Helping museums serve communities

Aquariums • Arboretums and Botanical Gardens • Art Museums
Children’s Museums • Historic Sites • History Museums
Natural History and Anthropology Museums • Nature Centers
Science/Technology Museums • Zoos

OFFICE of MUSEUM SERVICES

The Institute of Museum and Library Services
is the primary source of federal funding for
America’s museums and libraries.
The Office of Museum Services makes grants
to museums of every discipline and of every
budget size. Special initiatives focus attention on
exemplary service, emerging practices, and critical
needs in the museum field.

FUNDING AT A GLANCE

The Office of Museum Services invested
$34,715,000 in museums and related
organizations serving millions of Americans.
Grants promote lifelong learning, build capacity of
professional staff, and increase public access.

AWARDS BY GRANT PROGRAM

- Museums for America
- Museums Empowered
- Inspire! Grants for Small Museums
- Museum Grants for African American History and Culture
- Special Initiatives
- Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services
- National Leadership Grants for Museums

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AWARDED GRANTS + MATCHING FUNDS

- National Leadership Grants for Museums
  - $5.6M
  - $6.2M
- Museum Grants for African American History and Culture
  - $2.2M
  - $2.5M
- Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services
  - $1.4M
  - $461K
- Inspire! Grants for Small Museums
  - $1.1M
  - $588K
- Museums for America
  - $19.1M
  - $23.3M
- Museums Empowered
  - $2.6M
  - $4.1M

938 applications received
219 awards granted

6 new regional workshops held across America to help
SMALL museums and those serving RURAL communities
apply for IMLS funding.
GRANT PROGRAMS

MUSEUMS FOR AMERICA
$5,000–$250,000
Supports activities that strengthen museums as active resources for lifelong learning, vital components of livable communities, and exemplary stewards of the nation’s collections.

MUSEUMS EMPOWERED
$5,000–$250,000
Supports professional development opportunities for museum staff.

INSPIRE! GRANTS FOR SMALL MUSEUMS
$5,000–$50,000
Supports projects that strengthen the abilities of small museums to serve their communities.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANTS FOR MUSEUMS
$5,000–$1,000,000
Supports projects that address critical needs of the museum field and that have the potential to advance practice in the profession.

MUSEUM GRANTS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
$5,000–$250,000
Supports activities that strengthen African American museums and HBCUs.

NATIVE AMERICAN/NATIVE HAWAIIAN MUSEUM SERVICES
$5,000–$100,000
Enhances museum services to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge among federally recognized tribes and organizations that primarily serve and represent Native Hawaiians.

PARTNERSHIPS & INITIATIVES

COLLECTIONS ASSESSMENT FOR PRESERVATION (CAP)
Helps small and medium sized museums assess their collections, buildings, and related policies. Managed by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation.

MUSEUM ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MAP)
Helps small and mid-sized museums become more sustainable, build capacity, meet professional standards, and collaborate with their communities. Managed by the American Alliance of Museums.

SAVE AMERICA’S TREASURES
Helps preserve nationally significant historic properties and collections. Administered by the National Park Service in partnership with IMLS, NEA, and NEH.

MUSEUMS FOR ALL
Encourages low-income families to visit museums and build lifelong museum habits through free or greatly reduced admissions fees. Managed by the Association of Children’s Museums.

MUSEUMS FOR DIGITAL LEARNING
Strengthens adoption and use of digital museum collections in K-12 schools. Managed by Newfields, in partnership with the Field Museum, and History Colorado.

MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES FOR SCHOOL READINESS
Builds a national network to address school readiness for young children and their families. Managed by the Boston Children’s Museum and the BUILD Initiative.

EVALUATION

MUSEUM GRANTS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
A retrospective evaluation conducted by the Urban Institute.

MARKET ANALYSIS OF MUSEUM CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS
An opportunity assessment conducted by Partnership for Public Good.

AWARDED GRANT DATA ANALYSIS
A synthesis of multi-year museum grants conducted by 2M Research.

Deadline for all FY 2021 applications: November 16, 2020

All grant programs are subject to the availability of funds and IMLS discretion. Deadlines are tentative. Additional funding opportunities may become available throughout the year.

Image: Gold bowl c. 700, Cypriot.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

500+ museums provided more than 2.5 MILLION VISITORS with free or reduced admission through Museums for All.

431 PEER REVIEWERS shared their expertise in reviewing IMLS museum grant applications.

2 CONVENINGS provided an opportunity for 92 GRANTEES to share successes, challenges and learnings with peers.

1,000 underserved youth are being engaged through STEM LEARNING thanks to a partnership with the U.S. Department of Education and the New York Hall of Science.

Awarded 5 NATIONAL MEDALS to museums across the nation for excellence in service to their communities.