In 2014, IMLS’s Office of Museum Services (OMS) awarded $30,131,000 in federal funds to museums and related organizations across the nation to **strengthen their ability to serve the public**. Projects focus on

- mounting exhibitions,
- preserving our cultural and natural heritage,
- working with K-12 educators and students both in and out of school,
- increasing access to collections,
- engaging lifelong learners through public programs, and
- helping families learn together in order to build stronger, more livable communities.

This remarkable diversity of projects reflects the **wide-ranging array of the nation’s museum types**. This year’s awards were made to

- aquariums
- arboretums and botanical gardens
- art museums
- children’s museums
- historic sites
- history museums
- nature centers
- science/technology museums
- zoos
- natural history/anthropology museums

As a direct result of these funds and the additional private, state, and local government support that they leverage, residents of rural, urban, and suburban communities in **48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico** will connect more effectively to each other and to their natural and cultural worlds.
Museums for America grants strengthen the ability of individual museums to serve the public.

National Leadership Grants for Museums foster the development of new solutions to critical field-wide needs that help museums improve services for the public.

Sparks! Ignition Grants for Museums support projects that rapidly prototype and test innovations in museum operations and services.

Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services grants sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge among Indian tribes and organizations serving Native Hawaiians.

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture improve the operations, care of collections, and development of professional management at African American museums.

Initiatives leverage OMS funds for national impact through award programs and partnerships.

New This Year

Forty-three museums were awarded Museums for America grants of up to $25,000 requiring no cost share. The majority are organizations with small- to medium-sized operating budgets.

FY 2014 OMS Grant Funding by IMLS Strategic Plan Goals

- **Learning Experiences:** Museums empower people of all ages through experiential learning and discovery.
- **Collections Stewardship:** Museums manage and preserve the artistic, scientific, historic, and cultural collections entrusted to their care.
- **Community Anchors:** Museums contribute to a better quality of life within their communities.
## FY 2014 OMS Grants: Major Project Focus Areas

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<th>Focus Area</th>
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### STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

More than $5M is supporting STEM project-based learning, including design challenges, teacher training, and hands-on exhibits that introduce the youngest learners to science concepts.

### Exhibitions and Public Programs

Whether they are telling the stories of local servicemen during World War II, describing the science behind naming species, or highlighting the artistic contribution of a particular painter, the 84 exhibitions and public programs funded this year are engaging the public in our history, scientific knowledge, and artistic accomplishments in exciting and memorable ways.

### Increasing Access

IMLS is working on a national initiative that encourages lower-income families to visit museums regularly and build lifelong learning habits by removing barriers to the cost of admission.

### Making and Learning

IMLS is building the capacity of museums to foster experimentation, invention, and exploration through the creation of maker spaces—where teens, adults, children, and families can work with mentors to make and remake the physical and digital worlds.

### Professional Development

Museum staff, in all stages of their careers, are increasing their professional skills through coaching, training, and hands-on experiences in 20 states through 33 projects.

### Collections Care

A total of 165 museums are improving the management and physical care of their collections, administering life-extending conservation treatments, and implementing disaster preparedness and emergency response measures.
About the Institute of Museum and Library Services
The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive.

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