



# Museums: Did You Know?

Arts and cultural production constitute  
**a \$704 billion industry,**  
**4.2% of the entire**  
**US economy**

more than construction (\$619 billion) or  
utilities (\$270 billion).

*U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis, Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account*



Museums spend  
more than  
**\$2 Billion**  
a year on education  
activities.

*American Alliance of Museums 'Museum Financial Information Survey' (2009)*



Museums sustain more than  
**400,000 Jobs**  
and directly contribute  
**\$21 Billion**  
to the US economy each year.

*AAM Financial Information Survey*

**26% of museums**  
**are located**  
**in rural areas;**

others serve these communities with traveling  
vans, portable exhibits and online resources.

*Institute of Museum and Library Services 'Museum Universe Data File' (2014)*

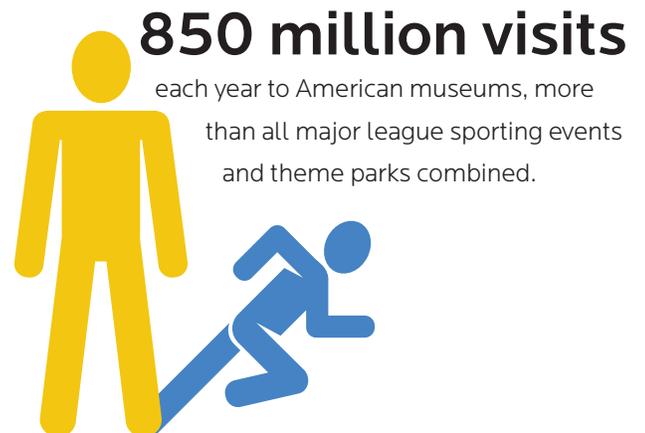
Museums are for everyone, regardless of income level.

**37% of museums**  
**are free**  
**at all times**

or have suggested admission fees only;  
nearly all the rest offer discounts or free admission days.

*American Alliance of Museums 'Annual Condition of Museums and the Economy' study (2013)*

There are approximately



**850 million visits**  
each year to American museums, more  
than all major league sporting events  
and theme parks combined.



**American  
Alliance of  
Museums**

# Museums: Did You Know?

Museums preserve and protect more than

# 1 billion objects.

*Heritage Health Index (2004)*

## Most Trustworthy

History Museums/Historic Sites	6.7	← Most trusted
Museums	6.4	<i>History museums are the #1 most trustworthy source of information in America</i>
Art Museums	5.9	
Wikipedia	5.7	
Local Paper	5.7	
Academic Researchers and Professors	5.7	
US Government	4.9	
Nonprofit Researchers	4.9	
Corporate Researchers	3.6	← Least trusted

*Scale: 0 = not at all trustworthy; 10 = completely trustworthy*

*Reach Advisors | Museums R+D*

Students who attend a field trip to an art museum demonstrate improved **critical thinking skills, historical empathy** and **tolerance.**



*Education Next 'The Educational Value of Field Trips' (2014)*

Museum volunteers contribute

# 1 Million Hours

of service every week.



*American Alliance of Museums 'Museum Financial Information Survey' (2009)*

**More than 2,000 museums participate in the Blue Star Museums initiative,**

offering free summer admission to all active-duty and reserve personnel and their families. This effort serves over 923,000 people.



*National Endowment for the Arts*

The nonprofit arts and culture industry annually generates

# \$22 billion

in local, state and federal tax revenues, far more than it receives from government sources.

*Americans for the Arts 'Arts and Economic Prosperity IV' (2012)*

Learn more about museums' impact at: [aam-us.org/about-museums/museum-facts](http://aam-us.org/about-museums/museum-facts)



## IMLS Office of Museum Services Funding

### Request

- We urge Congress to provide \$38.6 million in Fiscal Year 2018 funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services.
- We urge members of Congress to sign letters to the Appropriations subcommittees in the Senate and House—circulated by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and by Reps. Paul Tonko (D-NY), Leonard Lance (R-NJ), Louise Slaughter (D-NY), and David McKinley (R-WV)—in support of the IMLS Office of Museum Services.

### Introduction

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (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—by awarding grants that help them educate students, preserve and digitize collections, and connect with their communities. The IMLS strategic plan aims to help museums place the learner at the center of the museum experience, promote museums as strong community anchors, support museum stewardship of their collections, advise the president and Congress on how to sustain and increase public access to information and ideas, and to be a model independent federal agency maximizing value for the American public.

### Reauthorization

IMLS has been regularly reauthorized by Congress with broad support, most recently in 2010 with a funding authorization of \$38.6 million for the Office of Museum Services. In September 2016, Sens. Jack Reed (D-RI), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced S. 3391, legislation that would reauthorize IMLS for six years and which contains many provisions supported by the museum field. At press time, it had not yet been reintroduced in 2017.

