance for small institutions to establishing national and replicable models, strengthening state networks, and supporting professional development. To aid institutions in program design, we also provide tools for strategic planning and evaluation. Funding from the Institute helps museums and libraries operate effectively and give value to their communities. It also leverages additional public and private support.

Collecting and disseminating results from funded projects, engaging in research, and publishing reports enables the Institute of Museum and Library Services to make a significant contribution to library, museum, and information policy and practice in the United States.

#### Museums and Libraries Strengthen 21st Century Skills

In the summer of 2009, the Institute released *Museums and Libraries and 21st Century Skills*. The report [and accompanying Web site](#) describe the role libraries and museums play in engaging their communities and contributing to workforce and education goals. Through a self-assessment tool, case studies, and policy analysis, the report establishes the essential role that libraries and museums play in creating an engaged citizenry and competitive workforce. The report highlights the ways in which these institutions support information, communications, and technology literacy; creativity and problem solving; civic literacy;

global awareness; and other 21st century skills.

The report helps libraries and museums align institutional mission, infrastructure, staff, and programming to engage communities in learning. The report has also spurred an agency-wide *21st Century Skills* initiative. This year, IMLS plans to host workshops around the country to help museums, libraries, and other community organizations identify and address 21st century skills needs in their communities. Also, look for additional resources on the IMLS Web site as well as a series of Webinars and a national contest to identify current promising practices.

The Institute also encourages grant proposals that promote the skills necessary to develop 21st century communities, citizens, and workers.

### **Museums and Libraries Engaging America's Youth**

Museums and libraries have a rich array of resources—collections, staff, programs—that engage youth by inspiring curiosity and fostering learning. These cultural institutions also provide safe and welcoming environments for kids. Libraries and museums are essential community partners that have a significant role to play in helping youth succeed in school, work, and life. Through its *Museums and Libraries Engaging America's Youth* initiative, the Institute looked back at the youth-oriented programs it funded to examine what works and to share effective practices. A convening of practitioners, educators, and informal learning experts looked at elements of successful programs – such as positive environment, institutional support, professional development, and evaluation—and how museums and libraries can enhance their role as community partners. If your application to the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture program involves youth, please see these publications for tips and recommendations in designing effective programs, as well as for valuable resources and bibliography.

Youth Resources (available at [www.ims.gov/youth](http://www.ims.gov/youth)):

- The **Final Report** shares the results of the year-long study on the impact of IMLS grants (1998-2003) through programs that served youth aged 9-19. Nearly 400 museum and library programs were surveyed about their goals, strategies, content, audience, and structure, as well as about their impact, effectiveness, and outcomes.
- The **Practitioner's Guide** provides practitioners with the information needed for planning and implementing effective youth programs. It includes a variety of resources and references to critical works that have been gathered from the fields of youth and community development, education, and informal learning.

### **Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action**

Over the course of the past four years, IMLS and its partners have provided leadership, resources, and grants to help make conservation of collections a priority in America's collecting institutions. *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, an initiative grounded in the results of the *Heritage Health Index* report, is now in its final phase. A series of convenings has taken place, including a national summit; four forums, each addressing a crucial issue in collections care; and an international seminar on "Connecting to the World's Collections: Making the Case for the Conservation and Preservation of Our Cultural Heritage," held in Salzburg, Austria. In addition, almost 3,000 sets of the *IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf* have been sent to small museums, libraries, and archives throughout the country.

For further information:

- Visit the *Connecting to Collections* Web site at [www.ims.gov/collections](http://www.ims.gov/collections); it is a rich resource with webcasts of convenings and links to a comprehensive list of online resources.
- Apply for funding to care for collections through the Conservation Project Support program and the Conservation Assessment Program.
- Stay tuned for more information about webinars that are being developed in cooperation with Heritage Preservation and the American Association for State and Local History.

The Institute's partners for *Connecting to Collections* include Heritage Preservation, the American Association for State and Local History, the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, the Getty Foundation, the Luce Foundation, Bank of America, the Kress Foundation, United Parcel Service, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, among others.

## About Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

The Institute of Museum and Library Services administers a variety of grant programs that advance the value of museums and libraries as critical resources for a nation of learners. Museum Grants for African American History and Culture (AAHC) are intended to build institutional capacity in the African American museum community. The program provides opportunities for staffs of African American museums to gain knowledge and abilities in the areas of management, operations, programming, collections care, and other museum skills identified as high priorities by applicants. It provides an opportunity for African American museums to design projects that will enhance institutional capacity and sustainability by utilizing professional training, technical assistance, internships, outside expertise, and other tools.

For FY2011, the program invites applications that focus on one or more of the following three goals:

- Developing or strengthening knowledge, skills and other expertise of current staff at African American museums
- Attracting and retaining professionals with the skills needed to strengthen African American museums
- Attracting new staff to African American museum practice and providing them with the expertise needed to sustain them in the museum field

Funds will support a wide range of activities that support these goals, including

- staff exchange, mentoring, education or training, or other strategies that increase the skills needed to improve African American museum services;
- attendance at museum conferences and other professional meetings;
- enrollment in courses or workshops;
- technical assistance or consultation with museum or business professionals from outside the institution; and
- organizational support for the development and implementation of internship and fellowship programs. (Awards are not made to individuals.)

## Web Conferencing with Program Staff

IMLS offers opportunities to discuss your application or general issues about Museum Grants for African American History and Culture with the program staff. We do this through a Web conferencing system (called Adobe® Acrobat® Connect Pro) that combines audio conferencing (like traditional teleconferencing systems) and webinar capabilities. We invite you to join the conference to see and hear presentations by IMLS program staff, ask questions, and listen to the questions and comments of other participants.

The conference call schedule for the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture program is:

**Tuesday, November 30, 2010, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2010, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

Visit <http://instmus.acrobat.com/aahc-applicants> to log in to the webinar, and then follow the instructions to have the Web conference system connect to your phone to ensure that you can call in with questions.

If you are unable to connect to the online webinar system, please use the following audio conference number and passcode to dial in to the call:

Conference call number: 1-888-850-4523

Participant passcode: 761243

**Please note that the schedule is subject to change.** The week the webinar is scheduled, visit the grant page at <http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/AfricanAmerican.shtml> to confirm the date and time, and to find out more details about logging in to the system.

**Important!** Before the week of your conference, please test your computer's compatibility with Adobe® Acrobat® Connect Pro by visiting the following link: [http://my.adobe.acrobat.com/common/help/en/support/meeting\\_test.htm](http://my.adobe.acrobat.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm) before the conference.

## Eligibility

A museum applicant to the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture program must

1. be either a unit of state or local government or a private nonprofit organization that has tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code;
2. be located in one of the 50 states of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau; and
3. qualify as one of the following three types of organizations:
  - a museum\*, whose primary purpose, as reflected in its mission, is African American life, art, history, and/or culture, encompassing the period of slavery; the era of reconstruction; the Harlem Renaissance; the civil rights movement; and other periods of the African American Diaspora;
  - a museum service organization or association whose primary purpose, as reflected in its mission, is to support museums identified above (Note: A friends group associated with a single museum is not an eligible applicant); or
  - a historically black college or university, as defined by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 20 U.S.C. Section 1061, and pursuant to Executive Order 13256, dated February 12, 2002.

