



# Getting Started with IMLS Museum Grants

Office of Museum Services



# Introduction



# Video Chapters

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# Using This Video

## Watch

Watch this video in its entirety

## Review

Review the Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) at [www.imls.gov/grants](http://www.imls.gov/grants)

## Refer

Refer to this video as needed



# Chapter 1: What is IMLS?



**VISION:** A nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage

**MISSION:** The mission of IMLS is to advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development.



# Office of Museum Services

- Awards discretionary grants to a diverse group of institutions in the museum field
- Eight grant programs accepting applications
  - August 15th – November 15th





# **Chapter 2:**

## **Is My Institution Eligible for an IMLS Museum Grant?**



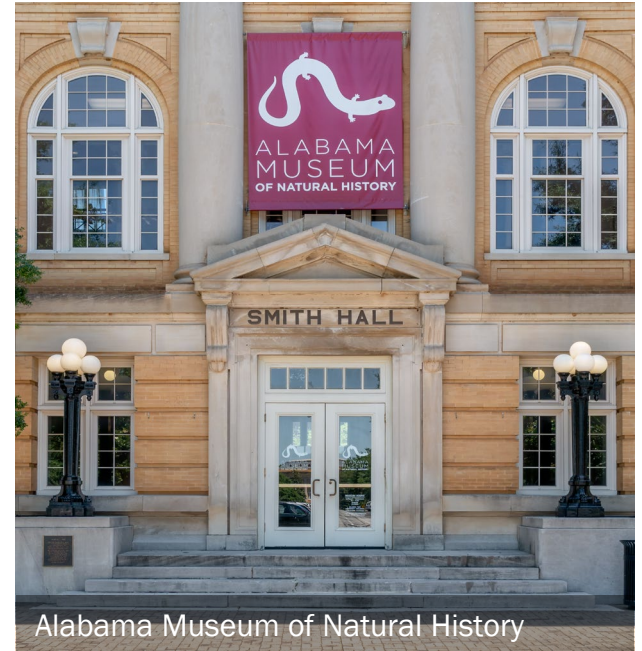


# Applicant Requirements

- Requirements for all potential applicants:
  - Your organization must be located in one of the United States' 50 States, its territories, or the District of Columbia
  - Your organization must be a unit of state, local, or Tribal government, or a private nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status

# Program Eligibility

- Only museums may apply to
  - Museums for America
  - Museums Empowered
  - Inspire! Grants for Small Museums



Alabama Museum of Natural History



# Museum Requirements

- Museums must
  - ✓ Have at least one full time or equivalent professional staff person, either paid or unpaid
  - ✓ Have a physical location that it owns or operates
  - ✓ Have been open to the public for at least 120 days in the year prior to the application deadline
  - ✓ Own or use tangible objects
- Museums may be stand-alone organizations, or they may be part of a larger institution, such as a college, university, Tribe, or a state or local government.



# Examples of Museums

- Anthropology museums
- Aquariums
- Arboretums
- Art museums
- Botanical gardens
- Children's/youth museums
- General museums
- Historic houses/sites
- History museums
- Natural history museums
- Nature centers
- Planetariums
- Science/technology centers
- Specialized museums
- Zoological parks



# Program Eligibility

- Programs with unique eligibility requirements
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum Professionals
  - National Leadership Grants for Museums
  - Museum Grants for African American History and Culture
  - Museum Grants for American Latino History and Culture
  - Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program



# Allowable Costs

- Salaries, wages, and fringe benefits
- Travel expenses
- Materials and supplies
- Third-party costs
- Publication design and printing
- Program evaluation
- Staff and volunteer training
- Internships and fellowships
- Adaptive and/or assistive technologies and to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities
- Equipment to improve collections storage
- Program-specific overhead costs



# Unallowable Costs

- General fundraising costs
- Contributions to endowments
- General operating support
- Acquisition of collections
- Construction or renovation of facilities
- Social activities, receptions, or entertainment



# **Chapter 3: Which Grant Program Should I Apply To?**





# Available Programs

- Museums for America
- Museums Empowered
- Inspire! Grants for Small Museums
- National Leadership Grants for Museums
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum Professionals
- Museum Grants for African American History and Culture
- Museum Grants for American Latino History and Culture
- Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program

# Museums for America



**Goal:** To strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public and is aligned with its strategic plan

**Categories:** Lifelong Learning, Community Engagement, and Collections Stewardship and Access

**Duration:** 1 – 3 years

**Funding:** \$5,000 - \$250,000 (1:1 Cost Share)

# Museums Empowered



**Goal:** To support projects that use the transformative power of professional development to generate systemic change within a museum

