



February 28 - March 1, 2011 • Washington, DC

Museums Advocacy Day 2011

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

MUSEUM ISSUES AT-A-GLANCE

Museums play a key role in education, job creation, tourism, economic development, historic preservation, environmental conservation, global competitiveness, and more. The museum community - which includes aquariums, art museums, children's museums, historic sites, history museums, maritime museums, military museums, natural history museums, planetariums, presidential libraries, public gardens, science centers, zoos, and more - has worked together to develop positions on the vital federal issues affecting museums.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Office of Museum Services

IMLS is the primary federal agency responsible for helping museums connect people to information and ideas. Its Office of Museum Services (OMS) awards grants to museums to support educating students, preserving collections, coordinating resources, and digitalizing collections. Grants are awarded in every state, but current funding has allowed the agency to fund only a small fraction of the highly-rated grant applications it receives. In late 2010, a bill to reauthorize IMLS for five years was unanimously passed by both the House and Senate. The bill (now Public Law 111-340) called for (or "authorized") \$38.6 million for OMS, a \$3.4 million increase over the current (FY10) funding level, to meet the growing demand for museum programs and services. However, President Obama proposed just \$32.3 million for OMS - an 8.2% reduction from current funding levels - in his FY12 budget. *We support increased funding in FY12 - or, at a minimum, level funding - for the Office of Museum Services, and urge Members of Congress to sign the Dear Colleague letters being circulated in the House and Senate by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) supporting the Office of Museum Services.*

Economic Impact

Each year, museums directly contribute at least \$21 billion to the national economy, employ 400,000 people, and attract tourists from around the world, bolstering a large tourism industry in local communities. Unfortunately, in 2009, Congress specifically excluded zoos and aquariums from being eligible to compete for economic stimulus funds, despite the significant economic impact they have in every community. Zoos and aquariums contain important living collections and are an essential part of the museum community. Investments in zoos and aquariums not only serve to educate the public about science and conservation but also save and create jobs - and, in particular, "green jobs," (jobs that invest in environmental protection or energy efficiency) - that support local communities and the environment. In 2009 there were also several attempts to prevent museums from receiving funds for refurbishment of historic transportation facilities, interpretation of historic trails and improved access to museums by pedestrians or public transit - projects which also create jobs and help revitalize communities. *We oppose any effort to restrict the ability of zoos, aquariums, or other types of museums to compete for funds made available by the federal government.*

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

Museums partner with schools every day to educate students, provide professional development to teachers and to help teach the local curriculum. However, the last reauthorization of ESEA (which governs federal K-12 education policy and was renamed the “No Child Left Behind Act”) resulted in reduced opportunities for students to visit museums and benefit from the kind of comprehensive learning environment they provide. *We support efforts to promote school-museum partnerships, recognize holders of advanced degrees in museum education as qualified to work directly with students, require greater collaboration between the Department of Education and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and to retain a set of core academic subjects that includes the many subject areas in which museums help teach the curriculum – including English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography.*

Historic Preservation

In addition to preserving and protecting more than one billion objects, many museums are historic themselves – and their collections are critical to telling our national story. Historic sites and historic preservation efforts not only protect our national heritage, but they are economic engines and job creators in the thousands of communities they serve. Both the president’s FY12 budget and the America’s Great Outdoors report, which aims to connect people with the nation’s natural and historic cultural assets, propose \$6.5 million in additional support for State Historic Preservation Offices (a 9% increase) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (a 37% increase), which we support. However, we are very concerned that the President’s budget also proposes eliminating funding for Save America’s Treasures (\$25 million) and Preserve America (\$4.6 million). Both programs have been instrumental in preserving some of our nation’s most important artifacts and structures, increasing the economic independence of historic museums and sites, and making them more accessible to the public. *We urge Congress to recognize the significant economic impact of museums in all communities and to oppose the president’s FY12 budget proposal to eliminate Save America’s Treasures and Preserve America.*

National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) provides grants to museums, universities, archives, scholars, and libraries in support of research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities. Funding for the agency has been targeted for a significant decrease or even elimination. *We are highly concerned about the president’s FY12 budget proposal to reduce funding for this agency by \$21 million to \$146 million, and support a minimum of level funding for the agency to preserve historically-significant collections and their use as educational tools. We support \$167.5 million (level funding from FY10) for the NEH.*