Please note that a museum located within a parent organization that is a state or local government or multipurpose not-for-profit entity, such as a municipality, university, historical society, foundation, or cultural center, may apply on its own behalf if the museum: (1) is able to independently fulfill all the eligibility requirements listed above; (2) functions as a discrete unit within the parent organization; (3) has its own fully segregated and itemized operating budget; and (4) has the authority to make the application on its own. When any of the last three conditions cannot be met, a museum may apply through its parent organization.

Prospective applicants that cannot fulfill all of these requirements should contact IMLS to discuss their eligibility before applying. IMLS may require additional supporting documentation from the applicant to determine the museum's autonomy. Each eligible applicant within a single parent organization should clearly delineate its own programs and operations in the application narrative. A parent organization that controls multiple museums that are not autonomous but which are otherwise eligible may submit only one application per grant program; the application may be submitted by the parent organization on behalf of one or more of the eligible museums.

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\* A museum is defined as an organization that, using a professional staff, (1) is organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes; (2) owns or uses tangible objects, either animate or inanimate; (3) cares for these objects; and (4) exhibits these objects to the general public on a regular basis through facilities which it owns or operates.

An organization uses a professional staff if it employs at least one professional staff member, or the fulltime equivalent, whether paid or unpaid primarily engaged in the acquisition, care, or exhibition to the public of objects owned or used by the institution.

An organization "exhibits objects to the general public" if such exhibition is a primary purpose of the institution. Further, an organization which exhibits objects to the general public for at least 120 days a year shall be deemed to exhibit objects to the general public on a regular basis. An organization which exhibits objects by appointment may meet the requirement to exhibit objects to the general public on a regular basis, if it can establish, in light of the facts under all the relevant circumstances, that this method of exhibition does not unreasonably restrict the accessibility of the institution's exhibits to the general public. Please note that an organization which does not have as a primary purpose the exhibition of objects to the general public, but which can demonstrate that it exhibits objects to the general public on a regular basis as a significant, separate, distinct, and continuing portion of its activities, and that it otherwise meets the museum eligibility requirements, may be determined to be eligible as a museum under these guidelines.

A museum located within a parent organization that is a state or local government or multipurpose non-profit entity, such as a municipality, university, historical society, foundation, or a cultural center, may

apply on its own behalf, if the museum: (1) is able to independently fulfill all the eligibility requirements listed above; (2) functions as a discrete unit within the parent organization; (3) has its own fully segregated and itemized operating budget; and (4) has the authority to make the application on its own. When any of the last three conditions cannot be met, a museum may apply through its parent organization.

Prospective applicants that cannot fulfill all of these requirements should contact IMLS to discuss their eligibility before applying. IMLS may require additional supporting documentation from the applicant to determine the museum's autonomy. Each eligible applicant within a single parent organization should clearly delineate its own programs and operations in the application narrative. A parent organization that controls multiple museums that are not autonomous but which are otherwise eligible may submit only one application per grant program; the application may be submitted by the parent organization on behalf of one or more of the eligible museums.

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### **Partnerships**

Partnerships may strengthen applications submitted to this program, if they are appropriate to the project. Partnerships are not required in this program, however. An application may include one or more partners. The lead applicant in a partnership must be eligible to apply as an individual entity, and all members of a partnership should be active contributors to and beneficiaries of project activities.

The members of the partnership shall designate one member of the partnership to apply for the grant. Any group application must contain a Partnership Statement that details the activities that each member of the partnership plans to perform and binds each member of the partnership to every statement and all assurances made by the applicant in the application. The applicant shall submit the Partnership Statement with the application.

By submitting the Partnership Statement with the application, the applicant affirms that (1) the partner is available and has agreed to participate, and (2) the Partnership Statement is true, complete, and accurate to the best of the applicant's authorized representative's knowledge.

The applicant will ensure that each partner also provides a signed original version of the Partnership Statement to the applicant, and that this form will be made available to IMLS upon request.

If IMLS makes a grant to a partnership, the lead applicant for the partnership is the grantee and is legally responsible for the use of all grant funds and for ensuring that the project is carried out by the partnership in accordance with the terms of the grant and all applicable federal laws, regulations, and requirements. The lead applicant must be the fiscal agent, but may subcontract with partners for other specific activities or services. Each member of the partnership is legally responsible for carrying out the activities it agrees to perform and using the funds it receives in accordance with the terms of the grant and all applicable federal laws, regulations, and requirements.

### **Federal Partnerships**

IMLS encourages eligible institutions to partner with other Federal agencies, when appropriate to the project. However, it is important to remember that federally appropriated funds, whether they are disbursed directly to the applicant by an agency of the federal government or indirectly through another organization do not qualify as cost share in IMLS grant applications.

## **Application Review Process**

The Institute uses a peer review process that includes individual field review and/or panel review to competitively evaluate all eligible and complete applications. Reviewers are professionals in the field who have relevant knowledge and expertise in the types of activities and organizations identified in the applications. Reviewers are instructed to evaluate proposed projects according to the criteria identified in the program guidelines. The Institute's director makes final funding decisions based on the reviewers' evaluations and the overall goals of the program and the agency.

### **How to Serve as a Reviewer**

All competitive awards are reviewed by library and museum professionals who know the needs of communities, can share best practices, and are well versed in the issues and concerns of museums and libraries today. There are many benefits to volunteering to review applications. If you are selected to serve,

you will help the Institute and the museum and library communities and strengthen the grant review process. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer for the Institute, you can be included in our database of potential reviewers by submitting your information through our online reviewer forms at [www.ims.gov/reviewers/reviewers.shtm](http://www.ims.gov/reviewers/reviewers.shtm).

## **Award Information**

### **Project Start and End Date**

Projects may begin on August 1 or September 1, 2011, or October 1, 2011. Projects must begin on the first day of the month and end on the last day of the month. Generally, project activities supported by these grants may be carried out for up to two years.

### **Award Amounts**

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture awards range from \$5,000 to \$150,000.

### **Cost Sharing**

A 1:1 cost share is required for Museum Grants for African American History and Culture.

### **Award Announcements**

No information about the status of an application will be released until the applications have been reviewed and all deliberations are concluded. IMLS expects to notify both funded and unfunded applicants of final decisions by late July, 2011, with funded projects to begin no earlier than August 1, 2011.

### **Use of Funds**

Allowable expenses include such items as

- Staffing
- Staff training
- Internship stipends and support activities
- Project personnel, contract, or in-house staff time necessary for the proper and efficient execution of the project
- Project consultants and their travel
- Costs related to planning and maintenance of project partnerships
- Purchase of equipment, materials, supplies, or services
- Integration of technology into museum operations
- Costs associated with evaluation of grant programs or activities
- Publication
- Indirect or overhead costs ([Click here for more information](#))

All proposed expenses must be justified in the application budget.

Unallowable Expenses include such items as

- general museum fundraising costs, such as development office expenditures or other staff time devoted to general fundraising;
- general advertising or public relations costs designed solely for promotional activities other than those related to the specific project;
- contributions to endowments;
- acquisition of collections;
- social activities, ceremonies, receptions, or entertainment;
- construction and renovation of museum facilities;
- exhibit fabrication that includes creation of large-scale permanent structures for animals or objects that would involve contract labor of the construction trades. (*Note:* Applicants with questions about the eligibility of exhibition activities should call IMLS staff immediately.)
- collection conservation activities, including installation of collections, HVAC systems, creation of collections storage facilities, object treatment, collections surveys, or historic structure renovation (*Note:* For these activities, please review the IMLS Conservation Project Support Guidelines)

- regarding possible eligibility.); and
- pre-grant costs.

