Grant Opportunities from IMLS
Tuscaloosa, AL

May 20, 2016
Today’s Agenda

- Who we are, what we do
- Eligibility
- Intro to IMLS funding programs
- Resources for preparing applications
- Best advice
- Contact information for future conversations
About IMLS
Institute of Museum and Library Services

Who are we?
IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums.

What do we do?
We make grants, convene groups, conduct research, and publish in order to build the capacity of museums and libraries to serve the public.
Enacted FY2016 budget
$230,000,000
Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States

- Largest IMLS grant program
- Provides $2,496,884 in grants to support library services throughout Alabama in FY2016
- To learn more, contact:
  Dr. Nancy C. Pack
  Director
  Alabama Public Library Service 6030 Monticello Drive
  Montgomery, AL 36130-6000
  T: 334 213 3901
  E: npack@apls.state.al.us

Visit http://statelibrary.alabama.gov/ for more information
Museum and Library Grants: Who is eligible to apply?

Generally, a non-profit museum or library located in the United States, its territories, or a freely associated state

“Museums” include:

- aquariums
- arboretums
- art museums
- botanical gardens
- children’s/youth museums
- historic houses/sites
- history museums
- natural history/anthropology museums
- nature centers
- planetariums
- science/technology centers
- specialized museums
- zoological parks

Check specific program guidelines on the IMLS website for more details. Additional types of organizations are eligible for some programs.
Museum and Library Grants: Who is ineligible to apply?

- A for-profit organization
- An individual
- A federally funded institution
- A foreign country or organization

Please note:
If you are a non-eligible institution, we encourage you to apply through a partnership with an eligible institution.
How are applications reviewed?

- Applications are reviewed by museum and library professionals who know the needs of communities, can share promising practices, and are well versed in the issues and concerns of museums and libraries today.
- Some programs use one tier (field review) and others use two (field and panel review).
- Reviewers evaluate applications according to the Review Criteria specified in the Notices of Funding Opportunities.
- The IMLS Director takes into account the advice provided by the review process and makes final funding decisions consistent with the purposes of the agency’s programs.
- IMLS provides verbatim copies of all reviewer comments to applicants when decisions are announced.

To apply to become a reviewer, please visit https://www.imls.gov/grants/become-reviewer.
Museums for America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goals</th>
<th>Support high-priority activities that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline</td>
<td>December 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>$5,000-$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$25,001-$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Share</td>
<td>None permitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:1 required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## National Leadership Grants for Museums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goals</th>
<th>Support projects that address challenges or needs of the museum field, have broad impact, and demonstrate innovation and collaboration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deadline</strong></td>
<td>December 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount</strong></td>
<td>$50,000-$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost Share</strong></td>
<td>1:1 required for non-research projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goals</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To improve the operations, care of collections, and development of professional management at African American museums</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>December 1, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>$5,000-$25,000   $25,001-$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Share</td>
<td>None permitted   1:1 required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goals</th>
<th>To enhance museum services in order to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge among Indian tribes and organizations serving Native Hawaiians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline</td>
<td>December 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>$5,000-$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Share</td>
<td>None required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Museum Grant Programs

### Sparks! Ignition Grants for Museums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goals</th>
<th>To provide opportunities to expand and test the boundaries of museum services and practices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline</td>
<td>December 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>$10,000-$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Share</td>
<td>None required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deadline: December 1, 2016
Amount: $10,000-$25,000
Cost Share: None required
## Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Program Goals</strong></th>
<th>To support professional development, graduate education, and continuing education to help libraries and archives develop the human capital capacity they need to meet the changing learning and information needs of the American public.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Deadlines**     | Fall 2016 (September/October)  
|                   | Winter 2017 (February)                                                                                     |
| **Amount**        | $50,000-$1,000,000                                                                                            |
| **Cost Share**    | Cost share requirements vary with project type                                                              |
# National Leadership Grants for Libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Program Goals</strong></th>
<th>To support projects that address challenges faced by and that have the potential to advance practice in the library/archive fields</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Deadlines**     | Fall 2016 (September/October)  
                      Winter 2017 (February) |
| **Amount**        | $10,000-$2,000,000 |
| **Cost Share**    | Cost share requirements vary with project type |
## Library Grant Programs

### Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goals</th>
<th>To encourage libraries and archives to test and evaluate specific innovations in operations and service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline</td>
<td>February 15, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>$10,000-$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Share</td>
<td>None required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basic Grants</strong></td>
<td>To support activities that enhance existing library services or implement new library services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enhancement Grants</strong></td>
<td>To support activities that advance the operations of eligible Native American libraries to new levels of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deadline</strong></td>
<td>April 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Amount** | Basic grants: $6,000 or $7,000  
Enhancement grants: $10,000 - $150,000 |
<p>| <strong>Cost Share</strong> | None required |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Program Goals</strong></th>
<th>To enhance existing library services or implement new ones in organizations that serve Native Hawaiians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deadline</strong></td>
<td>April 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount</strong></td>
<td>$10,000-$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost Share</strong></td>
<td>None required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Medal for Museum and Library Service

- Awarded annually to 10 libraries and 10 museums
- Honors outstanding institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities
- Honorees are nominated by community members or may self-nominate

National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards

- Awarded annually to 12 outstanding out-of-school arts and humanities programs sponsored by libraries, museums, and cultural organizations
- Honorees receive $10,000, a Certificate of Excellence, and communications training to further the reach of their programming

Read more: https://www.imls.gov/issues/national-initiatives/national-arts-and-humanities-youth-program-awards
Special Resources from IMLS

- Program Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO)
- Eligibility criteria
- Application process
- Sample applications
- Awarded grants
- Peer-reviewer resources

www.imls.gov
Special Resources from IMLS

Live and recorded **webinars** for applicants to each grant program

**Publications** about museum- and library-relevant research and initiatives

**Blogs** by grantees, constituents, and staff
Preparing to Apply

- Select a grant program.
- Verify your eligibility to apply.
- Read the Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- Connect with us
  - Participate in free IMLS webinars.
  - Talk with a program staff member at any stage.
Peer Reviewers Want to See ...

- Project goals that align with those of the grant program
- Applications prepared according to the instructions
- Projects that address documented key needs or challenges
- Evidence of a thorough understanding of current practice and knowledge about the subject matter
Peer Reviewers Want to See ...

- A work plan that consists of a set of logical, interrelated activities tied directly to addressing the key need or challenge
- Budget elements that connect to project activities, are reasonable, and are supported
- Evidence that the project will generate measurable results that tie directly to the need or challenge
Peer Reviewers DON’T Want to See ...

- Poor fit of the project to the grant program goals
- Untested project design
- Underdeveloped evaluation component
- Inconsistency among application components
- Crucial information missing or incomplete
- Unsupported generalizations, claims
- Copy-and-paste redundancies
- Unsupported costs in the budget
- Bad spelling, poor grammar, bad math
How to Get There

- Start early.
- Do your background research.
- Revisit the grant NOFO frequently.
- Remember the people you serve.
- Be sure your application is complete.
- Ask a colleague to review your application before you submit it.
- Submit to Grants.gov *early* so you can correct any errors.
How to Contact Us

Emily Reynolds
Program Officer
Office of Library Services
ereynolds@imls.gov
202.653.4665

Gladstone Payton, Esq.
Congressional Affairs Officer
gpayton@imls.gov
202.653.4628
Thank you and good luck!