INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

May 20, 2016

Grant Opportunities from IMLS
Tuscaloosa, AL

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

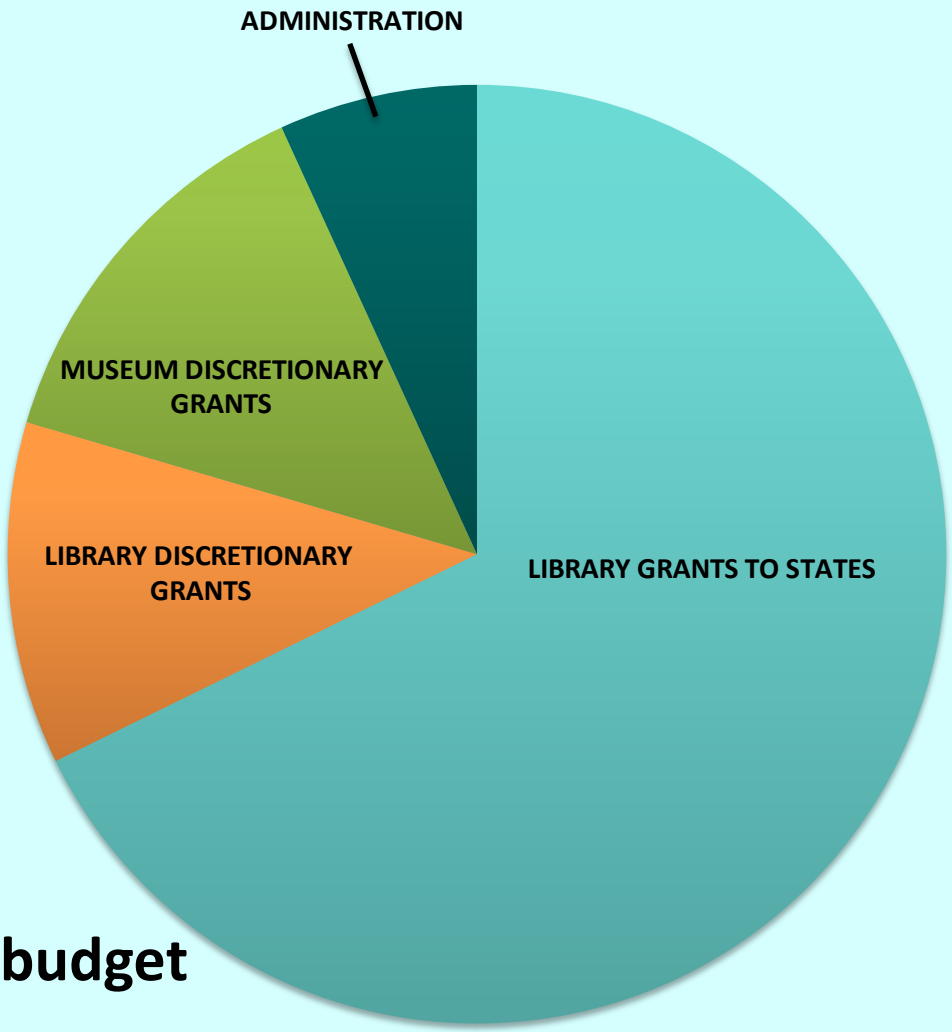
Who are we?

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.

Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations



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:

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IMLS Alabama state profile:
https://www.imls.gov/grants/grants-state/state-profiles/alabama-0

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

Check specific program guidelines on the IMLS website for more details. Additional types of organizations are eligible for some programs.

"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

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.

Museum Grant Programs

Museums for America

Program Goals	Support high-priority activities that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public	
Deadline	December 1, 2016	
Amount	$5,000-$25,000	$25,001-$150,000
Cost Share	None permitted	1:1 required

Museum Grant Programs

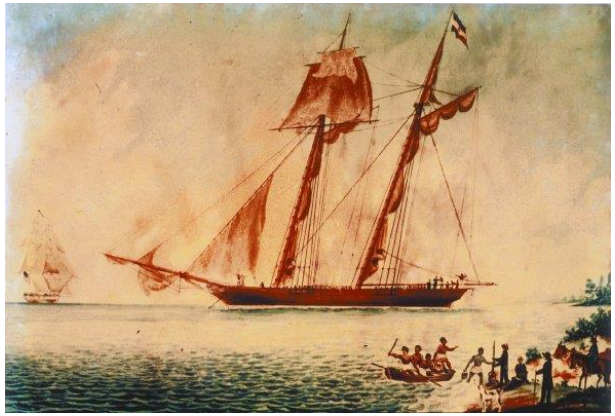
National Leadership Grants for Museums

Program Goals	Support projects that address challenges or needs of the museum field, have broad impact, and demonstrate innovation and collaboration
Deadline	December 1, 2016
Amount	$50,000-$500,000
Cost Share	1:1 required for non-research projects