National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) works to bring the arts to every community in America, including rural areas, military bases, and inner cities. It provides grants to all types of arts organizations—including museums—to exhibit, preserve, and interpret visual materials. Funding for the agency has been targeted for a significant decrease or even elimination. *We are deeply concerned about the president’s FY12 budget proposal to reduce funding for this agency by \$21 million to \$146 million and the House-passed FY11 spending proposal to reduce funding for the remainder of FY11. These reductions will lessen the agency’s ability to bring the arts to every corner of America as an opportunity to promote creativity and innovation as critical building blocks to education and global competitiveness. We support \$167.5 million (level funding from FY10) for the NEA.*

National Science Foundation

Millions of Americans of all ages and backgrounds learn about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) each year by visiting museums, science centers, public gardens, zoos, and aquariums. The National Science Foundation (NSF) supports these efforts through numerous grants and directorates, including the Directorate for Education and Human Resources' Informal Science Education (ISE) program, which supports innovation in anywhere, anytime, lifelong learning, through investments in research, development, infrastructure, and capacity-building for STEM learning outside formal school settings. The ISE program was funded at \$66 million in FY10 and the president's budget proposal includes \$68.14 million for FY12. Museums are conducting critical research related to invasive species, biodiversity, climate change, landscape history as well as developing important scientific databases, and NSF is an important source of funds for competitive research grants. *We support NSF programs across all directorates which will help further public understanding of science and advance STEM literacy, enrich STEM professional development, and prepare America's youth to become the innovative and creative thinkers needed for the 21st century workforce.*

Charitable Giving

Museums depend on charitable gifts for more than one-third of their operating funds, and especially in this economy have seen a decline in charitable gifts. We support efforts to extend and expand incentives for charitable giving. *We therefore oppose President Obama's FY12 budget proposal – which calls for limiting the deductibility of charitable gifts – because it would have a chilling effect on the ability of museums to attract donations and therefore serve their communities. We also support allowing artists to deduct the fair market value of donated works, and support a permanent extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover.*

Nonprofit Oversight

Nearly all museums are nonprofit institutions, and many have been hard hit by the economic downturn. A new tax-reporting requirement in the health care reform law requires that, starting in 2012, businesses and nonprofits must fill out a 1099 form for every for-profit organization to which they pay at least \$600 for goods or services in a given year. This reporting requirement would be a tremendous burden to museums and other nonprofits. President Obama even cited this “unnecessary bookkeeping burden” in his 2011 State of the Union address. *We support the repeal of this onerous “1099” provision.*

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

Enacted in 1990, NAGPRA provides a process for museums and federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items to lineal descendants, culturally affiliated Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. Museums have invested significant resources to work in close collaboration with federally-recognized tribes in this area, but the new Final Rule on Culturally Unidentifiable Human Remains (issued in May 2010) is unclear and has created a host of potential legal obstacles and other concerns for museums. In 2010, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report to Congress that raised several concerns about the operation of the National Park Service's NAGPRA program. *We urge Congress to conduct more careful oversight of this program.*

Please visit the American Association of Museums advocacy website at www.speakupformuseums.org for more information about any of these issues.



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IMLS Office of Museum Services

Request:

- We urge Congress to support increased funding in FY12 – or, at a minimum, level funding – for the IMLS Office of Museum Services.
- We urge Members of Congress to sign the Dear Colleague letters being circulated in the House and Senate by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY) in support of the Office of Museum Services.

Introduction:

IMLS is the primary federal agency responsible for helping museums connect people to information and ideas. Its Office of Museum Services (OMS) supports all types of museums – including aquariums, arboretums, art museums, botanical gardens, children’s museums, historic sites, history museums, military museums, natural history museums, nature centers, planetariums, science & technology centers, zoos, and more – in their work to educate students, preserve collections, coordinate resources, and digitalize collections.

Reauthorization:

In late 2010, a bill to reauthorize IMLS for five years was passed – unanimously – by both the House and Senate. The bipartisan reauthorization included several provisions proposed by the museum field, including enhanced support for conservation and preservation, emergency preparedness and response, and statewide capacity building. The reauthorization also specifically supports efforts at the State level to leverage museum resources, including statewide needs assessments and the development of State plans to improve and maximize museum services throughout the State. The bill (now Public Law 111-340) called for (or “authorized”) \$38.6 million for the Office of Museum Services, a \$3.4 million increase over the current (FY10) funding level, to meet the growing demand for museum programs and services.