### **Project Evaluation**

The Institute expects each application budget to include specific and sufficient resources for project evaluation, and expects institutions to use interim findings to strengthen project results. An application's proposed plan for project evaluation is a significant element in competitive review. The Institute promotes outcomes-based planning and evaluation as one important way for museums and libraries to measure results. For projects that intend to effect changes in behavior or knowledge, whether for professional peers or end users, applicants should identify their specific audiences and say how the project will objectively and concretely measure outcomes.

In cooperation with Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), the Institute has supported *Shaping Outcomes*, an online course on outcomes-based planning and evaluation (OBPE), which can help applicants improve program design and evaluation. Available at [www.shapingoutcomes.org](http://www.shapingoutcomes.org), this resource

- provides an online curriculum in OBPE,
- is designed for library and museum professionals as well as students in these fields,
- teaches the concepts and vocabulary of OBPE, and
- helps participants develop the skills necessary for producing a logic model using OBPE.

At the end of the project all grantees are required to submit a final performance report that documents project goals and project design, and that provides an analysis of the project. The report requires quantitative information on project activities and audiences reached. It also requires quantitative and qualitative data that documents project achievements, summarizes lessons learned, and documents outcomes and, if applicable, large-scale or long-term results that affect one or more institutions, communities, or fields.

All applicants are expected to include the costs of evaluation, reporting, and dissemination in their project budgets. Associated costs may be for consultants or staff, development of instruments, information collection, and analysis. Any of these may be budgeted as direct costs or cost share.

Applicants should include information in the application narrative that demonstrates that the project plan and evaluation design will enable the grantee to provide the data and analysis necessary to meet the requirements of the final report. See the final report form at [www.ims.gov/docs/rptInstructions.doc](http://www.ims.gov/docs/rptInstructions.doc) and a glossary of key reporting terms at [www.ims.gov/pdf/Glossary.pdf](http://www.ims.gov/pdf/Glossary.pdf).

### **Copyright/Work Products**

IMLS requires acknowledgment of IMLS assistance in all publications and other products resulting from the project. Products should be distributed for free or at cost unless the recipient has received written approval from IMLS for another arrangement. With written permission, the recipient may copyright any work that is subject to copyright and was developed under an award or for which ownership was purchased. IMLS reserves, for federal government purposes, a royalty-free, worldwide, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work and authorize others to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work. IMLS requires that grantees provide two copies of any products produced with IMLS funds to IMLS with final reports.

### **Guidance for Projects That Develop Digital Products**

Projects that involve the creation of new digital products such as digital collections, tools, or other digital resources must provide in the proposal narrative a detailed explanation of the need, intended uses, and audiences for these digital products. The proposal must also include a detailed work plan related to creating the digital products, and applicants must complete and submit with the application the form *Specifications for Projects That Develop Digital Products*. This form, as well as a list of potentially useful resources, projects, and standards is available [on the IMLS website](#).

[back to top](#)

## Grant Applicants

### Program Guidelines

## Museum Grants for African American History and Culture -- FY 2011 Guidelines

### Navigating the Grant Program Guidelines

[Home page](#)

[Contents](#)

[Section One: General Information](#)

**You are currently on: Section Two: Preparing and Submitting an Application**

[Section Three: IMLS Assurances and Certification](#)

### Preparing and Submitting an Application

#### Grants.Gov information and instructions

Organizations that are applying under the January 18, 2011 deadline for the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture program must submit their applications through Grants.gov, the Federal government's online application system. The Grants.gov system will accept applications through 11:59 p.m. eastern time on January 18, 2011.

**While the deadline is January 18, 2011, IMLS recommends strongly that applicants REGISTER EARLY and COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION EARLY.** All applicants who are using Grants.gov must register with Grants.gov before submitting their application. The multistep registration process generally cannot be completed in a single day. Applicants who are not already registered should allow at least two weeks to complete this one-time process. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE WEEK OF THE APPLICATION DEADLINE TO REGISTER.**

**PLEASE REVIEW THESE GUIDELINES AND THE GRANTS.GOV REQUIREMENTS CAREFULLY. IMLS MAKES GRANTS ONLY TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS THAT SUBMIT COMPLETE APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING ATTACHMENTS, ON OR BEFORE THE DEADLINE.**

Find Grant Opportunities: [www.grants.gov/applicants/find\\_grant\\_opportunities.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/find_grant_opportunities.jsp)

Get Registered: [www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp)

Apply for Grants: [www.grants.gov/applicants/apply\\_for\\_grants.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp)

Use one of the following identifiers to locate the  
Museum Grants for African American History and Culture package:

CFDA No: 45.309

Funding Opportunity Number: AAHC-FY11

Within 30 working days after the application deadline, IMLS will e-mail applicants an acknowledgment form with an application log number. Applicants who do not receive this form in the stated time should contact IMLS to ensure that their application was successfully logged.

#### Grants.gov Help

Help is available on the Grants.gov Web site at [www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp).

For direct assistance with Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov help desk via e-mail at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

or call Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726. Grants.gov help hours are 24 hours a day, seven days a week; closed on federal holidays. Please keep this in mind when submitting an application with a Monday deadline.

The Grants.gov help desk will assign a case number to each inquiry. This number only documents the inquiry to the help desk and is in no way related to the tracking number that Grants.gov will assign to an application once it has been successfully submitted.

#### Tips for Working Successfully with Grants.gov:

- Start early! Go to [www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp) to register. Utilize Grants.gov resources at [www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant\\_faqs.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_faqs.jsp). The Grants.gov Web site has checklists, FAQs, and online tutorials to assist you in preparing your organization to submit applications. You should also utilize the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) user's guide at [www.bpn.gov/ccr/doc/CCRUsersGuide.pdf](http://www.bpn.gov/ccr/doc/CCRUsersGuide.pdf). Please note that your CCR registration must be renewed annually.
- Consider designating more than one Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) for your organization when you register. This will help to avoid last-minute crises in the event that a single AOR is unavailable when you are ready to submit your application. This person might not be the same person that you list as the Authorized Representative for IMLS. Also, you should update the AOR at Grants.gov each year or when staff at your organization changes.
- Make technological choices that help you.
  - Download the most recent version of Adobe® Acrobat® Reader® onto your computer for best results. Make sure to submit all documents in Adobe® PDF format.
  - Convert your documents into PDFs, using one of the tools available here: [www.grants.gov/help/download\\_software.jsp#pdf\\_conversion\\_programs](http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp#pdf_conversion_programs)
  - Use Internet Explorer® for your browser when submitting the application to Grants.gov. Mozilla® Firefox® and Apple Safari® are not currently compatible with this process
- Contact Grants.gov help ([www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp) or 1-800-518-4726) for assistance with hardware and software issues, registration issues, or technical problems. Contact your program officer for assistance with guidelines, eligibility, project, or timeline (schedule of completion) questions. Grants.gov help hours are 24 hours a day, seven days a week; closed on federal holidays. Please keep this in mind when submitting an application with a Monday deadline.

