

## National Leadership Grants for Museums: Collections Stewardship

Below are examples of recently funded projects that support activities in the National Leadership Grants for Museums Collections Stewardship category.

### California

#### **Cultural Heritage Imaging - San Francisco, CA**

**Year:** 2010

**Amount:** \$255,176

**Grant:** 21st Century Museum Professionals Program

Cultural Heritage Imaging will introduce both emerging and established museum professionals to state-of-the-art imaging technology through a series of 10 workshops reaching a minimum of 150 participants. These participatory workshops will provide training in Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) and other new technologies based on digital photography. The two-year project will be supported by a robust group of collaborators from industry, higher education, leading computer scientists, and the museum community. The project will introduce museum professionals to a family of related methods, often called Computational Photography, based on the extraction of information from multiple digital photographs. These methods include RTI, which allows precise examination of objects by virtual means, reducing repeated handling and introducing broader access for museum visitors. The project will result in freely available tools and training materials for dissemination to the broader museum community.

### District of Columbia

#### **Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Art Works - Washington, DC**

**Year:** 2010

**Amount:** \$219,245

**Grant:** 21st Century Museum Professionals Program

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Art Works (FAIC) will expand and enhance its Collections Emergency Response Team (AIC-CERT) program to better support small museums and historic sites in responding to emergencies. Continuing education will be provided for existing team members to update and maintain skills between deployments. Forty additional museum professionals will be trained in the same body of knowledge and to the same standard as the original AIC-CERT. Participants will be selected based on their ability to respond to emergencies in underserved areas of the country. In collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, FAIC will provide basic emergency preparedness and response training for staff members of over 200 small museums to prepare their institutions, assist other museums in their region, and work more effectively with AIC-CERT members following a disaster.

### Georgia

#### **Atlanta Fulton County Zoo – Atlanta, GA**

**Year:** 2012

**Amount:** \$486,580

**Grant:** National Leadership Grants for Museums- Demonstration

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is causing significant mortality in captive apes, often killing members of these endangered species in the prime of their reproductive lives. Zoo Atlanta's funded project is a direct result of a 2010 IMLS National Leadership Planning Grant and will create an innovative and coordinated national program to investigate ape CVD and establish uniform, state-of-the-art strategies for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. Through the creation of a comprehensive, consensus-based database, the project partners will develop a cross-institutional mechanism to better understand important diseases of zoo-housed animals to assure their continued survival in living collections. Partners for this project are the Emerging Diseases Research Group of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

### **Hawaii**

#### **Honolulu Zoo - Honolulu, HI**

**Year:** 2010

**Amount:** \$816,562

**Grant:** National Leadership Grants for Museums - Research

This study, involving the entire population of 290 elephants housed in AZA zoos, will address the need to apply scientific techniques to the assessment of zoo elephant welfare, and to understand the relationship between environmental variables and physical and mental health. Using an epidemiological approach, data will be collected on a broad spectrum of input variables, such as enrichment, training, enclosure size, group size, and animal-based outcome variables, such as physiological status, social behavior, and keeper-animal relationships. Detailed behavioral data will also be collected at a subsample of zoos. Variables have been selected to assess both negative and positive welfare. This study will produce the first comprehensive measurements of elephant well-being and determine management changes to improve welfare. The model will also be generally applicable for other zoo species.

### **Illinois**

#### **Lincoln Park Zoological Society - Chicago, IL**

**Year:** 2011

**Amount:** \$300,000

**Grant:** National Leadership Grants for Museums - Research

Lincoln Park Zoo and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums will use simulation modeling to systematically study the sustainability of Species Survival Plans (SSPs). SSPs are used to manage and conserve the populations of endangered and threatened species, and are used by 220 zoos to manage 500 species, including tens of thousands of individual animals. As a result of this work, the zoo and aquarium community will have new tools to use in the revision of the SSP system. The project will facilitate decision making about which species get access to professional scientific management advice and which SSPs should be eliminated because their prospects for sustainability in captivity are so limited.

### **Indiana**

#### **Indianapolis Museum of Art - Indianapolis, IN**

**Year:** 2011

**Amount:** \$420,000

**Grant:** National Leadership Grants for Museums- Advancing Digital Resources

Grant funding will support the development of tools and specifications for building, sharing, and preserving mobile tours that museums can use to create and deploy their own mobile experiences. Led by the Indianapolis Museum of Art, with partners from the art, history, and science museum communities, this TourML & TAP project will address significant challenges facing many museums that are planning, developing, and using mobile technology by ensuring that the content created for these tours is well described, shareable, easily migrated between authoring tools, and supports long-term preservation. The project will also facilitate consensus building among museums and the vendor community regarding the nature of mobile tours, and will offer a powerful model for how open-source and proprietary systems can coexist within the museum community.