Museum Grant Programs

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

Program Goals	To improve the operations, care of collections, and development of professional management at African American museums	
Deadline	December 1, 2016	
Amount	$5,000-$25,000	$25,001-$150,000
Cost Share	None permitted	1:1 required



Museum Grant Programs

Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services

Program Goals	To enhance museum services in order to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge among Indian tribes and organizations serving Native Hawaiians
Deadline	December 1, 2016
Amount	$5,000-$50,000
Cost Share	None required

Museum Grant Programs

Sparks! Ignition Grants for Museums

Program Goals	To provide opportunities to expand and test the boundaries of museum services and practices
Deadline	December 1, 2016
Amount	$10,000-$25,000
Cost Share	None required

Library Grant Programs

Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program

Program Goals	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.
Deadlines	Fall 2016 (September/October) Winter 2017 (February)
Amount	$50,000-$1,000,000
Cost Share	Cost share requirements vary with project type

Library Grant Programs

National Leadership Grants for Libraries

Program Goals	To support projects that address challenges faced by and that have the potential to advance practice in the library/archive fields
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

Program Goals	To encourage libraries and archives to test and evaluate specific innovations in operations and service
Deadline	February 15, 2016
Amount	$10,000-$25,000
Cost Share	None required

Native American Library Services

Basic Grants	To support activities that enhance existing library services or implement new library services
Enhancement Grants	To support activities that advance the operations of eligible Native American libraries to new levels of service
Deadline	April 1, 2016
Amount	Basic grants: $6,000 or $7,000 Enhancement grants: $10,000 - $150,000
Cost Share	None required

Native Hawaiian Library Services

Program Goals	To enhance existing library services or implement new ones in organizations that serve Native Hawaiians
Deadline	April 1, 2016
Amount	$10,000-$150,000
Cost Share	None required

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

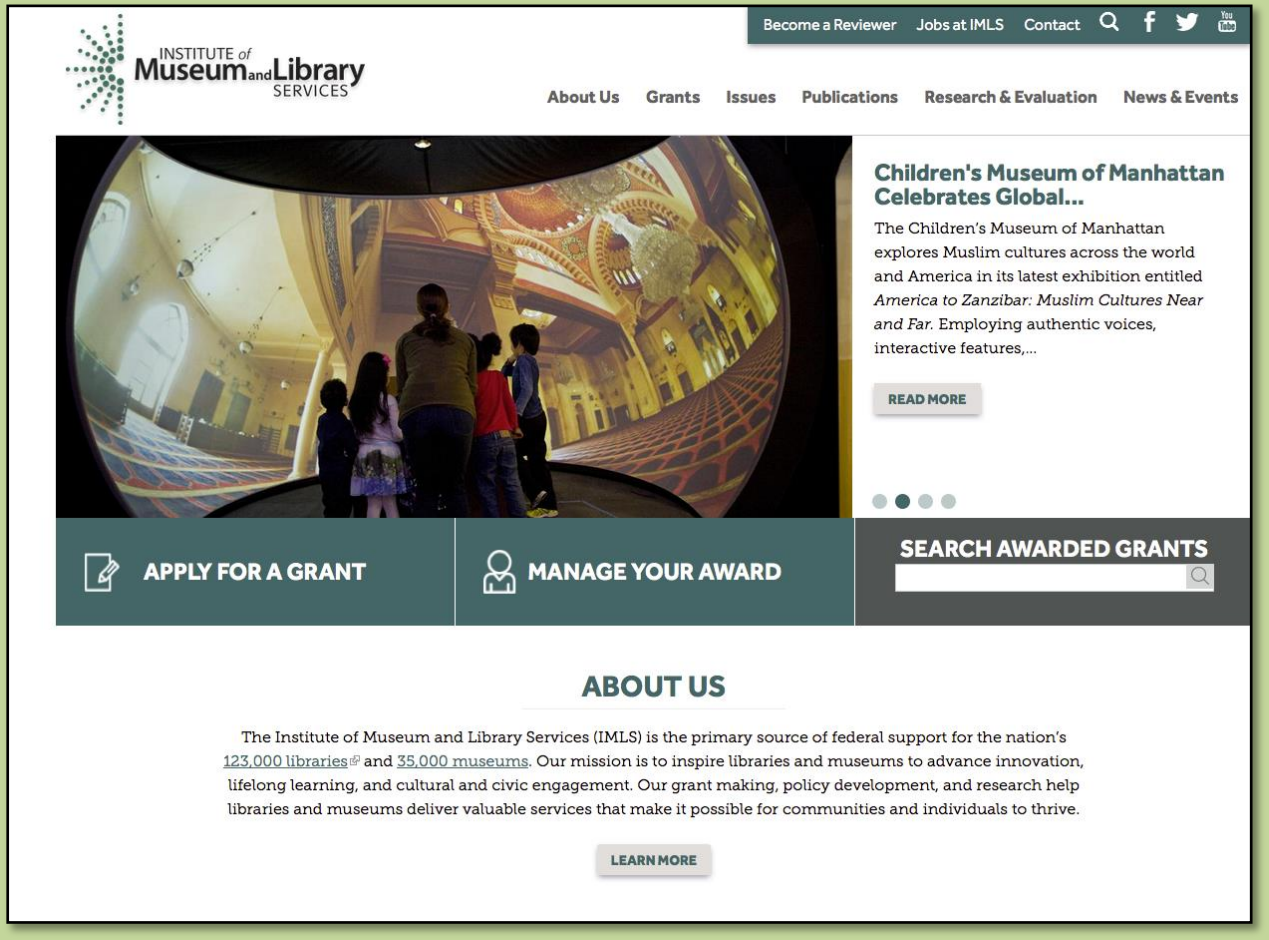
Read more: https://www.imls.gov/issues/national-initiatives/national-medal-museum-and-library-service