### Preparing an Application

**PLEASE REVIEW THESE GUIDELINES AND THE GRANTS.GOV REQUIREMENTS CAREFULLY. IMLS MAKES GRANTS ONLY TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS THAT SUBMIT COMPLETE APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING ATTACHMENTS, ON OR BEFORE THE DEADLINE.**

#### Application Component Formats

An application requesting funding from the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture program must include material in the following formats:

- **Grants.gov form:** These forms are available only in the package downloaded from Grants.gov. Applicants will need Adobe® Acrobat® Reader® to fill out these forms.
- **IMLS forms:** These forms are available in both Microsoft® Word document and Fill-in PDF formats, and are located both in the downloaded Grants.gov file and [on the IMLS Web site](#). If you do not have Adobe® Acrobat® Pro, we suggest using the Word document to complete the forms. Remember, the Word versions **must be converted to and submitted as a PDF**.
- **PDF documents:** Applicants should convert any other required application components from their original formats into PDFs. **Again, they must be attached to the application as PDFs.**

For assistance in converting documents to PDF, visit  
[http://www.grants.gov/help/download\\_software.jsp#pdf\\_conversion\\_programs](http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp#pdf_conversion_programs)

#### Application Component Naming and Sequencing

The IMLS forms and other components that are part of the application must each be saved as a PDF that is named according to the following table. Note: IMLS will not convert files for applicants and will not

accept file formats other than PDF. Also, please do not send secured PDFs because IMLS cannot process these files.

Append all of the documents to the Attachments form in the prescribed sequence. If there are more attachments than will fit in the “Mandatory Documents for Submission” box on Grants.gov, please use the “Optional Documents for Submission” box for the remaining ones, following the same naming convention.

The table on the following page lists the format required for each component, the naming convention for application components, and the page on which you will find detailed instructions for each component. **The Face Sheet (SF-424S) and the Abstract are Grants.gov forms that will automatically be saved as PDFs.** Applicants may use the table of components below as a checklist to insure that they have created and attached all the documents that may be necessary for a complete application. We suggest assembling and uploading your documents in the suggested sequence to assist you in confirming the inclusion of all required materials.

### Application Components

Component	Format	File name to use
<a href="#">Face Sheet: the he Application for Federal Assistance/Short Organizational Form SF-424S</a>	Grants.gov form	n/a
<a href="#">Abstract (to be uploaded through Grants.gov)</a>	Text document that you create	n/a
<a href="#">Program Information Sheet</a>	IMLS form <a href="#">Download here</a>	Programinfo.pdf
<a href="#">Organizational Profile</a>	PDF document	Organizationalprofile.pdf
<a href="#">Narrative</a>	PDF document	Narrative.pdf
<a href="#">Schedule of Completion</a>	PDF document	Scheduleofcompletion.pdf
<a href="#">Detailed Budget form (by year, as appropriate)</a>	IMLS form <a href="#">Download here</a>	Detailedbudgetyear1.pdf Detailedbudgetyear2.pdf Detailedbudgetyear3.pdf
<a href="#">Summary Budget form</a>	IMLS form <a href="#">Download here</a>	Summarybudget.pdf
<a href="#">Federally negotiated Indirect cost rate form (if applicable)</a>	PDF document	Indirectcostrate.pdf
<a href="#">Budget Justification</a>	PDF document	Budgetjustification.pdf
<a href="#">List of key project staff and consultants</a>	PDF document	Projectstaff.pdf
<a href="#">Resumes of key project staff and consultants (2 pages each, max)</a>	PDF document	Resumes.pdf
<a href="#">Partnership Statement (if applicable)</a>	IMLS form <a href="#">Download here</a>	Partners.pdf
<a href="#">Proof of nonprofit status (if applicable)</a>	PDF document	Proofnonprofit.pdf
<a href="#">Specifications for Projects that Develop Digital Products form (if applicable)</a>	IMLS form <a href="#">Download here</a>	Digitalproducts.pdf
<a href="#">Supporting documentation (if applicable)</a>	PDF Document	Supportingdoc1.pdf Supportingdoc2.pdf Supportingdoc3.pdf Etc.

**Note:** Items 1-4 are automatically filled in by Grants.gov.

## 5. Applicant Information

a. Legal Name: Enter the legal name of the organization that is making the application. Please see “Institutional Eligibility” for eligibility details. If the eligible entity does not have the authority to apply directly to IMLS for funding, enter the name of the parent organization that is submitting the application on behalf of the eligible entity. Enter the name of the eligible entity in the space provided for “Organizational Unit” on the Program Information Sheet, Question 1b.

b. Address: Use Street1 for the organization’s street address or post office box number, whichever is used for its U.S. Postal Service mailing address. Street2 is not a required field and should be used only when a Suite or Room Number or other similar information is part of the address.

In the Zip+4/Postal Code box, enter the **full nine-digit** Zip code assigned by the U.S. Postal Service. An organization’s full Zip code can be retrieved at [www.usps.com/zip4](http://www.usps.com/zip4).

c. Web Address: Enter the Web address of the legal applicant.

d. Type of Applicant: Select the one code that best characterizes the applicant organization from the menu in the first dropdown box. Leave the other boxes blank. The following types of applicants are not eligible to receive Museum Grants for African American History and Culture:

- Individual
- Public/Indian Housing Authority
- For-profit organization
- Small business
- Nondomestic (non-U.S.) entity

e. EIN/TIN: Enter the nine-digit number assigned by the IRS; do not use a Social Security number.

**Note:** The Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) is an identification number used by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the administration of tax laws. It is issued either by the Social Security Administration (SSA) or by the IRS. A Social Security number is issued by the SSA, whereas all other TINs are issued by the IRS. An Employer Identification Number (EIN), also known as a federal tax identification number, is a nine-digit number that the IRS assigns to business entities. The IRS uses this number to identify taxpayers that are required to file various business tax returns.

f. Organizational D-U-N-S®: All organizational applicants for federal funds must have a D-U-N-S® Number.

**Note:** To improve the statistical reporting of federal grants and cooperative agreements, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directed all federal agencies to require all applicants for federal grants to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (D-U-N-S®) Number when applying for federal grants or cooperative agreements on or after October 1, 2003.

Organizations should verify that they have a D-U-N-S® Number or take steps to obtain one. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free D-U-N-S® Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or by visiting [www.dnb.com/us](http://www.dnb.com/us). Individuals who would personally receive a grant or cooperative agreement award from the federal government apart from any business or nonprofit organization they may operate are exempt from this requirement.

Ensure that the number entered here agrees with the number (either 9 or 13 digits) that was used with the CCR (Central Contractor Registry) as part of the Grants.gov registration.

g. Congressional District: Enter the number of the congressional district in which the applicant organization is located. Use the following format: two-letter state abbreviation, followed by a hyphen, followed by the three-digit district number. For example, if the organization is located in the 5th Congressional District of California, enter “CA-005.” For the 12th district of North Carolina, enter “NC-012.” For states and territories with “At Large” congressional districts—that is, one representative or delegate represents the entire state or territory—use “001,” e.g., “VT-001.”

If an organization does not have a congressional district (e.g., it is located in a U.S. territory that does not have districts), enter “00-000.” To determine an organization’s district, visit the House of Representatives Web site at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and use the “Find Your Representative” tool.

