Today’s Session Agenda

• Introduction to IMLS
• Funding Opportunities for Museums
• Funding Opportunities for Libraries
• Techniques for Preparing Competitive Applications
• Questions
About IMLS

Who are we?

- IMLS is an independent federal grant-making agency and the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums.

- The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) helps ensure that all Americans have access to museum, library, and information services.

What do we do?

- We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of Library Services: Grants to States</td>
<td>$166,803,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Library Services: Discretionary Programs</td>
<td>$ 28,669,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Museum Services: Discretionary Programs</td>
<td>$ 38,515,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration, Research, Evaluation, Data Collection</td>
<td>$ 18,013,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$252,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Museum Funding Programs
Fiscal Year 2020

Palo Alto Art Center's Art Cart sets up shop, ready to engage visitors. (Photo courtesy of Palo Alto Art Center.)
Eligibility for Museum Grants

- Eligible: museums located in the United States, its territories and freely associated states. Colleges and universities, and nonprofit organizations eligible for some programs also.

- Not eligible: federally funded institutions, for-profit organizations, individuals, and foreign countries and organizations.
Other Requirements for Museums

In addition to meeting governance and geographic requirements, to qualify as a “museum,” an organization must also:

- use a professional staff;
- be organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes;
- own or use tangible objects, either animate or inanimate;
- care for these objects; AND
- exhibit these objects to the general public on a regular basis through facilities that it owns or operates.
# Museums for America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goal</th>
<th>To strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Project Categories** | - Lifelong Learning  
                          - Community Anchors  
                          - Collections Stewardship and Access |
| **Deadline** | November 16, 2020 |
| **Duration** | 1-3 years |
| **Funding** | $5,000-$250,000 |
| **Cost Share** | 1:1 required |

- **Palo Alto Art Center**
- **Portland Museum**
- **Louisville KY**
- **Mystic Seaport**
- **Mystic CT**
# Inspire! Grants for Small Museums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goal</th>
<th>To support small museums in addressing priorities identified in their strategic plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Project Categories | ▪ Lifelong Learning  
▪ Community Anchors  
▪ Collections Stewardship and Access |
| Deadline | November 16, 2020 |
| Duration | 1-2 years |
| Funding | $5,000-$50,000 |
| Cost Share | None required |
# Museums Empowered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goal</th>
<th>To support staff capacity-building projects that use professional development to generate systemic change within a museum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Categories</td>
<td>▪ Digital Technology&lt;br&gt;▪ Diversity and Inclusion&lt;br&gt;▪ Evaluation&lt;br&gt;▪ Organizational Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline</td>
<td>November 16, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>$5,000-$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Share</td>
<td>1:1 required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# National Leadership Grants for Museums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goal</th>
<th>To address critical needs of the museum field and advance practice in the profession so that museums can improve services for the American public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Project Categories** | - Collections Stewardship and Access  
- Data and Evaluation  
- Digital Platforms and Applications  
- Diversity and Inclusion  
- Professional Development |
| **Deadline** | November 16, 2020 |
| **Duration** | 1 year  
1-3 years |
| **Funding Levels** | $5,000-$50,000  
$50,000-$1,000,000  
$50,000-$1,000,000 |
| **Cost Share** | Rapid Prototyping Projects: None required  
Research projects: None required  
Non-research projects: 1:1 required |

- Pacific Science Center  
  Seattle WA  
- American Museum of Natural History  
  New York NY  
- Museum of Science  
  Boston MA
### Characteristics and Eligibility: MFA vs NLG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Museums for America, Inspire Grants for Small Museums, and Museums Empowered</th>
<th>National Leadership Grants - Museums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of Successful Proposals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Impact</td>
<td>Broad Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-depth Knowledge</td>
<td>In-depth Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project-based Design</td>
<td>Innovative Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrable Results</td>
<td>Collaborative Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shared Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museums</td>
<td>Museums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organization advancing museums and the museum profession</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Library Funding Programs
Library Funding Programs

- National Leadership Grants for Libraries (October 2, 2020)
- Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program (October 2, 2020)
- Native American Library Services (Spring 2021)
- Native Hawaiian Library Services (Spring 2021)
National Leadership Grants for Libraries (NLG)