Funding:

The Office of Museum Services is located within the Institute of Museum and Library Services and is provided by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. Current funding (FY10) for IMLS is \$265.8 million, of which \$35.2 million goes to the Office of Museum Services. President Obama called for just \$32.3 million for OMS – an 8.2% reduction from current funding levels – in his FY12 budget proposal.

For more information, please contact American Association of Museums’ Government Relations at 202-289-1818 or visit us online at www.speakupformuseums.org.

IMLS Office of Museum Services

	FY 2009 enacted	FY 2010 enacted	FY 2011 president's budget proposal	FY 2011 enacted	FY 2012 president's budget proposal
Appropriation <i>(in millions)</i>	\$35.0	\$35.2	\$35.2	TBD	\$32.3

Talking Points:

- The Institute of Museum and Library Services has strong bipartisan support, and has been lauded for its peer-reviewed, highly competitive grant programs.
- Grants are awarded in every state and Congressional district, but current funding has allowed the agency to fund only a small fraction of the highly-rated grant applications it receives.
- The 2010 reauthorization – unanimously passed by Congress – called for an increase in federal support, both to strengthen existing national programs at IMLS and to pursue a new strategy to support museums directly at the state level.
- Museums support the economy. They spend \$21 billion annually, employ 400,000, and spur tourism from around the world.
- Museums are an essential part of the educational infrastructure. They tailor educational programs in coordination with state and local curriculum standards in math, science, art, literacy, economics and financial literacy, language arts, history, civics and government, geography, and social studies and receive more than 90 million visits each year from student groups.
- Museums are not only valuable educational resources for our children, but for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Museums stimulate and promote lifelong learning.
- Museums are nearly all nonprofits, and many are struggling in this economy to meet the growing needs of their communities. For example, some have programs designed specifically for children with special needs and their families, some are teaching English as a Second Language, and some are serving as locations for supervised family visits through the family court system. Only nonprofit museums are eligible to compete for IMLS grants.
- Museums of all types are seeing their budgets stretched thin. The economy has led to a decline in charitable gifts and to reductions in state and local support. Despite this funding shortfall, museum attendance has increased, collections are subject to increasing risk, and museum staff members need professional development in conservation, education, and technology.



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ECONOMIC IMPACT

Request:

- We urge Members of Congress to consider the significant economic impact museums make to local communities and our nation's economy when considering FY12 funding measures.
- We urge Members of Congress to oppose any effort to restrict the eligibility of museums to compete for funds made available by the federal government.
- We urge Congress to reject future use of language – contained in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5)* – excluding zoos and aquariums from competing for funding.

Introduction:

In 2009, Congress specifically excluded zoos and aquariums from being eligible to compete for any funds made available by the economic stimulus bill. Attempts were also made to prohibit all museums from being able to compete for such funds. This action by Congress completely ignores the significant economic impact museums make in every community. In 2009 there were also several attempts to prevent museums from being eligible to compete for funds made available in certain regular appropriations bills, despite the job creation and community revitalization that come from such investments.

Talking Points:

- Museums employ 400,000 Americans and contribute **\$21 billion** to the American economy each year (2008 estimate), encouraging economic growth in their communities.
- Museums rank among the top three family vacation destinations, attracting tourists from around the world, bolstering a large tourism industry in local communities.
- Visitors to historic sites and cultural attractions, including museums, stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other kinds of tourists, according to the U.S. Travel Association.
- Quality of life issues contribute significantly to decisions businesses make in choosing to relocate, including access to cultural resources that includes a dynamic museum community.
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors has found that "the arts, humanities, and museums are critical to the quality of life and livability of America's cities. It has been shown that the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates over \$166 billion in economic activity annually, supports over 5.7 million full time jobs, and returns over \$12 billion in federal income taxes annually. Governments which support the arts on average see a return on investment of over \$7 in taxes for every \$1 that the government appropriates."
- Federal agencies, states, and localities should be able to invest in valuable projects that save and create new jobs in their communities. Zoo and aquarium science/education/conservation programming and infrastructure projects can meet the test of accountability and public benefit, if allowed to compete on a level playing field for federal funds.

For more information, please contact American Association of Museums' Government Relations at 202-289-1818 or visit us online at www.speakupformuseums.org.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

Requests:

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

We urge Congress to...