## 6. Project Information

a. Project Title: Provide a brief descriptive title.

b. Project Description: Briefly describe the specific project, not the applicant organization. Use clear language that can be understood readily by readers who may not be familiar with the discipline or subject area.

c. Proposed Project Start Date/End Date: Enter the beginning and ending dates for the requested period of support, that is, the span of time necessary to plan, execute, and close out the proposed project. [See Project Start and End Dates for Museum Grants for African American History and Culture projects.](#)

## 7. Project Director

Provide the requested information for the Project Director, who will be responsible for carrying out the project and who will serve as the key contact person with IMLS regarding the progress achieved under the grant. Leave the Social Security number blank. Select a prefix (even though this field is not required on Grants.gov).

## 8. Primary Contact/Grants Administrator

Provide the requested information for the individual who should be contacted on all matters involving this application and the administration of any grant that may be awarded. For colleges and universities, this person is often a sponsored research, sponsored programs, or contracts and grants officer. In some museums, the person could be the development director. Leave the Social Security number blank. Select a prefix (even though this field is not required on Grants.gov). In some organizations, particularly smaller ones, this individual may be the same as the Project Director. If this is the case, check the "Same as Project Director" box. (If the Primary Contact/Grants Administrator is the same as the Authorized Representative, please complete all items under both 8 and 9 even though there will be some repetition.)

## 9. Authorized Representative

Enter the name and contact information of the person who has the authority to apply for federal support of the applicant's activities and enter into legal agreements in the name of the applicant. The Authorized Representative should not be the same person as the Project Director. By checking the "I Agree" box at the top of Item 9, this individual certifies the applicant's compliance with relevant federal requirements (the "IMLS Assurances and Certification" section). All written correspondence will be addressed to the Authorized Representative.

For Grants.gov applications, the "Signature of Authorized Representative" and "Date Signed" boxes will be populated upon submission of the application. Submission of the application by the Authorized Representative certifies compliance with relevant federal requirements as the signature does on a paper application.

## Abstract

A project abstract that does not exceed one single-spaced page must be provided. Insert the text(that you create)into the Abstract form provided in the package downloaded from Grants.gov.

Information in the abstract should cover the following areas as related to the proposed project:

- Who is the lead applicant and, if applicable, who are the formal partners?
- What is the time frame for the project?
- What will be the specific project's activities, outcomes, and tangible products (if applicable)?
- What are the intended outcomes for museum professionals in terms of measurable changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes, or behavior?

This abstract may be used by IMLS for public information purposes, so it should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and insofar as possible understandable to a technically literate lay reader. The abstract must not include any proprietary or confidential information.

## Program Information Sheet

[Download the Program Information Sheet in PDF and Word formats here.](#)

### 1. Applicant Information

a. Legal Name: Enter the legal name of the applicant.

b. and c. Organizational Unit and Address:

If the eligible entity cannot apply for grants on its own behalf, then enter the name and address of the entity in these spaces. For example, if a museum that is part of a parent organization, such as a university, is applying, the university would be the legal applicant, and the museum would be entered as the organizational unit. Be sure to include the four-digit extension on the Zip code. Note: A Friends group is not eligible unless it is the legal governing authority for the applicant organization.

d. Web Address: If an organizational unit is listed, enter its Web address here. If not, enter the Web site of the entity listed at Legal Name in Section 1a above.

e. Type of Institution: Select the one that most accurately describes the applicant. [See eligible organizations.](#)

## 2. Grant Program or Grant Program Category

Select g. Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

## 3. Request Information

a. IMLS Funds Requested: Enter the amount sought from IMLS.

b. Cost Share Amount: Enter the amount here. [Click here for further information.](#)

## 4. Museum Profile (Museum applicants only)

Museum applicants must answer all questions in this section.

Note: If an applicant indicates a budget surplus or deficit for one or both of the two previous fiscal years on the Program Information Sheet, an explanation should be provided in the application narrative, section 3: Project Resources. This explanation is intended to assist reviewers in evaluating the financial capacity of the applicant to complete the project activities.

## 5. Partners Names

In the space provided list all organizations that are official partners of the project. Note: Each partner listed in this section is also required to complete and submit a Partnership Statement form to the lead applicant for submission with the application

## 6–8

Applicants for Museum Grants for African American History and Culture should skip these sections.

## Organizational Profile

Provide an organizational profile of no more than one page. Include the following information:

- The applicant's mission or statement of purpose, noting the source, approving body, and date of the official document in which it appears. The applicant may quote from or summarize to convey the essential points of the statement if the statement itself is too long to be quoted in full. It must accurately portray the applicant's mission or purpose.
- The applicant's service area (communities and/or audiences served, including size, demographic characteristics, and geographic area).
- A brief history of the institution or organization.

## Narrative

Limit the narrative to seven single-spaced, numbered pages. Applicant's name must appear at the top of each page.

All pages should have at least 0.5 inch margins on all sides, and the font size should be no smaller than twelve point type. Use the Optional Attachments to provide supplementary material.

The following pages provide guidance in preparing the narrative component of the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture application. There are four sections to the narrative. Applicants must address each section and related review criteria separately, and in the same order in which they are listed below. Review criteria are listed with each section of the narrative. These criteria describe what the reviewers are instructed to consider as they evaluate the proposal. A well-designed proposal narrative is thorough and succinct while addressing the bullet points under each section as well as the review criteria.

IMLS reviewers base their evaluations only on the information presented in the application. This makes it very important for applicants to prepare a clear, concise, well-organized document.

### **1. Statement of Need**

Include a statement of need as it relates to the museum, its audience, or the African American museum community. Include information such as

- audiences to whom museum services are being provided;
- past successes and ongoing or future challenges in meeting the needs of the audiences served by the applicant organization;
- how the proposed project will improve museum staff knowledge, skills and/or abilities;
- how the proposed project is expected to improve museum services to the community;
- *(for proposals that are designed to benefit multiple African American museums)* how the project will improve the overall African American museum community.

Review Criteria: Evidence that the applicant is familiar with the community it serves and has performed a formal or informal assessment of museum and/or community needs. Evidence that the project is designed to improve staff expertise in a manner that will enhance institutional capacity and sustainability.

### **2. Project Design**

Include a description of the proposed project design. Include information such as

- project goals and objectives;
- specific skills, knowledge, and experiences that will build staff or institutional capacities;
- action steps and activities to implement the project;
- a description of the institution's collections, if impacted by the proposed activities.

Review Criteria: Evidence that the project proposes efficient, effective, and reasonable approaches to accomplish clear goals and objectives. Evidence that the methodology and design are appropriate to the scope of the project. Evidence that the project will meet IMLS program goals. If the project includes digitization, evidence that appropriate procedures will be followed.

### **3. Project Resources: Time, Personnel, Budget**

Describe project resources, both those funded by the grant and those funded by the organizational cost share. Include information such as:

- the timeline for specific activities to implement the project and its justification;
- the key staff and their qualifications and commitment to the project while maintaining their other, ongoing responsibilities;
- information about consultants involved in project activities and the associated selection process;
- qualifications of personnel assigned to manage project finances;
- source(s) of matching funds and/or in-kind contributions;
- *(for proposals that involve partnerships)* contributions to and benefits from the project for both the applicant and the partner organization(s).