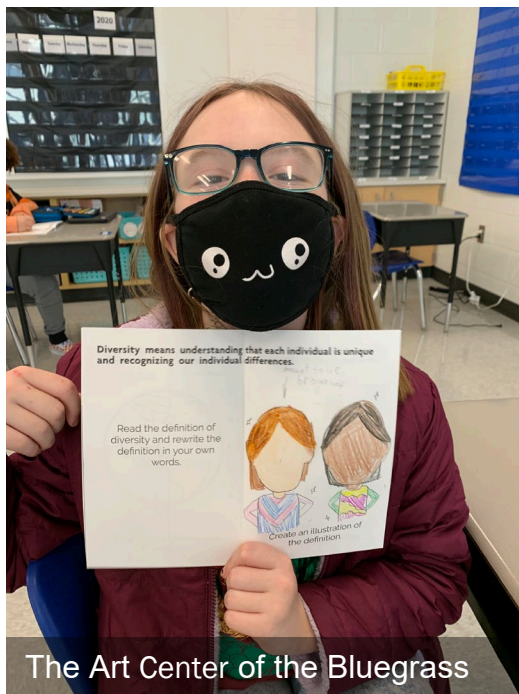
**Categories:** Digital Technology; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Evaluation; Organizational Management

**Duration:** 1 – 3 years

**Funding:** \$5,000 - \$250,000

**Cost Share:** 1:1

# Inspire! Grants for Small Museums



**Goal:** To support small museums in addressing priorities identified in their strategic plans

**Categories:** Lifelong Learning, Institutional Capacity, and Collections Stewardship and Access

**Duration:** 1 – 3 years

	Small Projects	Large Projects
Funding	\$5,000-\$25,000	\$25,001 - \$75,000
Cost Share	None	1:1

# National Leadership Grants for Museums



**Goal:** To address critical needs of the museum field and to advance museum practice

**Project Types:** Research, Non-research

**Duration:** 1 – 3 years

	Non-Research	Research
Funding	\$50,000 - \$750,000	\$50,000 - \$750,000
Cost Share	1:1	None

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum Professionals (21MP)

**Goal:** To offer professional development to the current museum workforce, train and recruit future museum professionals, and identify and share effective practices in museum workforce education and training.



Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts

**Duration:** 1 – 3 years

**Funding:** \$100,000 – \$500,000

**Cost Share:** 1:1

# Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

**Goal:** Build the capacity of African American museums and support the growth and development of museum professionals at African American museums and HBCUs

**Duration:** 1 – 3 years

	Small Projects	Large Projects
<b>Funding</b>	\$5,000 - \$100,000	\$100,001 - \$500,000
<b>Cost Share</b>	None	1:1



Amistad Research Center

# Museum Grants for American Latino History and Culture



Mexic-Arte Museum

**Goal:** Build the capacity of American Latino museums and support the growth and development of museum professionals

**Duration:** 1 – 3 years

**Funding:** \$5,000 - \$500,000

**Cost Share:** None



# Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program

**Goal:** To enhance museum services that sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge among Indian Tribes and Native-Hawaiian serving organizations

**Duration:** 1 – 3 years

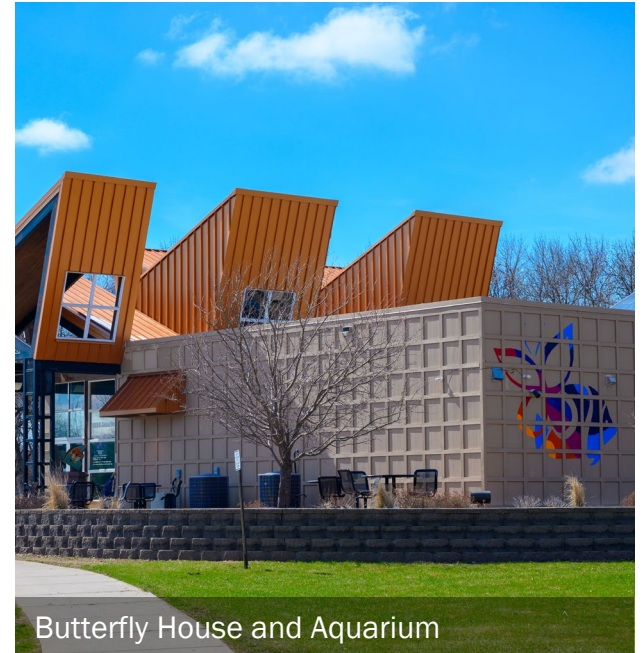
**Funding:** \$5,000 – \$250,000

**Cost Share:** None



# Additional Information

- You can apply to multiple programs
- Full details are available at [www.ims.gov/grants](http://www.ims.gov/grants)