- Ensure that a reauthorization of ESEA encourages school districts to facilitate museum visits to help teach the curriculum and take advantage of the unique educational resources and environments museums provide.
- Retain a set of core academic subjects that includes the many subject areas in which museums help teach the curriculum – including English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography.
- Expand connections among museums and teachers to ensure schools are able to take full advantage of museums' unique human and material resources.
- Continue to expressly include museums in applicable sections of ESEA Title I, and Title II and other subject-specific programs where appropriate and justified.
- Recognize holders of advanced degrees in museum education as qualified to work directly with students.
- Implement reauthorization language (similar to "Interagency Collaboration" language in P.L. 111-340) to require greater collaboration between the Department of Education and the Institute of Museum and Library services on initiatives, materials, research or technology supporting educational, cultural, historical, scientific, environmental and other museum activities.

Introduction:

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) was the name given to the law that reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), the principal federal education policy for kindergarten through high school. This legislation is expected to be reauthorized this year. NCLB was designed to re-focus federal policy on reading and math, with strong accountability provisions, including annual standardized testing (developed by each state) for all students in certain grades. Schools that do not achieve test scores showing "Adequate Yearly Progress" in tests focused on reading and math are subject to a host of sanctions.

Almost immediately after NCLB took effect in 2002, school districts began devoting more time to reading and math at the expense of other subjects.

Talking Points:

Unintended Consequences of No Child Left Behind

- More than one third (36 percent) of all school districts have cut elementary social studies instruction – by an average of 76 minutes a week. Science instruction is down at 28 percent of the schools, and arts education is down at 16 percent of the schools.

- As a result, museum visits and instruction related to art, science and history education (among other subject areas) have decreased.

Museums are Critical Partners in Education

- Each year, museums spend more than \$2.2 billion on educational programming and provide more than 18 million instructional hours to students and teachers, including the following:
 - Educational programming for students
 - Museum staff visits to schools
 - Traveling exhibits in schools
 - Professional development for teachers
 - More than 90 million visits each year from school students
- Museums design educational programs in coordination with state and local curriculum standards in math, science, art, literacy, language arts, history, civics and government, economics and financial literacy, geography, and social studies.
- Educational museum visits reach students in ways that textbooks and classroom instruction cannot. Experiential learning in museums activates students' curiosity and imagination.
- In recognition of the strong role museums play in the education of children, museums are expressly included in several sections of ESEA/NCLB – including Arts in Education, Teaching American History, Technology, and Professional Development.

The Partnership between Museums and Schools Should Be Strengthened

- The partnership between museums and schools has served and benefited students, teachers and communities immensely.
- Many museums already participate in 21st Century Community Learning Centers and magnet and charter school programs (under the rubric of “community-based organizations”). However, museums should be expressly included as eligible entities in these programs for clear association and recognition to be drawn by state and local education agencies and other key stakeholders in education.
- Positions that have been established within school districts with the responsibility of ensuring that museum resources are well utilized by students and educators have proven extremely successful.
- Teachers report a desire to continue and expand upon educational visits to museums, but are under increased pressure to focus on standardized tests.
- Budgetary constraints, fuel costs and other factors are leading school officials to approve fewer educational visits to museums, to the detriment of both students and teachers.

Status:

- In March 2010, the Obama administration released its blueprint for revising the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The blueprint provides incentives for states to adopt academic standards that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace, and create accountability systems that measure student growth toward meeting the goal that all children graduate and succeed in college.
- Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have held hearings focused on ESEA reauthorization. The House Committee on Education and the Workforce has been considering a series of bills seeking to rewrite portions of the No Child Left Behind law, while the Senate is working on a more comprehensive reauthorization effort, but has yet to introduce any legislation.



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MUSEUM FACTS

Museums Serve the Public

- Museums are working every day in the public interest, educating and engaging our communities, preserving our cultural, artistic, historic, natural, and scientific heritage.
- Museums of all kinds – including aquariums, arboretums, archaeological museums, art museums, botanical gardens, children's museums, culturally specific museums, historic sites, history museums, maritime museums, military museums, natural history museums, nature centers, planetariums, presidential libraries, science and technology centers, zoological parks, and other specialty museums – are important institutions that are struggling to maintain essential services.
- Only a small percentage of America's 17,500+ museums receive federal funding of any kind.

Museums are Trustworthy

- Americans view museums as one of the most important resources for educating our children and as one of the most trustworthy sources of objective information.
- In 2001, 38% of Americans cited museums as among the most trustworthy sources of information while 87% stated they are trustworthy overall.
- According to a study by Indiana University, museums are considered a more reliable source of historical information than books, teachers, or even personal accounts by grandparents or other relatives.
- Museums preserve and protect more than a billion objects (Heritage Health Index).