(Note: If the applicant shows a budget surplus or deficit for one or both of the two previous fiscal years as indicated on the Program Information Sheet, an explanation should be provided as part of this section of the narrative.)

Review Criteria: Evidence that the applicant will effectively complete the project activities through the deployment and management of resources, including money, facilities, equipment, and supplies. Evidence of sound financial management, coupled with an appropriate and cost-efficient budget. Evidence that the applicant has the ability to meet the cost share requirement. Evidence that the project personnel demonstrate appropriate experience and expertise and will commit adequate time to accomplish project goals and activities.

For this section of the application, reviewers will consider the Narrative, Budget Forms, Budget Justification, and Resumes. Applicants are encouraged to solicit letters of commitment from proposed consultants to document their willingness to participate in the proposed project.

### **4. Impact**

Describe how the project will impact the targeted museum professionals and the organization. Include information such as

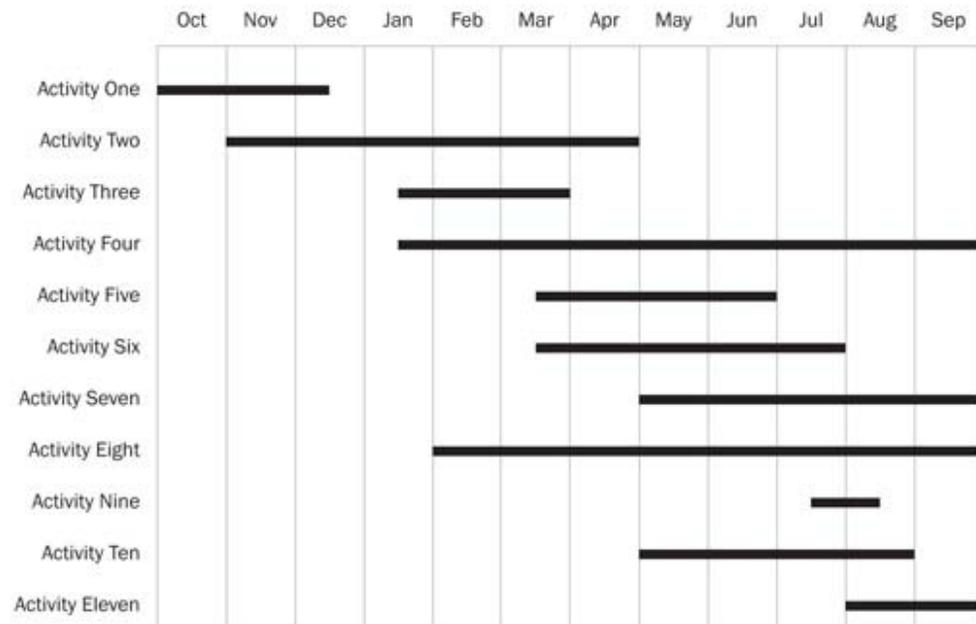
- specific outcomes that will result from the project;

- plans and methodology to measure the achievement of the project's goals and objectives;
- How the project's accomplishments, benefits, and changes will continue beyond the grant period;
- (for proposals that are designed to benefit multiple African American museums) how the project results will be disseminated to benefit the African American museum community.

Review Criteria: Identification of specific outcomes that will be used to evaluate the impact and success of the project. Evidence that the project will create specific changes and benefits for the museum professionals involved in the project, the organization itself, and/or the community served. Evidence that the applicant has plans to sustain those changes and benefits beyond the grant period.

### Schedule of Completion

The applicant must provide a Schedule of Completion that shows when each major project task will be undertaken, marks the milestones for each grant activity, and designates how grant funds will be spent throughout the project. The Schedule of Completion must also correspond to the activities described in the narrative, and the project dates on the Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organizational Form (SF-424S) and Budget Forms. One way to plot this information is in a graph or chart that lists project activities and the corresponding months when these activities would take place during the project. See example below. Applicants may prepare theirs in a similar manner, but this format is not required. This document may also be created as a narrative or spreadsheet but should be no longer than one page per year. Whichever format is selected, be sure to list each major project activity addressed in the application narrative and the date each activity begins and ends. If the proposed activity is part of a larger project, make sure the IMLS-funded portion is clearly identified. *Click image below for a larger view.*



### Budget

The application requires three elements to describe the costs of a proposed project:

- Detailed Budget ([Download in PDF and Word formats here.](#))
- Summary Budget ([Download in PDF and Word formats here.](#))
- Budget Justification

#### Detailed Budget

Applicants need to fill out a copy of the Detailed Budget Form for each year of the project. The first Detailed Budget Form should begin on the project start date and end 12 months later. If the project timeline exceeds one year, the subsequent 12-month period(s) must be shown on separate Detailed Budget Forms. (Note: If the project timeline exceeds any number of months beyond a 12-month period, an additional Detailed Budget Form is required for the subsequent months. No more than 12 months may be

included on a single Detailed Budget Form.)

The budget should include the project costs that will be charged to grant funds as well as those that will be supported by cost sharing (from the applicant or other sources). In-kind contributions to cost sharing may include the value of services or equipment that is donated to the project. All of the items listed, whether supported by grant funds or cost-sharing, must be reasonably necessary to accomplish project objectives, allowable in terms of the applicable federal cost principles, auditable, and incurred during the grant period. Charges to the project for items such as salaries, fringe benefits, travel, and contractual services must conform to the written policies and established practices of the applicant organization. All revenues generated with project funds during the grant period must be reported as program income and should be applied to the applicant's cost sharing. When indirect costs are charged to the project, care should be taken to ensure that expenses included in the organization's indirect cost pool (see "Indirect Costs" below) are not charged to the project as direct costs.

"Method of Cost Computation" can refer to a percentage of a person's time devoted to the project, a number of days, a quantity of items, and so on. This column should clarify how the applicant arrived at the costs indicated.

1. **Salaries and Wages:** Indicate both temporary and permanent staff by noting "temp" or "perm" in parentheses after each staff member listed.
2. **Fringe Benefits:** Fringe benefits may include contributions for Social Security, employee insurance, pension plans, etc. Only those benefits not included in an organization's indirect cost pool may be shown as direct costs. Fringe benefits may only be claimed on the portion of Salaries and Wages identified for this project.
3. **Consultant Fees:** List the individuals or groups who will provide consulting services for the project and their fees, and explain the method of computation for the fees.
4. **Travel:** Applicants must include \$2,000/year for travel to attend IMLS-designated meetings. For partnership projects, include \$4,000/year for such travel. The lowest available commercial fares for coach or equivalent accommodations must be used, and foreign travel must be undertaken on U.S. flag carriers when such services are available.
5. **Supplies and Materials:** In general, list the costs of material purchased specifically for the proposed project. Permanent equipment is defined as nonexpendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more.
6. **Services:** List the costs of project activities to be undertaken by a third-party contractor, including a partner, under this budget category as a single line item that shows the amount that will be charged to IMLS grant funds and the cost sharing that will be contributed by the third party. Attach a complete itemization of these costs to the IMLS Budget Form. If there is more than one contractor, list the cost of each contract separately on the IMLS Budget Form and include an attached itemization.
7. **Student Support:** Ignore this section. It does not apply to the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture program.
8. **Other Costs:** Please do not use the "Other Costs" section to list items that did not fit in the number of lines allotted for another section. If more lines are needed for a specific section, the information should be summarized in the Detailed Budget Form and further explained in the Budget Justification.
9. **Total Direct Costs:** Add the subtotal amounts from the previous sections.
10. **Indirect Costs:** Indirect costs are project costs that an organization incurs that cannot be easily assigned to an individual project. They are also called "overhead" or "administrative costs." Examples of indirect cost type items are charges for utilities, insurance, use of office space and equipment owned by the applicant, local telephone service, and the salaries of the management and administrative personnel of the organization.
11. **Total Project Costs:** Complete the first line; ignore the second line, which is specific to another IMLS grant program.

