



Dear Colleague -

The Office of Museum Services (OMS) is pleased that you are considering seeking support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the important work that you do for your communities as we join together in celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence.

Now more than ever, we are thrilled to support America's museums, which have a crucial role to play as custodians and promoters of America's rich historical and cultural heritage, for the benefit of all generations. It is our hope that the momentum built by museums' active participation in our shared national celebration will create solid ground on which to teach citizens about what makes our country the greatest in the world for years to come.

We encourage you to carefully read the Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for the museum grant programs and shape your proposal in a way that responds to the Goals and Objectives of the program you choose.

In addition to the requirements set out in the NOFOs, OMS encourages you to consider how your work might build upon, or relate to, OMS's field-wide programs and initiatives. OMS particularly welcomes projects that:

- Preserve America's history and make its museums the best in the world, fittingly commemorating the 250th anniversary of American Independence. Applicants are encouraged to read and consider [Executive Order \(EO\) 14344](#), "Making Federal Architecture Beautiful Again," as they work on furthering related projects.
- Foster in all generations a greater appreciation for our country's great natural beauty, military victories and acts of heroism, religious history, scientific accomplishments, regional narratives, and artistic traditions through uplifting and positive narratives of our shared American experience. Applicants are encouraged to read and consider [EO 14253](#), "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History," as they work on furthering related projects.
- Creatively and effectively use new technologies, including artificial intelligence, to improve visitor experience, modernize curatorship, and improve the quality and resilience of collections. Applicants are encouraged to read and consider [EO 14277](#), "Advancing AI Education for American Youth," as they work on furthering related projects.
- In his inaugural address, President Trump said "We will stand bravely, we will live proudly, we will dream boldly, and nothing will stand in our way because we are Americans." We welcome projects that refocus cultural institutions on what unites us by fostering respectful civil dialogue. In doing so, we acknowledge our core

Constitutional Rights, including Free Exercise of Religion. Applicants may find it helpful to review and consider [EO 14188](#), "Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism," and [EO 14202](#), "Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias," as they work on projects to strengthen American civil society.

Upon reviewing the NOFOs, you will see that there are several programs within OMS. Should you choose to apply within the grant program below, we provide additional information about topics and priorities that we aim to emphasize in this funding cycle.

- 21st Century Museum Professionals Program: OMS prioritizes projects that provide alternative pathways to upskill early-career professionals and provide opportunities for non-traditional applicants to enter the museum workforce and be meaningfully credentialed within the museum field. We are particularly excited about projects that explore the intersections of alternative credentialing and AI education, particularly in terms of getting younger workers and those entering the workforce in the future interested in museum careers where there are shortages of qualified workers. Applicants are encouraged to consider [EO 14277](#), "Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth," and [EO 14278](#), "Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future," to consider how projects may be aligned with their purposes.

To fulfill the President's promise that "the forgotten man and woman will be forgotten no longer," we enthusiastically welcome institutions which serve rural and remote communities to apply, as well as those which haven't traditionally been recipients of federal funding.

Thank you for your interest in working with IMLS as we celebrate America's 250th birthday and further its spirit for years to come. We look forward to partnering with your institution to share our nation's tremendous heritage with all our fellow citizens!

Sincerely,



Keith E. Sonderling



Lisa Solomon
Senior Official Performing the Duties of IMLS Director