Museums are Popular

- Americans from all income and education ranges visit museums.
- According to IMLS, two-thirds (66.4%) of American adults visited a museum in 2006 (including virtual visits via the Internet).
- There are nearly 850 million visits per year to American museums, more than the attendance for all professional sporting events and theme parks combined (478 million in 2006).
- And there are an equally impressive number of virtual visits to museums – 542 million visits via the Internet a year, according to a 2008 IMLS study.

Museums Serve Every Community

- At least 22% of museums are located in rural areas and other museums frequently reach rural communities by incorporating traveling vans or portable exhibits.
- A third of U.S. museums are always free to the public, and more than 97% of the rest offer discounts, special fee schedules, or free admission days, according to AAM's 2009 Museum Financial Information Survey.
- Teachers, students, and researchers benefit from access to trustworthy information through online collections and exhibits, although most museums need more help in developing their digital collections to meet this need. This is especially important when geographical distance prevents travel to a wide range of museums.
- Museum websites serve a diverse and growing online community.

For more information, please contact American Association of Museums' Government Relations at 202-289-1818 or visit us online at www.speakupformuseums.org.

- Museums are reaching a whole new tech-savvy audience by engaging the online public in creative ways such as adding museum exhibits to their Facebook page or opening a virtual museum on *Second Life*.

Museums Partner with Schools

- Museums spend more than \$2.2 billion a year on education – and the typical museum devotes three-quarters of its education budget specifically to K-12 students.
- Museums receive more than 90 million visits each year from students in school groups.
- Museums tailor educational programs in math, science, art, literacy, language arts, history, civics and government, economics and financial literacy, geography, and social studies, often in coordination with state and local curriculum standards (IMLS study).
- Each year, museums provide more than 18 million instructional hours for educational programs such as guided tours for students, staff visits to schools, school outreach through science vans and other traveling exhibits, and professional development for teachers (IMLS study).

Museums Educate our Communities

- The educational role of museums is at the core of their service to the public.
- People of all ages and backgrounds come to learn about the past and present, the natural and cultural world, and human creativity through unique museum experiences.
- Children find the spark that inspires them to become scientists, artists, political leaders, historians, and entrepreneurs.
- Museums tell these stories by collecting, preserving, researching, and interpreting objects, living specimens, and history.
- Museums are reaching increasingly diverse audiences, helping communities better understand and appreciate cultural diversity.
- Through museums, visitors make tangible connections to their heritage, art, or the natural world regardless of their ages, the size of their communities, or their economic and ethnic backgrounds.

Museums are Economic Engines

- Museums employ 400,000 Americans, according to the American Association of Museums.
- U.S. museums contribute \$21 billion to the American economy each year (2008 estimate), encouraging economic growth in their communities.
- Museums rank among the top three family vacation destinations.
- Trips including cultural and heritage activities comprise one of the most popular and significant segments of the travel industry, accounting for over 23% of all domestic trips, according to the U.S. Travel Association.
- Visitors to historic sites and cultural attractions, including museums, stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other kinds of tourists (U.S. Travel Association).
- Quality of life issues contribute significantly to decisions businesses make in choosing to relocate, including access to cultural resources that includes a dynamic museum community.
- The National Governors Association has found that "civic leaders are beginning to take stock of artistic and cultural assets, recognizing that they are essential to quality of life."
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors has found that "the arts, humanities, and museums are critical to the quality of life and livability of America's cities. It has been shown that the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates over \$166 billion in economic activity annually, supports over 5.7 million full time jobs, and returns over \$12 billion in federal income taxes annually. Governments which support the arts on average see a return on investment of over \$7 in taxes for every \$1 that the government appropriates."

**FY2012 HOUSE Dear Colleague letter
Being circulated by Rep. Paul Tonko**

Support Museums in Your District

***Invest in Our Cultural and
Educational Infrastructure***

Support Funding for the Office of Museum Services

Dear Colleague,

I invite you to join me in signing the attached letter requesting sustained support for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education FY 2012 Appropriations bill.

Museums are a vital part of our communities and educational infrastructure. Each year, museums provide more than 18 million instructional hours to schoolchildren and educators and spend more than \$21 billion in their communities. They are economic engines – employing 400,000 Americans, spurring local tourism and contributing to the cultural fabric of our nation.