#### **Use of Indirect Cost Rates**

If an organization applying for an IMLS grant already has an existing negotiated indirect cost rate in effect with another federal agency, this rate may be used to calculate total project costs, as long as the rate is applied in accordance with the terms of the negotiated agreement, and a copy of the negotiated agreement is included as supporting documentation with the IMLS application. IMLS will not accept an indirect cost rate that is scheduled to expire before an award is issued.

If an organization is in the process of negotiating an indirect cost rate with another federal agency, the proposed indirect cost rate may be used to estimate total project costs, as long as the proposed rate is

applied in accordance with the terms of the proposed agreement, and a copy of the indirect cost proposal is included as supporting documentation with the IMLS application. In such situations, if a grant is awarded, IMLS will not pay any indirect costs until a final indirect cost rate is negotiated with another agency, and a copy of the final agreement is submitted to the IMLS Office of Grants Administration. It is possible that the amount of the IMLS award will be reduced if the final negotiated rate is less than the rate that was used for budget estimates in the application budget. However, the amount of the IMLS award will not be increased if the final negotiated indirect cost rate is higher than the rate that was used for budget estimates in the application budget.

An organization with an existing negotiated agreement or an organization currently in the process of negotiating a rate agreement with another federal agency must calculate total project costs using an indirect cost rate appropriate to the type of proposed project activity. For example, an organization may only calculate total project costs using an existing negotiated rate for research activity if the activity proposed to IMLS is a research project. Once an indirect cost rate is accepted by IMLS, this rate shall be considered fixed for the duration of the award even if, during the course of the award, the grantee negotiates a new indirect cost rate.

Organizations that do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate in effect with any federal agency, and do not wish to negotiate one, may use an indirect cost rate of up to 15 percent to calculate total project costs. If an applicant chooses to use this rate, it must be careful to exclude from the budget all indirect-cost type items (administrative) such as but not limited to general telephone, postage, office supplies, and office space expenses. The 15 percent rate **may not be applied to more than the first \$5,000 of distorting costs** such as equipment purchases and contracts (including those with project partners).

IMLS will pay indirect cost rates only on that portion of Total Direct Costs that the applicant is requesting to be supported by IMLS funds. However, an applicant may also apply an appropriate indirect cost rate to the Cost Share portion of a project's Total Direct Costs, and use this as part of the calculated cost sharing in the project budget.

The cost of student scholarships, fellowships, other stipends, and/or tuition may not be included in the amount on which indirect costs are requested.

These instructions also apply to an organization that will function as a partner in undertaking grant activities.

### **Summary Budget**

The Summary Budget should clearly identify the amount requested from IMLS and the amount provided as in-kind contributions by the applicant, by any partners, and from any other sources.

### **Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement**

If the organization has a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement that will be current at the time the project will begin then the applicant may submit this document and claim the approved rate on the IMLS budget forms.

### **Budget Justification**

The budget justification is a narrative document that explains and gives further detail about all Detailed Budget Form line items. For example, the budget justification should explain the role that each person listed in the project budget will play. It should also provide justification for all proposed equipment, supplies, travel, services, and other expenses. The application should provide specifications for all hardware and software for which IMLS funding is requested. Any costs that were consolidated and summarized in the detailed budget form should be itemized and explained within the appropriate section of the budget justification. The format of the justification should follow the section headings on the Detailed Budget Form.

IMLS encourages applicants to contribute as cost share the salaries of permanent staff to be employed on a project in proportion to the amount of time they will spend on the project. If IMLS funding is requested for salaries of permanent staff, the narrative should explain why funds are requested for this purpose and how the regular duties of these individuals will be performed during the grant period. The narrative should also explain the role of any outside consultants and third-party vendors to be employed on the project and how each was identified and selected. Costs for third-party service providers should be documented by bids or otherwise justified. The cost of project activities to be undertaken by a third-party contractor, or a partner, should be listed under "Services" on the Detailed Budget as a single line item that shows the

amount that will be charged to IMLS grant funds and the cost sharing that will be provided by the third party. A complete itemization of these costs should be included as part of the Budget Justification. If there is more than one contractor, the cost of each contract must be listed separately on the IMLS Detailed Budget Form and an itemization must be included as part of the Budget Justification.

### **Specifications for Projects that Develop Digital Products**

This form, instructions for completing the form, and a list of useful related resources are downloadable [from the IMLS Web site](#). Once completed, this form should be saved as a PDF and added to other application documents to be submitted through Grants.gov.

### **Partnership Statement**

Complete a Partnership Statement for each formal partner involved in the proposed project and listed under Section 5 of the Program Information Sheet.

Applicants should save each Partnership Statement with a distinct file name that includes the word “*Partner*” and a short form of the partner’s name—e.g., PartnerName1.pdf or PartnerName2.pdf. Then add each document to the Attachments form, following the sequence in the Application Checklist. At the top of the Partnership Statement, enter the legal name of the applicant organization. This information should match that provided on the SF-424S and the Program Information Sheet.

#### **1–5 (if applicable)**

Provide all of the information requested for the partner organization. If the partner organization does not have a D-U-N-S® Number, [click here for information and instructions on how to secure one](#). To obtain a full Zip+4 postal code, visit [www.usps.com/zip4](http://www.usps.com/zip4).

#### **6. Governing Control of Partner (if applicable)**

Check one box to indicate the partner’s governing control.

#### **7–9.**

Provide the information requested for each of these items. The limits on the amount of text allowed are given in the item statement on the form. The applicant must ensure that each partner also provides a signed original version of the Partnership Statement to the applicant, and that the applicant will make this form available to IMLS if requested by IMLS.

### **List of Key Project Staff, Consultants, and Service Providers**

Provide a one-page list of the key museum staff, consultants, and service providers who will be directly involved in the project.

### **Resumes for List of Key Project Staff, Consultants, and Service Providers**

Provide resumes of no more than two pages each for all key project staff, consultants, and service providers on this list. Resumes that exceed the two page limit will have the remaining pages removed by IMLS staff.

Note: If the key project personnel cannot not be identified by the application deadline date, then submit position descriptions instead. A position description does not identify a specific individual, but rather identifies the qualities and range of experience and education that is necessary to successfully implement project activities.

### **Proof of Nonprofit Status**

If the applicant organization is a private, nonprofit organization (for those who selected “Private Nonprofit” or “Other” in item 5d of the SF-424S):

- The applicant must submit a copy of the IRS letter indicating the organization’s eligibility for

- nonprofit status under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.
- IMLS will not accept a letter of state sales tax exemption as proof of nonprofit status.

