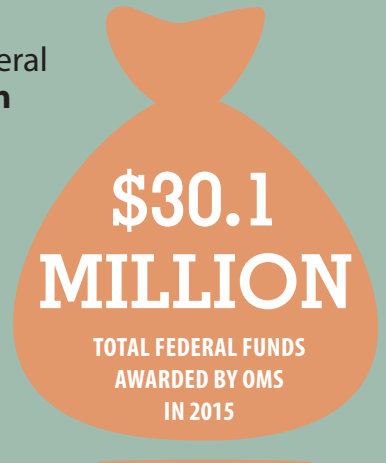


HELPING MUSEUMS SERVE COMMUNITIES

In 2015, 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,
- helping families learn together, and
- building stronger, more livable communities.



ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

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



aquariums



children's
museums



nature centers



arboretums and
botanical gardens



history
museums



science/technology
museums



natural history/
anthropology museums



art museums



historic sites



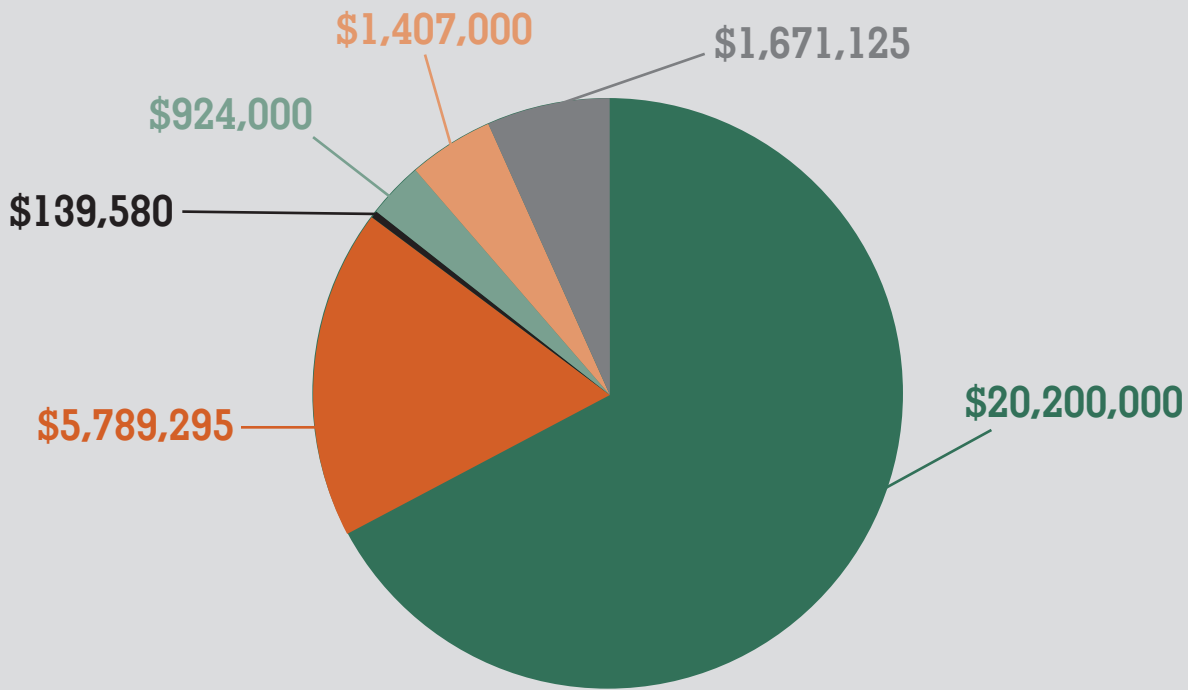
zoos

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE

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 **43 states and the District of Columbia** will connect more effectively to each other and to their natural and cultural worlds.



FY 2015 OMS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



- 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.
- Special Projects** leverage OMS funds for national impact through award programs and partnerships.

FUNDING OPTIONS TO MEET MUSEUMS' NEEDS

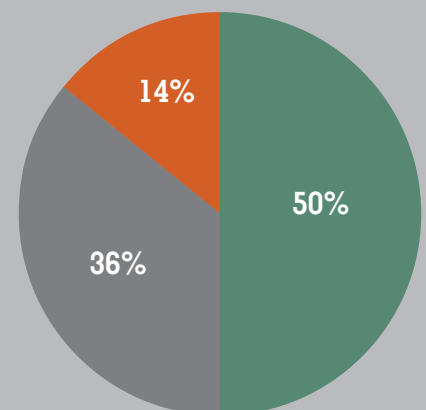
Fifty-four organizations were awarded grants of **up to \$25,000** requiring no cost share in Museums for America and Museum Grants for African American History and Culture this year. The majority are organizations with small- to medium-sized operating budgets.