### **Massachusetts**

#### **New England Aquarium Corporation - Boston, MA**

**Year:** 2012

**Amount:** \$221,382

**Grant:** 21st Century Museum Professionals Program

The New England Aquarium, through a partnership with Roger Williams University, will create a program to enable more institutions to produce their own exhibit marine fish from their collections through the creation of a small turn-key modular larval rearing unit, workshops to train 18 aquarists on rearing larvae, the provision of appropriate foods for the larvae, and a web interface in which experiences and challenges can be shared. The New England Aquarium has made great strides toward breeding marine fish, few of which are typically reared in captivity due to the need for specialized handling and food. This project will increase the ability of zoos and aquariums to rear their own exhibit marine fish, reducing the need to collect fish from the wild. It will also contribute to the basic scientific knowledge of early life histories of fish and will create additional exhibition opportunities in showcasing the full life history of marine fish.

### **Missouri**

#### **Missouri Botanical Garden - St. Louis, MO**

**Year:** 2010

**Amount:** \$318,215

**Grant:** National Leadership Grants for Museums - Research

The global extinction crisis requires a rapid response from botanical gardens and arboreta that serve the broader conservation community in the United States. This project is designed to advance conservation efforts at botanical gardens and arboreta working to serve the conservation community and help them assume a leading role in preventing the extinction of plants in a rapidly changing climate. The project will develop and test a generalizable, easily replicable approach that integrates bioclimatic modeling and innovative research experiments to elucidate key questions concerning the impacts of climate change on plant diversity and to develop scientifically based protocols to avert the loss of species.

### **New York**

#### **American Museum of the Moving Image - Astoria, NY**

**Year:** 2010

**Amount:** \$750,999

**Grant:** National Leadership Grants for Museums - Advancing Digital Resources

The Museum of the Moving Image, in partnership with the University of California, Berkeley Information Services and Technology Division, and the Walker Art Center, will advance CollectionSpace, an open-source collections information management software designed to answer the need for a more effective collections information and management tool. The project will allow partners to work with five diverse museum communities of practice to shape and extend CollectionSpace software to suit their diverse needs. This project will also model a new way for museums and other collecting institutions to participate in the development, use, and governance of new technologies.

### **North Carolina**

#### **North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, NC**

**Year:** 2012

**Amount:** \$203,023

**Grant:** 21st Century Museum Professionals Program

The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources (NCDCCR) will expand its statewide disaster preparedness program. Through a partnership with the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies, the North Carolina Museums Council, and the North Carolina Preservation Consortium, the Cultural Resources Emergency Support Team (CREST) will train up to 200 staff and volunteers from a wide variety of museums in improving disaster preparedness initiatives throughout North Carolina. The CREST project will encourage the formation, development, and maintenance of regional cooperative groups and emergency response networks, as well as provide specialized team training to encourage a unified and safe approach to recovery efforts. Eight regional workshops will be offered as well as specialized workshops with expanded curricula for staff and volunteers of museums to prepare them for disasters with planning and hands-on recovery exercises.

### **Pennsylvania**

#### **Philadelphia Museum of Art - Philadelphia, PA**

**Year:** 2011

**Amount:** \$28,700

**Grant:** 21st Century Museum Professionals Program

The Philadelphia Museum of Art will create a descriptive materials terminology guide for works of art on paper. Museums do not currently use a common standardized description of the materials and techniques used to create works of art on paper, which are often the largest portion of an art museum's collection. A specific and clear nomenclature can facilitate communication and understanding between conservators, curators, educators, and researchers, as well as the general public. The museum will convene a working group of conservators and curators from peer museums for a two-day workshop to examine current materials terminology and the ways in which media descriptions are created and used in museum collection databases and interpretive materials. A discussion session and presentation of the workshop results will be held at the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) annual meeting in 2012 and the resulting guide will be made available to the public through an online publication.

### **Virginia**

#### **Virginia Association of Museums - Richmond, VA**

**Amount:** \$245,263

**Grant:** Connecting to Collections Statewide Grants - Implementation Grants

In collaboration with the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, the Library of Virginia, the Virginia Conservation Association, the Mid-Atlantic Archives Conference, the Virginia Community College System, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the Virginia Association of Museums will implement several piloted projects to improve and strengthen collections care in the state. A museum curator and an archivist will visit ten collecting institutions as “Circuit Riders” to provide collections assessments and suggestions for site-specific actions and strategies; 30 institutions will benefit over the three-year grant period. The partner team will also deliver training via for-credit academic courses taught in the community college system and informal webinars through the Virginia Association of Museums Web site. Topics will include collections care and management, preventive conservation, disaster planning and response, and communicating about conservation needs. “Disaster Plan Lockups” throughout the state will provide participants with templates and support for completing disaster plans. Finally, a statewide “Top Ten Endangered Artifacts” media campaign will raise public awareness of conservation needs.