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Institute of Museum and Library Services

1800 M Street NW., 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20036
Phone, 202-653-4657. Internet, www.ims.gov. E-mail, imsinfo@ims.gov.

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The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of Federal support for the Nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,000 museums. Its mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute seeks to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was established within the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities by the Museum and Library Services Act of September 30, 1996 (110 Stat. 3009-293), which amended the Museum Services Act (20 U.S.C. 961 *et seq.*). The Institute combines administration of Federal museum programs formerly carried out by the Institute of Museum Services and Federal library programs formerly carried out by the Department of Education. The Institute's director is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of

the Senate and is authorized to make grants to museums and libraries. The Director receives policy advice on museum and library programs from the National Museum and Library Services Board, which is comprised of 20 members appointed by the President, the Director, the Deputy Director for the Office of Museum Services, and the Deputy Director for the Office of Library Services.

In addition to providing distinct programs of support for museums and libraries, IMLS encourages collaboration between these community resources.

The Institute's library programs help libraries use new technologies to identify, preserve, and share library and information resources across institutional, local, and State boundaries and to reach those for whom library use requires extra effort or special materials. Museum programs strengthen museum operations, improve care of collections, increase professional development opportunities, and enhance the community service role of museums.

IMLS awards grants to all types of museums and libraries. Eligible museums include art, history, general, children's, natural history, science and technology, as well as historic houses, zoos and aquariums, botanical gardens and arboretums, nature centers, and planetariums. Eligible libraries include public, school, academic, research, and special libraries. The Institute makes grants in 11 program categories. These grants improve electronic sharing of information and expand public access to an increasing wealth of information and services.

Native American Library Services This program provides small grants to tribes and Alaska Native villages for core library operations, technical assistance, and enhancement grants to promote innovative practices.

Native Hawaiian Library Services This program provides grants to nonprofit organizations that primarily serve and represent Native Hawaiians.

National Leadership Grants This program provides grants to enhance the quality of library and museum services nationwide. Awarded projects demonstrate national impact and generate results—whether new tools, research, models, services, practices, or alliances—that can be widely adapted or replicated to extend the benefit of Federal support.

Museums for America This program provides funds to aid museums in advancing their capacity to serve a wider, more diverse public through education, partnerships, and technology.

Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians Program This program supports efforts to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians and the faculty who will

prepare them for careers in library science.

21st Century Museum Professionals

This program supports the preparation of museum professionals for the future by updating and expanding their knowledge and skills.

Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services This program enables Native American tribes and organizations that primarily serve Native Hawaiians to benefit their communities and audiences through strengthened museum services in the areas of programming, professional development, and enhancement of museum services.

Conservation Project Support This program awards matching grants to help museums identify conservation needs and priorities and perform activities to ensure the safekeeping of their collections.

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture This program enables African American museums to gain knowledge and abilities in the areas of management, operations, programming, collections care, and other museum skills.

Museum Assessment Program IMLS helps support the cost of the Museum Assessment Program through a cooperative agreement with the American Association of Museums. The program is designed to help museums assess their strengths and weaknesses and plan for the future.

Conservation Assessment Program IMLS helps support the cost of the Conservation Assessment Program through a cooperative agreement with Heritage Preservation. The program is designed to support a 2-day site visit by a conservation professional to perform the assessment and up to 3 days to write the report.

National Awards for Museum and Library Service This program recognizes outstanding museums and libraries that provide meaningful public service for their communities.

Sources of Information

Electronic Access Information about IMLS programs, application guidelines,

and lists of grantees are available electronically. Internet, www.imls.gov. E-mail, imlsinfo@imls.gov.

Grants, Contracts, and Cooperative Agreements For information about applying for IMLS funding, contact the appropriate program office. Museums should contact the Office of Museum

Services, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 1800 M Street NW., 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20036 (phone, 202-653-4798). Libraries should contact the Office of Library Services, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 1800 M Street NW., Washington, DC 20036 (phone, 202-653-4700).

For further information, contact the Office of Public and Legislative Affairs, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 1800 M Street NW., Washington, DC 20036. Phone, 202-653-4757. Internet, www.imls.gov. E-mail, imlsinfo@imls.gov.

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