

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Guide to Programs and Opportunities

Fiscal Year 2013



About the Institute



The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Through grant making, policy development, and research, we help communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning.

National Initiatives



National Medals for Museum and Library Service

The National Medal for Museum and Library Service is the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums. Each year we honor outstanding institutions that make exceptional contributions to the economic, cultural, educational, or environmental vitality of their communities.

MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES, AND 21st Century Skills

Museums, Libraries, and 21st Century Skills

Libraries and museums are essential to learning in the United States. This initiative provides resources and tools to support the role of museums and libraries as community anchors that foster creativity, collaboration, communication, and civic literacy.



Let's Move! Museums & Gardens

Developed in coordination with national museum and garden leaders and in conjunction with First Lady Michelle Obama's campaign to overcome childhood obesity, *Let's Move! Museums & Gardens* is a coalition of museums and gardens seeking to teach young people to make healthy food choices and be physically active.



Building Digital Communities

Full participation in American society requires the ability to access and use digital content and technologies. We help libraries to work with businesses, hospitals, schools, cultural institutions, community technology centers, and local governments to create and sustain access to broadband technologies.



WebWise

Many libraries and museums are ahead of the curve, using technology in new and exciting ways to deliver information and engage learners. WebWise helps to leverage innovation and share best practices.



Connecting to Collections

190 million objects held in libraries, museums, and archives are in danger of loss and in need of collections care. This initiative helps to highlight practical solutions and leverage private and public sector support.

Funding Programs

Visit the IMLS website at www.imls.gov for complete information about funding programs.

Grant Programs

Deadline	Program	Award Amount	Grant Description
6/15/12	Learning Labs in Libraries and Museums	Up to \$100,000	Grants support the planning and design of learning labs in libraries and museums to engage middle- and high-school youth in digital learning.
9/17/12	Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program	\$50,000–\$500,000	Grants support recruitment and education of nontraditional library students, and provide support for doctoral candidates to teach library science and research.
1/15/13	Museums for America	\$5,000–\$150,000	Grants support activities that strengthen museums as active resources for lifelong learning, good stewards of the nation's collections, and vital components of livable communities.
1/15/13	Museum Grants for African American History and Culture	\$5,000–\$150,000	Grants to African American museums and HBCUs enhance institutional capacity and sustainability through training and technical assistance.
1/15/13	National Leadership Grants for Museums	\$50,000–\$500,000	Grants support projects that address challenges or needs of the museum field, have broad impact, and demonstrate innovation and collaboration.
1/15/13	Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program	\$5,000–\$50,000	Grants to federally recognized tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations promote enhanced learning and innovation.
2/1/13	National Leadership Grants for Libraries	\$50,000–\$500,000	Grants to libraries and library organizations support projects that improve professional practice beyond the grantee institution.
2/1/13	Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries and Museums	\$10,000–\$25,000	Grants provide an opportunity to expand and test the boundaries of library, archive, and museum services and practices.
3/1/13	Native American Library Services: Basic Grants with Education/Assessment Option	Varies	Noncompetitive grants to federally recognized tribes help buy library materials, fund salaries and training, and provide Internet connectivity and computers.
3/1/13	Native American Library Services: Enhancement Grants	Up to \$150,000	Grants to federally recognized tribes expand services for learning, access to information, and partnerships.
4/1/13	Native Hawaiian Library Services Grants	Varies	Grants enhance existing or implement new library services in organizations that serve Native Hawaiians.

Award Programs

Deadline	Program	Award Description
10/15/12	National Medals for Museum and Library Service	Awards celebrate outstanding museums and libraries that make exceptional contributions to their communities.
TBD	National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards	Awards acknowledge museums and libraries for afterschool and out-of-school arts and humanities youth programming.

Technical Assistance Programs

Deadline	Program	Program Description
12/1/12	Conservation Assessment Program	Program provides a general conservation assessment of a museum's collection, environmental conditions, and site.
12/1/12, 7/1/13	Museum Assessment Program	Program helps museums maintain and improve operations through a confidential, consultative process.

LSTA Grants to States Program

The Library Services and Technology Act provides for an annual grant to each state for library services. This is our largest grant program. To learn more about how this program works in your state, visit www.imls.gov and find contact information for your state librarian.

Research Projects

Program Evaluation

IMLS conducts regular evaluation of its grant programs. Results of recent assessments of the Museums for America program and the Grants to State Library Agencies can be found on our website.

Library Statistics

Current and timely data about the characteristics of public and state libraries in the United States is needed to inform library research, practice and policy. In partnership with U.S. public and state libraries, we work with the U.S. Census Bureau to collect and disseminate useful, relevant data.

Household Survey

We are conducting a household survey to learn more about public demand for library and museum services. The survey will provide new information about the demographics of users and nonusers and identify benefits of use.



Museums Count

Currently there is no reliable source for data about the number and services of museums in the United States. We are working with the museum community to launch a comprehensive census of museums.



Stay Informed

UpNext, the Official IMLS Blog

UpNext is an engaging online community where readers and contributors can share ideas about what works in library and museum service. <http://blog.ims.gov>

Primary Source

Subscribe to Primary Source, our monthly e-newsletter, to stay up-to-date about grant opportunities, IMLS news, and feature stories about successful IMLS grantees. www.ims.gov/signup.aspx



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Cover Photos

Left: Visitors to the Indianapolis Museum of Art check out the museum's online offerings in The Davis LAB. Center: iStockphoto. Right: A Tennessee Aquarium staff member shows a shark jaw to summer campers.