FY 2015 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, & cultural collections entrusted to their care.

Community Anchors: Museums contribute to a better quality of life within their communities.



FY 2015 OMS GRANTS: MAJOR PROJECT FOCUS AREAS

FOCUS ON STEM

Tackling the national priority to strengthen STEM education essential for the development of a competitive workforce and engaged citizenry are 49 projects that range from building STEM inquiry skills in Title 1 school students and training teens to be science communicators to developing new ways to engage families in science exploration.



INCREASING ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

From the digitization of collections to the development of databases, tools to improve discoverability, and the creation of new modes of online access, 51 projects in 24 states will focus on increasing public access to museum objects and the information and ideas associated with them.

MAKING AND LEARNING

Ten new makerspaces are allowing museums to incorporate STEM, art, and the history of innovation into activities that foster collaboration, experimentation, creativity, and perseverance. Access to a diverse range of tools and technologies, along with knowledgeable staff and mentors, will provide people of all ages with skills and knowledge essential for career success.



EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

From exploring the meaning of “home” and detailing our interactions with the natural world to bridging cultural divides and looking at American wars through evolving perspectives, 61 museums in 28 states are creating exhibitions and public programs that connect their publics to the history, art, and science that define us.

SUPPORTING TEACHERS

Art, history, science, and children’s museums are partnering with schools to help meet state education standards. More than half of this \$5M investment includes training for teachers to build competency in hands-on learning techniques and to create teacher resources that support better student outcomes.



COLLECTIONS STEWARDSHIP

One hundred seven projects are using \$10.6M to implement practices in exemplary collections management, care, conservation, and preservation so that future generations are ensured access to the irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage resources that museums hold in trust for the public. From assessment and prioritization to improving environments and conserving individual objects, these projects are being undertaken throughout 34 states in museums of every size and focus.

BOLSTERING K-12 LEARNING

Of 42 museums working with K-12 learners in and out of school, the vast majority are focusing their efforts on at-risk children by bringing resources to Title 1 schools, Head Start Programs, rural communities, and high violence neighborhoods. These museums are important contributors to national efforts to close achievement gaps.



INSPIRING CHANGE

Seventeen projects are inspiring change in their communities by providing opportunities for people to work together on common problems. Museums are prompting community action in areas ranging from conserving natural resources, identifying and confronting racism, and altering perspectives about disabilities to encouraging healthy lifestyles, fostering neighborhood revitalization, and ensuring quality life at every age.

HONORING VETERANS

From military-themed exhibitions to programs designed to assist servicemen and women transition into civilian life, museums are harnessing their resources to honor and serve America’s veterans. Ground-breaking exhibitions will explore the art, science, technology, and legacies of America’s wars, making the experience understandable to audiences of all ages. Filmmaking workshops, skills training, internships, therapeutic horticulture, and arts therapy will help individuals transition into the workforce while addressing the physical and emotional challenges inherent in reintegrating into their communities.



FY 2015 OMS GRANTS: BY THE NUMBERS



HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

- 1** **Select a grant program**
Visit our website, www.ims.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.
- 2** **Read the guidelines**
Guidelines become available on our website 60 to 90 days before the program deadlines. Read them carefully, and be sure to check the eligibility requirements.
- 3** **Check your registrations**
Make sure you have a D-U-N-S® Number, a current and active System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration, and an up-to-date registration with Grants.gov.
- 4** **Connect with us**
Pre-application webinars help you learn more about programs and application how-to's. Conversations with program staff can help you to explore how your idea may match the goals of a grant program.

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. Learn more at www.ims.gov.

KEEP IN TOUCH AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS



Subscribe to IMLS UpNext Blog and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Let us know if you'd like to submit a blog post and tell us what is working in your museum!

UpNext, the IMLS Blog: ims.gov/news-events/upnext-blog

E-newsletter: ims.gov/news-events/e-mail-subscriptions/primary-source