Butterfly House and Aquarium



# Chapter 4: How Do I Apply?



# Key Dates

**August 15, 2024**

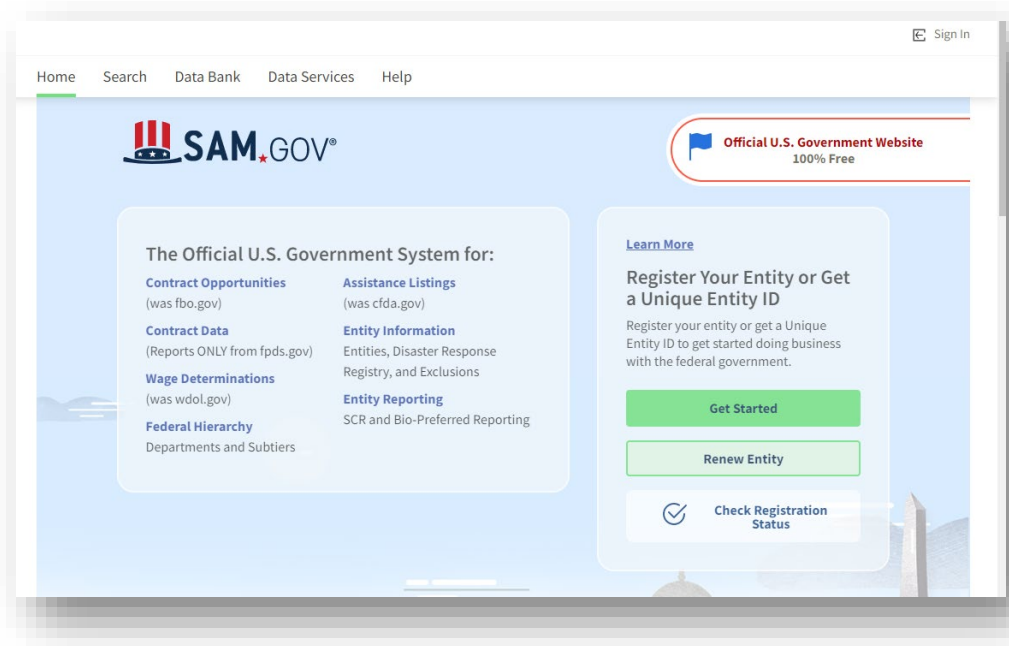
Applications  
Open

**November  
15, 2024**

Applications  
Close

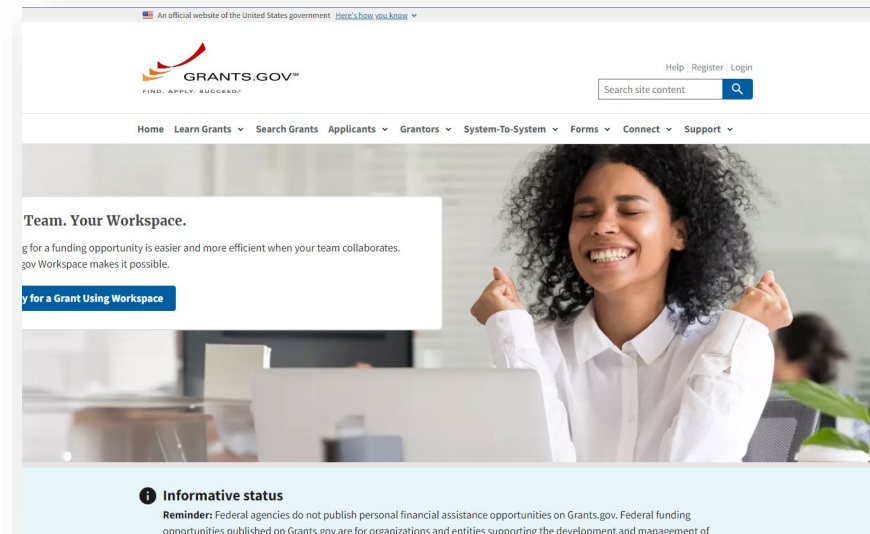
# SAM.gov

- Create or update Sam.gov account immediately
- Register with the bank account that should receive grant funds
- For further assistance: call the Federal Service Desk at 866-606-8220, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.