Museums have been hard hit by the current economic downturn. Many rely heavily on philanthropic donations to keep admission rates low and provide new exhibitions for their communities. **According to a 2009 report by the Giving USA Foundation, museums and other cultural organizations saw their charitable donations fall by nearly 10% in 2008.**

Despite the economic downturn, museum attendance has increased, collections are subject to increasing risk, and museum staff members need professional development in conservation, education and technology. The educational services museums provide are in greater demand than ever, and in this volatile economy, museums have taken an active role in providing critical social services in their communities.

Yet, like so many other nonprofits, museums are struggling to balance an increasing demand for their services with decreasing sources of funding. **For FY12, we recommend a sustained investment of \$35 million (level funding from FY10) in our nation's museums to support the important work they are doing in our communities.** This funding would also support crucial technology upgrades, capacity building, preservation of important collections, community engagement and data collection.

In 2010, the Institute of Museum and Library Services – the primary federal agency that supports our nation's 17,500 museums – was unanimously reauthorized by both the House and

Senate. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants serve all states. Many activities included within the re-authorization, however, cannot be achieved without sustained investment in our nation's museums.

For more information or to sign onto this letter, please contact Becky Cornell with Rep. Tonko at Becky.Cornell@mail.house.gov. **The deadline to sign on is XXXX 2011.**

Sincerely,

/s/

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

XXXX 2011

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education
2358B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We are writing to thank you for your support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)'s Office of Museum Services (OMS) and to urge the Subcommittee to support \$35 million for OMS in the FY 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school resources are strained and many families cannot afford to travel or make ends meet, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps – providing more than 18 million instructional hours to schoolchildren, bringing art and cultural heritage, dynamic exhibitions and living specimens into local communities, partnering with other nonprofits to encourage national service and volunteerism, and offering free or reduced admission. Museums are part of a robust nonprofit community working to address our nation's greatest challenges, from creating energy efficient public buildings to collecting food, funding and other resources for needy families and individuals.

Unfortunately, museums are struggling significantly in these difficult economic times. They are being forced to cut back on hours, educational programming, community services and jobs. And according to the 2005 *Heritage Health Index*, at least 190 million artifacts are at risk, suffering from light damage and harmful and insecure storage conditions. Many museums also rely heavily on philanthropic donations to keep admission rates low and provide new exhibitions for their communities. According to a 2009 report by the Giving USA Foundation, museums and other cultural organizations saw their charitable donations fall by nearly 10 percent in 2008.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary federal agency responsible for supporting the nation's more than 17,500 museums, and its Office of Museum Services has been essentially flat funded over the past several years. Although the agency has been successful in creating and supporting advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning and conservation and preservation efforts, only a small fraction of the nation's museums are currently being reached, and many highly rated grant applications go unfunded each year.

In 2010, the Institute of Museum and Library Services – the primary federal agency that supports our nation's 17,500 museums – was unanimously reauthorized by both the House and Senate. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants serve every state. The re-authorization contained several provisions to further support museums, particularly at the state level, but much of the recently authorized activities cannot be accomplished without sustained funding.

We urge the Subcommittee to support \$35 million (level funding relative to FY 2010) for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY 2012 to support the important work museums are doing in our communities, especially in these difficult economic times. This vital funding will aid museums of all types – aquariums, arboretums, archaeological museums, art museums, botanical gardens, children's museums, culturally specific museums, historic sites, history museums, maritime museums, military museums, natural history museums, nature centers, planetariums, science and technology centers, zoological parks, and other types of museums – and enable them to continue serving our schools and communities and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee's prior support for OMS and request this investment to strengthen and sustain the work of our nation's museums.

Sincerely,

2010 Co-signers

Paul Tonko (D-NY)

Leonard Lance (R-NJ)

Louise Slaughter (D-NY)

Henry Brown (R-SC)

Joe Courtney (D-CT)

Dina Titus (D-NV)

Tim Murphy (R-PA)

Mike Doyle (D-PA)

Shelley Berkley (D-NV)

Andre Carson (D-IN)

Jared Polis (D-CO)

Henry Teague (D-NM)

Keith Ellison (D-MN)

Rush Holt (D-NJ)

Dave Loebsack (D-IA)

Mike Capuano (D-MA)

Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)

Patrick Murphy (D-PA)

Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

Laura Richardson (D-CA)

