The Office of Museum Services (OMS) provides federal funding each year to museums and related organizations throughout the nation to strengthen their ability to serve the public. It also engages in research, trend studies, special initiatives, strategic partnerships, and continuing dialogues with various community stakeholders.

OMLS grants to museums and related organizations support a wide range of services for the American people. Funding programs provide support in the following areas of the IMLS strategic plan:

**LEARNING EXPERIENCES:** Development and presentation of inclusive and accessible learning experiences for Pre K-12 audiences, families, lifelong learners as well as museum professionals.

**COMMUNITY ANCHORS:** Contributing to improved quality of life in communities.

**COLLECTIONS STEWARDSHIP:** Management, care and preservation, access and use of the nation’s collections entrusted to museums by the public.

**FY 2016 IMLS FUNDING PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUSEUMS FOR AMERICA</th>
<th>NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANTS FOR MUSEUMS</th>
<th>SPARKS! IGNITION GRANTS FOR MUSEUMS</th>
<th>NATIVE AMERICAN/ NATIVE HAWAIIAN MUSEUM SERVICES</th>
<th>MUSEUM GRANTS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE</th>
<th>SPECIAL INITIATIVES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| grants strengthened the ability of individual museums to serve the public. | fostered the development of new solutions to critical field-wide needs that help museums improve services for the public. | supported projects that rapidly prototype and test innovations in museum operations and services. | grants helped sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge for tribes and for organizations serving Native Hawaiians. | helped improve the operations, care of collections, and development of professional management at African American museums. | leveraged OMS funds for national impact through award programs, special grant opportunities, and strategic partnerships. 

**SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

- NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANTS FOR MUSEUMS $5,185,106
- MUSEUM GRANTS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE $1,481,000
- SPARKS! IGNITION GRANTS FOR MUSEUMS $158,534
- MUSEUMS FOR AMERICA $21,149,000
- NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANTS FOR MUSEUMS $21,149,000
- NATIVE AMERICAN/NATIVE HAWAIIAN MUSEUM SERVICES PROGRAM $972,000

### FY 2016 Areas of Impact

#### Bolstering K-12 Learning
32 plus museums are working with K-12 learners in and out of school, and helping at-risk children in Title 1 schools, Head Start programs, rural communities, and high violence neighborhoods. These efforts also include training and resources for teachers to support better student outcomes.

#### Developing the Next Generation of STEM Professionals
26 projects are tackling the critical challenge to strengthen STEM education, essential for workforce development, by creating STEM curriculum in partnership with school districts, and mentoring teens to develop problem-solving skills.

#### Making a Difference in Communities Nationwide
46 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia will benefit from grants that help people in rural, urban, and suburban communities.

#### Catalyzing Community Change
38 projects in 18 states and Puerto Rico will catalyze change in their communities by providing opportunities for people to work together on common problems.

#### Collections Stewardship
129 projects undertaken in 41 states and the District of Columbia in museums of every size and focus are implementing practices in exemplary collections management, conservation, and preservation to ensure access to the irreplaceable resources that museums hold in trust for the public.

### By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Applications</td>
<td>755</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museum Types</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Programs</td>
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<td>Field Reviewers</td>
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<td>Panel Reviewers</td>
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<td>National Medal Finalists</td>
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<td>National Medal Winners</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award Winners</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PD) OF MUSEUM STAFF</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRENGTHENING SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED MUSEUMS</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCREASING ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Dialogues with Stakeholders

#### African American Museums
Grantee convening with African American museums was attended by 40 museum professionals, representing 27 institutions and 18 states.

#### Native American Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations
Grantee convening with Native American and Native Hawaiian Tribes was attended by 30 museum professionals, representing 22 institutions from 11 states.

#### Museum Studies Programs
A Conversation with Museum Studies Programs was attended by 47 participants, representing 22 higher education institutions from 18 states.
The Office of Museum Services (OMS) funded these special initiatives to build capacity within the field and also to address larger community needs at the local, state and national levels.

MUSEUMS FOR ALL
A unique collaborative initiative with the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM) is aimed at creating greater accessibility for families and children by offering free or reduced admission to participating museums for EBT card holders. More than 140 museums are participating in the program from 35 states, and over 350,000 people have benefitted from the program.

MUSEUM ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MAP)
This program, offered in collaboration with the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), annually helps nearly 100 small and mid-sized museums build capacity in general operations, collections care, and community engagement through self-study and peer review.

MUSEUMS UNITED
Through a grant to the California Association of Museums (CAM), virtually all of the known 46 state museum associations are working together on a project to strengthen state museum associations and enhance their capacity to serve museums and museum professionals. Museums United is developing a shared online platform, strategies to exchange best practices and resources, and a sustainable model for a national network.

COLLECTIONS ASSESSMENT FOR PRESERVATION PROGRAM (CAP)
This program provides small museums with professional assessments of the condition of their collections and associated environmental conditions to guide future preservation efforts. It is currently offered in collaboration with the Foundation of the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (FAIC) and is designed to offer 90 assessments per year.

The OMS team
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Keep in touch and share your thoughts
Visit our website, www.imls.gov, to explore program descriptions, sample applications, and resources designed to help you develop a competitive application to the program that best fits your project.