# Grants.gov

- Use your Unique Entity Identifier to register with Grants.gov
- Register with the bank account that should receive grant funds
- If you need further assistance, visit [www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html), email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov), or call 800-518-4726; available 24/7 except on federal holidays;





# Chapter 5: What if I Have More Questions?

- Strategic Plan
- NOFOs for all grant programs
- Project descriptions
- Sample applications
- Contact information of IMLS staff





# Program-specific Videos

- Program-specific videos are available for each NOFO
- Check [imls.gov/webinars](https://www.imls.gov/webinars)



# One-on-One Counseling

- 30-minute sessions with our program officers
- Request a session through any of the program landing pages at [www.ims.gov/grants](http://www.ims.gov/grants)



Home > Grants > Apply for a Grant > Museums for America

## Museums for America

**Deadline:** November 15, 2024\*

**Application:** The FY 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity is not yet available. The FY 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (PDF, 63 KB) is available for reference.

**Grant Amount:** \$5,000-\$250,000

**Grant Period:** One to three years

**Cost Share Requirement:** You must provide funds from non-federal sources in an amount that is equal to or greater than the amount of your IMLS request.

### Program Overview:

The Museums for America program supports museums of all sizes and disciplines in strategic, project-based efforts to serve the public through exhibitions, educational/interpretive programs, digital learning resources, professional development, community debate and dialogue, audience-focused studies, and/or collections management, curation, care, and conservation. Museums for America has three project categories:

- Lifelong Learning
- Community Engagement
- Collections Stewardship and Access

### Program Contacts:

If you have questions, please contact any of the staff members listed under the category that best fits your project.

Lifelong Learning	Community Engagement	Collections Stewardship and Access
<p>Heleen Wechsler Supervisory Grants Management Specialist hwechsler@ims.gov 202-653-4779</p> <p>Jessica Ortley Senior Museum Program Officer jortley@ims.gov 202-653-4669</p> <p>To schedule a time to talk to staff about Lifelong Learning <a href="#">click here.</a></p>	<p>Sarah Glass Senior Museum Program Officer sglass@ims.gov 202-653-4668</p> <p>To schedule a <a href="#">time to talk</a> to Sarah Glass about Community Engagement <a href="#">click here.</a></p>	<p>Mark Feld Senior Museum Program Officer mfeld@ims.gov 202-653-4635</p> <p>To schedule a time to talk to <a href="#">Mark Feld</a> about Collections Stewardship and Access <a href="#">click here.</a></p>

Example of an IMLS program landing page



# **Chapter 6:** **What if I'm Not Ready to Apply This Year?**



# Peer Reviewing

- Peer reviewers are industry professionals who read and score grant applications.
- Gain a better understanding of what makes a proposal successful.
- [www.imls.gov/grants/peer-review](http://www.imls.gov/grants/peer-review)
- <https://www.imls.gov/webinars/webinar-potential-museum-reviewers>



# Assessment Programs

- Technical assistance programs can help you strengthen operations, care for collections, and plan for the future.
- Participating in an assessment program may be a great place to start.
- Open to small and mid-sized museums.



# Museum Assessment Program (MAP)

**Goal:** To help small and mid-sized museums of all types strengthen operations, plan for the future, and meet professional standards

**Categories:** Organizational; Collections Stewardship; Education & Interpretation; Community & Audience Engagement

**Administered by:** American Alliance of Museums

**Applications Due:** February 1, 2025

**Visit:** <https://www.aam-us.org/map>



# Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP)

**Goal:** To provide small and mid-sized museums with prioritized recommendations for improving the care of their collections

**Administered by:** The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC)

**Visit:** [www.culturalheritage.org/cap](http://www.culturalheritage.org/cap)

**Contact:** [cap@culturalheritage.org](mailto:cap@culturalheritage.org)



# Conclusion





# Reminders

- Review [www.ims.gov/grants](https://www.ims.gov/grants) for details on specific grant programs
- Register with SAM.gov, then Grants.gov, as soon as possible
- All applications are due by 11:59 pm U.S. Eastern Time on November 15th, 2024
- Additional videos are available on our website [ims.gov/webinars](https://ims.gov/webinars)

**Thank you and good luck!**



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