The program supports projects which:

- Enhance the quality of library and archival services
- Advance theory and practice

Characteristics of successful proposals:

- National impact
- Current significance
- Strategic collaborations
- Demonstrated expertise
The program supports projects focused on:

- training and professional development of library and archives professionals;
- Developing faculty and library leaders
- Recruiting, educating, and retaining the next generation of library and archives professionals

Characteristics of successful proposals:

- Broad impact
- Current significance
- Strategic collaborations
- Demonstrated expertise
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Category</th>
<th>NLG</th>
<th>LB21</th>
<th>Project Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>Up to $100,000</td>
<td>Up to $100,000</td>
<td>1-2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Forum</td>
<td>Up to $150,000</td>
<td>Up to $150,000</td>
<td>1-2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Up to $1,000,000</td>
<td>Up to $1,000,000</td>
<td>1-4* years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research in Service to Practice</td>
<td>Up to $750,000</td>
<td>Up to $750,000</td>
<td>1-3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Funding Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Category</th>
<th>Sample Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>Exploratory activities; analyzing needs and feasibility; solidifying partnerships; developing project work plans or early prototypes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Forum</td>
<td>Convening key stakeholders and experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Full-scale development or implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research in Service to Practice</td>
<td>Investigating key questions relevant to library and archival tools or services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NLG and LB21 applicants must select one project category from the following:

- Lifelong Learning
- Community Catalysts
- National Digital Infrastructures and Initiatives
Lifelong Learning

**NLG:** We are interested in proposals that will have a significant national impact on the capacity of libraries and archives to support cross-disciplinary and inquiry-based methods of learning, foster attitudes of discovery, and cultivate skills such as critical thinking, innovation, creativity, communication, and collaboration.

**LB21:** We are interested in proposals that will recruit, train, develop, and retain a diverse workforce of library and archives professionals; and have a significant impact on the capacity of library and archives professionals to support cross-disciplinary and inquiry-based methods of learning, foster attitudes of discovery, and cultivate skills such as critical thinking, innovation, creativity, communication, and collaboration.
Community Catalysts

**NLG:** We are interested in proposals that will have a significant national impact on the capacity of libraries and archives to serve as catalysts that contribute to the well-being of communities.

**LB21:** We are interested in proposals that will recruit, train, develop, and retain a diverse workforce of library and archives professionals, and have a significant impact on the capacity of library and archives professionals to contribute to the well-being of communities.
**NLG:** We are interested in proposals that will have a significant national impact on the capacity of libraries and archives to provide access to diverse digital content, collections, and services to a wide range of users.

**LB21:** We are interested in proposals that will recruit, train, develop, and retain a diverse workforce of library and archives professionals, and have a significant impact on the capacity of library and archives professionals to provide access to diverse digital content, collections, and services to a wide range of users.
Project Types (LB21 only)

LB21 applicants must also select a project type from the following:

- Pre-professional
- Master’s-level
- Doctoral-level
- Early Career Development
- Continuing Education
Techniques for Preparing Competitive Applications
Preparing to Apply

- Select a grant program.
- Check eligibility requirements.
- Read the application guidelines (NOFOs).
- Review examples of funded proposals.
- Participate in IMLS webinars.
- Check your registrations: DUNS, SAM.gov, and Grants.gov.
- Talk with a Program Officer.
Application Process

www.imls.gov

Notice of Funding Opportunity
Peer Review

The success of IMLS grant programs depends upon the quality of its peer review process. Each year hundreds of experts throughout the nation serve as IMLS peer reviewers.

https://www.imls.gov/grants/peer-review
Application Tips

• Be certain your project goals relate to the goals of the program and category to which you are applying
• Be succinct—avoid jargon and acronyms
• Develop a realistic schedule of completion (project timeline)
• Identify consultants and other key personnel or outline the selection process
• Keep in mind the communities you serve and why this work is important.
Application Tips

- Include an evaluation component to show how you will recognize and measure success.
- Prepare a budget that matches the activities described in your narrative.
- Write your budget justification that explains how you calculated each figure.
- Have an unfamiliar reader offer feedback.
- Proofread!
Time for Questions