### **Supporting Documents for Museum Grants for African American History and Culture Applicants**

Supporting documents should specifically relate to the justification for the project. IMLS encourages applicants to include only information that will supplement the narrative and support the information provided in the application. Applicants should not use attachments to answer narrative questions. IMLS strongly encourages inclusion of needs assessments (formal or informal documentation used to evaluate and plan projects, which can include surveys, reports, etc.); reports from planning activities; products or evaluations from previously completed or ongoing projects of a similar nature; or other documents for the evaluation of the proposal. Other attachments could include letters of commitment from consultants, or letters of support from partners or other groups that the museum works closely with on this project, as well as institutional plans or other materials as applicable to the proposed project. Where possible, within the application narrative, applicants may provide Web links to relevant online materials.

*Note:* When attaching these documents give each one a specific title that clearly identifies what type of document it is. All supporting documentation should include dates of creation and authorship. Total number of attachments must not exceed 20 pages. IMLS will remove any supplemental materials above the 20-page limit. They will not be sent to field reviewers as part of the application, and cannot be returned.

[back to top](#)

## Grant Applicants

### Program Guidelines

## Museum Grants for African American History and Culture -- FY 2011 Guidelines

### Navigating the Grant Program Guidelines

[Home page](#)

[Contents](#)

[Section One: General Information](#)

[Section Two: Preparing and Submitting an Application](#)

**You are currently on: Section Three: IMLS Assurances and Certification**

### IMLS Assurances and Certifications

IMLS is required to obtain from all applicants certifications regarding federal debt status, debarment and suspension, nondiscrimination, and a drug-free workplace. Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in grant funds must also certify regarding lobbying activities and may be required to submit a "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" form (Standard Form LLL). Some applicants will be required to certify that they will comply with other federal statutes that pertain to their particular situation. These requirements are incorporated in the Assurances Statement below. The authorized representative must review the statement and provide the certification in item 9 on the Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organizational Form (SF-424s).

### Assurances Statement

By signing the application form, the authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, assures and certifies that, should a grant be awarded, the applicant will comply with the statutes outlined below and all related IMLS regulations (see 45 CFR Chapter XI and 2 CFR Chapter XXXI). These assurances are given in connection with any and all financial assistance from IMLS after the date this form is signed, but may include payments after this date for financial assistance approved prior to this date. These assurances shall obligate the applicant for the period during which the federal financial assistance is extended. The applicant recognizes and agrees that any such assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in these assurances, and that the United States government has the right to seek judicial enforcement of these assurances, which are binding on the applicant, its successors, transferees, and assignees, and on the authorized official whose signature appears on the application form.

### Certifications Required of All Applicants

#### Financial, Administrative, and Legal Accountability

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the applicant has legal authority to apply for federal assistance and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the nonfederal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project described in this application.

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the applicant will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 U.S.C. § 7501 et seq.) and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the applicant will comply with the

provisions of applicable OMB Circulars.

#### **Federal Debt Status**

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies to the best of his or her knowledge and belief that the applicant is not delinquent in the repayment of any federal debt.

#### **Debarment and Suspension**

The applicant shall comply with 2 C.F.R. Part 3185. The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies to the best of his or her knowledge and belief that neither the applicant nor any of its principals:

1. are presently excluded or disqualified;
2. have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against it or them for one of those offenses within that time period;
3. are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a); or
4. have had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated within the preceding three years for cause or default.

Where the applicant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, he or she shall attach an explanation to this application.

The applicant, as a primary tier participant, is required to comply with 2 C.F.R. Part 180 Subpart C (Responsibilities of Participants Regarding Transactions Doing Business with Other Persons) as a condition of participation in the award. The applicant is also required to communicate the requirement to comply with 2 C.F.R. Part 180 Subpart C (Responsibilities of Participants Regarding Transactions Doing Business with Other Persons) to persons at the next lower tier with whom the applicant enters into covered transactions.

#### **Nondiscrimination**

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the applicant will comply with the following nondiscrimination statutes and their implementing regulations:

1. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 2000 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin;
2. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability;
3. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681–83, 1685–86), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs; and
4. the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age.

#### **Drug-Free Workplace**

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies, as a condition of the award, that the applicant will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by complying with the requirements in 2 CFR part 3186 (Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance)). In particular, you as the recipient must comply with drug-free workplace requirements in Subpart B (or Subpart C, if the recipient is an individual) of 2 CFR part 3186, which adopts the Governmentwide implementation (2 CFR part 182) of sec. 5152-5158 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701-707).

This includes, but is not limited to: making a good faith effort, on a continuing basis, to maintain a drug-free workplace; publishing a drug-free workplace statement; establishing a drug-free awareness program for your employees; taking actions concerning employees who are convicted of violating drug statutes in the workplace; and identifying (either at the time of application or upon award, or in documents you keep on file in your offices) all known workplaces under your Federal awards.

#### **Certification Regarding Lobbying Activities (Applies to Applicants Requesting Funds in Excess of \$100,000)**

The authorized representative certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (a) no federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid by or on behalf of the authorized representative to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with the awarding of a federal contract, the making of a federal grant, the

making of a federal loan, the entering into of a cooperative agreement, or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of a federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;

(b) if any funds other than appropriated federal funds have been paid or will be paid to any person (other than a regularly employed officer or employee of the applicant) for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the authorized representative shall request, complete, and submit Standard Form LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions; and

(c) the authorized representative shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

#### **General Certification**

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the applicant will comply with all applicable requirements of all other federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing the program. IMLS grant regulations may be found at 45 C.F.R. Chapter XI and 2 C.F.R. Chapter XXXI.

#### **Certifications Required of Some Applicants**

The following certifications are required if applicable to the project for which an application is being submitted. Applicants should be aware that additional federal certifications, not listed below, might apply to a particular project.

#### **Subcontracts**

A grantee may not make a subgrant (for more details, see 45 C.F.R. Chapter XI, Subchapter E [Institute of Museum and Library Services]). Applicants who plan to use awards to fund contracts and subcontracts should be aware that they must comply with the communication and verification requirements set forth in the above Debarment and Suspension provisions.

#### **Native American Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects**

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the applicant will comply with the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. § 3001 et seq.), which applies to any organization that controls or possesses Native American human remains and associated funerary objects, and which receives federal funding, even for a purpose unrelated to the Act.

#### **Historic Properties**

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the applicant will assist the awarding agency in ensuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 470f), Executive Order (E.O.) 11593, and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. § 469 et seq.).

#### **Environmental Protections**

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the project will comply with environmental standards, including the following:

- (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) and E.O. 11514;
- (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to E.O. 11738;
- (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to E.O. 11990, as amended by E.O. 12608;
- (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with E.O. 11988, as amended;
- (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved state management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.);
- (f) conformity of federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.);
- (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 300f et seq.); and
- (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531–1543).

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the project will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1271 et seq.), related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the applicant will comply with the flood insurance requirements of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 4001 et seq.), which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.

**Research on Human and Animal Subjects**

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the project will comply with 45 C.F.R. Part 46 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.

The authorized representative, on behalf of the applicant, certifies that the project will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966, as amended (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm-blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.

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For further information on these certifications, contact IMLS, 1800 M Street, NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20036. Or call 202/653-IMLS (4657).

[back to top](#)