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

UpNext The Official Blog of the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Blogs by grantees, constituents, and staff

Preparing to Apply

- Select a grant program.
- Verify your eligibility to apply.
- Read the Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- Check your registrations: D-U-N-S, SAM.gov, and Grants.gov.
- 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

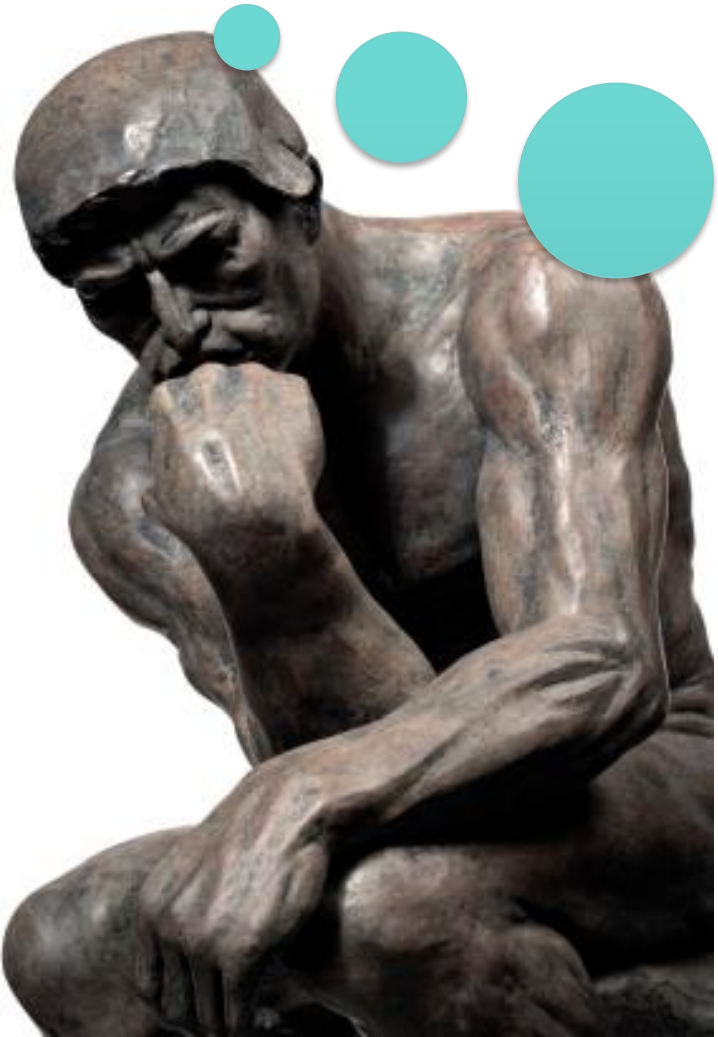
Peer Reviewers Want to See …

- 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

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INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

Creating a Nation of Learners

Thank you and good luck!