

*Alignment with IMLS Strategic Goals*

1. IMLS places learner at center and supports engaging experiences in libraries and museums.
2. IMLS promotes museums and libraries as strong community anchors.
3. IMLS supports exemplary stewardship of collections and the use of technology.
4. IMLS advises on plans, policies, and activities that sustain and increase public access to information.



**High Priority**

*Use only for the highest quality applications.*

The applicant's response provides excellent support for each of the evaluation criteria through the proposed activities. It strongly demonstrates potential to elevate or provide strategic impact to museum, archival, and library practice within the context of national strategic initiatives. These applications fulfill to the fullest extent the goals of the LB21 program. Use only for the highest quality applications that in your judgment IMLS should fund this year.



**Medium Priority**

*Use for applications when more significant requested changes can be made in one week.*

The applicant's response provides solid support for each of the evaluation criteria. Strategic impact is present but in your judgment should not be the highest IMLS funding priority this year. In your opinion the project is potentially fundable but only after higher priority proposals have been considered.



**Do Not Fund**

*Use for projects that you do not want to see brought back to LB21 by this applicant.*

The applicant's responses provide insufficient information for evaluation; projects have major flaws that render them unfundable without major revision or have serious conceptual flaws. The idea itself is not necessarily bad or the issues raised not important, but the application is not fundable by IMLS in the Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Grant program. It may be fundable in another IMLS grant category.

*Matching Requirements*

*Funds requested for student support and for research projects are not subject to matching requirements. All other funds requested from IMLS must be matched on a 1:1 basis.*

Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rating System

**Needs Assessment**

- a. Does the literature review include relevant research and/or projects?
- b. Does the needs assessment clearly articulate the project audience and its needs?
- c. Do project activities and goals directly address the needs of the identified audience?
- d. Is the rationale for this research fully explained?

**Impact**

- a. Does the project increase the number of qualified professionals for employment as librarians?
- b. Does it build greater skills and abilities in the library and archives workforce?
- c. Will it contribute to results or products that benefit multiple institutions and diverse constituencies?
- d. Will project outcomes meet library service needs not only in the communities served but also be generalizable to libraries of similar size and type?
- e. Will this project transform practice? Innovative approaches will be given high consideration.

**Project Design and Evaluation Plan**

- a. Are the methodology and design appropriate to the scope of the project?
- b. Does the proposal clearly articulate research questions and adequately address timeline & personnel?
- c. Does it include details of sampling logic (size, scope), data collection and analysis methodologies?
- d. Does the evaluation plan explain how the results are likely to be valid, reliable or generalizable?
- e. Does the evaluation plan include a description of how the study results will be assessed?

**Diversity**

- a. Does the proposal identify the diversity of communities served?
- b. Does it address the library service needs of those communities, particularly the needs of traditionally underserved groups and/or communities?

**Project Resources: Budget, Personnel and Management Plan**

- a. Are resources appropriate to meet the project goals?
- b. Do personnel have appropriate experience and will they commit adequate time to the project?
- c. If the project includes a partnership, is there evidence that all partners are active contributors to and beneficiaries of the partnership activities?

**Communication Plan**

- a. Will results, products, models, findings, processes, and benefits of this project be communicated effectively to the library field and to other professional organizations and communities?
- b. Do the communities described in the Needs Assessment section benefit?

**Sustainability Plan**

- a. Do the project's benefits continue beyond the grant period?
- b. For projects involving distance education, do project plans address issues of copyright and use restriction on the course and course content during and after the grant period?
- c. Are there plans for preservation and maintenance of course and course content during and after the expiration of the grant period?

Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Review Criteria