Dennis Moore (D-KS)

Solomon Ortiz (D-TX)

John Duncan (R-TN)

Ed Towns (D-NY)

Barney Frank (D-MA)

Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)

Jerry Nadler (D-NY)

Alcee Hastings (D-FL)

Charlie Rangel (D-NY)

Bill Owens (D-NY)

Tim Holden (D-PA)

FY2012 SENATE Dear Colleague letter being circulated by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Shelby,

We are writing to thank you for your support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Office of Museum Services (OMS) and to urge the Subcommittee to support \$50 million for OMS in the FY 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

Museums are economic engines – spending \$21 billion in their communities, employing 400,000 Americans, and spurring local tourism. Museums are also fostering the kind of critical thinking skills and innovation that are necessary to keep our nation competitive in the global economy.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school resources are strained and many families cannot afford to travel or make ends meet, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps – providing more than 18 million instructional hours to schoolchildren, bringing art and cultural heritage, dynamic exhibitions and living specimens into local communities, encouraging national service and volunteerism, collecting food and other resources for needy families and individuals, and offering free or reduced admission to military families. Unfortunately, museums are struggling significantly in these difficult economic times. They are being forced to cut back on hours, educational programming, community services, and jobs. And according to the 2005 Heritage Health Index, at least 190 million artifacts are at risk, suffering from light damage and harmful and insecure storage conditions.

In 2010, the Institute of Museum and Library Services – the primary federal agency that supports our nation's 17,500 museums – was unanimously reauthorized by both the House and Senate. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants serve every state. Although the agency has been successful in creating and supporting advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning and conservation and preservation efforts, only a small fraction of the nation's museums are currently being reached, and many highly rated grant applications go unfunded each year. The re-authorization contained several provisions to further support museums, particularly at the state level, but much of the recently authorized activities cannot be accomplished without meaningful funding.

We therefore recommend a critical investment in our nation's museums. Specifically, we are requesting \$50 million for IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY12. Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee's prior support for OMS and request this investment to strengthen and sustain the work of our nation's museums.

Sincerely,

The following Senators signed the letter in FY11:

Kirsten Gillibrand, lead sponsor

Sherrod Brown

Roland Burris

Christopher Dodd

Richard Durbin

Ted Kaufman

Frank Lautenberg

Patrick Leahy

Carl Levin

Joe Lieberman

Blanche Lincoln

Robert Menendez

Bernie Sanders

Charles Schumer

Debbie Stabenow

Tom Udall

Sheldon Whitehouse



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House Committee on Appropriations

Republicans

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Chairman
C.W. Bill Young, Florida
Jerry Lewis, California
Frank R. Wolf, Virginia
Jack Kingston, Georgia
Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, New Jersey
Tom Latham, Iowa
Robert B. Aderholt, Alabama
Jo Ann Emerson, Missouri
Kay Granger, Texas
Michael K. Simpson, Idaho
John Abney Culberson, Texas
Ander Crenshaw, Florida
Dennis R. Rehberg, Montana
John R. Carter, Texas
Rodney Alexander, Louisiana
Ken Calvert, California
Jo Bonner, Alabama
Steven C. LaTourette, Ohio
Tom Cole, Oklahoma
Jeff Flake, Arizona
Mario Diaz-Balart, Florida
Charles Dent, Pennsylvania
Steve Austria, Ohio
Cynthia Lummis, Wyoming
Tom Graves, Georgia
Kevin Yoder, Kansas
Steve Womack, Arizona
Alan Nunnelee, Mississippi

Democrats

Norman D. Dicks, Washington,
Ranking Member
Marcy Kaptur, Ohio
Peter J. Visclosky, Indiana
Nita M. Lowey, New York
José E. Serrano, New York
Rosa L. DeLauro, Connecticut
James P. Moran, Virginia
John W. Olver, Massachusetts
Ed Pastor, Arizona
David E. Price, North Carolina
Maurice D. Hinchey, New York
Lucille Roybal-Allard, California
Sam Farr, California
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Illinois
Chaka Fattah, Pennsylvania
Steven R. Rothman, New Jersey
Sanford D. Bishop Jr., Georgia
Barbara Lee, California
Adam Schiff, California
Michael Honda, California
Betty McCollum, Minnesota



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Senate Committee on Appropriations

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Patrick J. Leahy, Vermont
Tom Harkin, Iowa
Barbara A. Mikulski, Maryland
Herb Kohl, Wisconsin
Patty Murray, Washington
Dianne Feinstein, California
Richard J. Durbin, Illinois
Tim Johnson, South Dakota
Mary L. Landrieu, Louisiana
Jack Reed, Rhode Island
Frank R. Lautenberg, New Jersey
Ben Nelson, Nebraska
Mark Pryor, Arkansas
Jon Tester, Montana
Sherrod Brown, Ohio

Republicans

Thad Cochran, Mississippi, Vice Chairman
Mitch McConnell, Kentucky
Richard C. Shelby, Alabama
Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas
Lamar Alexander, Tennessee
Susan Collins, Maine
Lisa Murkowski, Alaska
Lindsey Graham, South Carolina
Mark Kirk, Illinois
Dan Coats, Indiana
Roy Blunt, Missouri
Jerry Moran, Kansas
John Hoeven, North Dakota
Ron Johnson, Wisconsin



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House Committee on Education and the Workforce

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Thomas E. Petri, Wisconsin
Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, California
Judy Biggert, Illinois
Todd Russell Platts, Pennsylvania
Joe Wilson, South Carolina
Virginia Foxx, North Carolina
Duncan D. Hunter, California
David P. Roe, Tennessee
Glenn Thompson, Pennsylvania
Tim Walberg, Michigan
Scott DesJarlais, Tennessee
Richard Hanna, New York
Todd Rokita, Indiana
Larry Bucshon, Indiana
Trey Gowdy, South Carolina
Lou Barletta, Pennsylvania
Kristi Noem, South Dakota
Martha Roby, Alabama
Joe Heck, Nevada
Dennis Ross, Florida
Mike Kelly, Pennsylvania

Democrats

George Miller, California (Ranking Member)
Dale E. Kildee, Michigan
Donald M. Payne, New Jersey
Robert E. Andrews, New Jersey
Robert C. Scott, Virginia
Lynn C. Woolsey, California
Rubén Hinojosa, Texas
Carolyn McCarthy, New York
John F. Tierney, Massachusetts
Dennis J. Kucinich, Ohio
David Wu, Oregon
Rush D. Holt, New Jersey
Susan A. Davis, California
Raúl M. Grijalva, Arizona
Timothy H. Bishop, New York
Dave Loebsack, Iowa
Mazie Hirono, Hawaii



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Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Democrats

Tom Harkin, Iowa, Chairman
Barbara A. Mikulski, Maryland
Jeff Bingaman, New Mexico
Patty Murray, Washington
Bernard Sanders, Vermont*
Robert P. Casey, Jr., Pennsylvania
Kay Hagan, North Carolina
Jeff Merkley, Oregon
Al Franken, Minnesota
Michael F. Bennet, Colorado
Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island
Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut

Republicans

Michael B. Enzi, Wyoming, Ranking Member
Lamar Alexander, Tennessee
Richard Burr, North Carolina
Johnny Isakson, Georgia
Rand Paul, Kentucky
Orrin G. Hatch, Utah
John McCain, Arizona
Pat Roberts, Kansas
Tom Coburn, M.D., Oklahoma
Lisa Murkowski, Alaska
Mark Kirk, Illinois

*Denotes Independent

For more information, please contact American Association of Museums' Government Relations at 202-289-1818 or visit us online at www.speakupformuseums.org.



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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

Hill Visit Feedback Form (Okay to fill out during meeting or afterwards)

Your Name: _____

Office of Rep./Sen. (and state) : _____

Others in Meeting: _____

Staff: _____

1. "Dear Colleague" Letters:

House: *Would he/she support the **Tonko/Slaughter** Letter to the House Appropriations Committee supporting level funding for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) at IMLS?*

Senate: *Would he/she support the **Gillibrand** Letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee urging \$50 million for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) at IMLS?*

Circle: YES or NO or MAYBE

Notes: _____

2. Museums and the Reauthorization of ESEA:

Did you discuss how your museum supports K-12 education and why museums should be included within ESEA reauthorization?

Circle: YES or NO

Notes: _____

3. Economic Impact:

Did you share information about the economic impact of museums with your legislator?

Circle: YES or NO

Did you share your museum's Economic Impact Statement with your legislator?

Circle: YES or NO

Notes: _____

4. Additional Ask:

Did you share an additional ask or any additional information with your legislator?

Circle: YES or NO

Notes: _____

FOLLOW UP NEEDED _____