### Status

- Funding for the Office of Museum Services, within the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is provided by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies.
- The House of Representatives proposed \$31.3 million for OMS in FY 2017, while the Senate proposed \$31.9 million. It is currently level funded by a continuing resolution through April 28, 2017.

### IMLS Office of Museum Services Funding History

	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13 CR*	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
<b>Appropriation</b> <i>(in millions)</i>	\$35.2	\$31.6	\$30.9	\$30.9	\$30.1	\$30.1	\$31.3	TBD

\*In FY 2013, across-the-board sequestration cuts reduced OMS’ effective funding to \$29.2 million.



## 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.
- In 2016, the Office of Museum Services awarded 271 grants totaling \$31.3 million to museums and related organizations in 46 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.
- By leveraging significant private, state, and local funding, OMS grants amplify a small federal investment for maximum impact in the community.
- The most recent reauthorization—unanimously passed by Congress—called for an increase in federal support, both to strengthen existing national programs at IMLS and to support museums directly at the state level.
- There is high demand for funding from the IMLS Office of Museum Services. It received 755 applications requesting \$115.5 million in 2016, but current funding has allowed the agency to fund only a small fraction of the highly rated grant applications it receives.
- 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.
- To learn more about grants awarded to museums in your state or district, visit: [imls.gov/grants/awarded-grants](https://imls.gov/grants/awarded-grants)

## Additional Information About Museums

- Museums support jobs and the economy. They spend \$21 billion annually, employ more than 400,000 Americans, and spur tourism from around the world.
- Museums are an essential part of the nation's educational infrastructure, spending more than \$2 billion a year on education and promoting lifelong learning.
- Museums tailor educational programs and materials 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.
- Museums receive more than 55 million visits each year from student groups.
- Children who visited a museum during kindergarten had higher achievement scores in reading, mathematics, and science in third grade than children who did not. This benefit is also seen in the subgroup of children who are most at risk for deficits and delays in achievement.
- Museums are beloved community anchors, attracting over a million volunteer hours every week.
- Museums are part of a robust arts and cultural production sector, which the US Bureau of Economic Analysis has measured at \$704 billion annually—4.2 percent of the American economy.
- Many museums have developed innovative programs to meet the growing needs of their individual communities. For example, some museums have programs designed specifically for children with special needs and their families, some work with medical schools to teach observation and description skills, and some are helping veterans heal from their wounds, both physical and psychological.

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We write to thank the Subcommittee for its previous support, and to urge you to support robust funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Office of Museum Services (OMS) in the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

Despite its small size, the IMLS Office of Museum Services is the largest dedicated source of investment in our nation's museums, which employ over 400,000 Americans and directly contribute \$21 billion to the U.S. economy each year. OMS funding multiplies this economic impact by helping museums reach more visitors and spur community development. In addition to their economic benefits, OMS grants also support museums' advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning, and conservation and preservation. These successes notwithstanding, only a small fraction of the nation's museums are currently being reached and many highly rated grant applications go unfunded.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school and community resources are strained, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, they welcome more than 55 million schoolchildren, bring art, science and cultural heritage into communities, and partner with other nonprofits to meet the specific needs of their local population. In addition, our nation's museums are opening their doors to more people than ever with over 850 million visits each year – with many of these visitors offered free or reduced admission. Museums are also part of a robust nonprofit community working to address a wide range of our nation's greatest challenges, from conducting medical research to helping veterans heal physically and psychologically, and from creating energy efficient public buildings to collecting food for needy families.

When the Institute of Museum and Library Services was last reauthorized, the legislation cleared both the House and Senate unanimously. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants leverage significant private resources while supporting museums in every state.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY 2018 to support the important work museums are doing in our districts. This vital funding will aid museums of all types and enable them to continue bolstering the economy, 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.

Paul Tonko  
U.S. Representative

Leonard Lance  
U.S. Representative

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
U.S. Representative

Louise M. Slaughter  
U.S. Representative

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Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

We write to thank the Subcommittee for its previous support, and to urge you to support robust funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Office of Museum Services (OMS) in the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

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Kirsten Gillibrand  
U.S. Senator

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## IMLS Reauthorization

### Request

- We urge Congress to enact legislation reauthorizing the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), similar to S. 3391 introduced during the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### Introduction

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (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 and digitize collections, and connect with their communities.

### Reauthorization

IMLS has been regularly reauthorized by Congress with broad support, most recently in 2010 with a funding authorization of \$38.6 million for the Office of Museum Services. In September 2016, Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced S. 3391, The Museum and Library Services Act of 2016. Sixty-three national, regional, and state museum associations wrote in support of the legislation.

The Museum and Library Services Act of 2016 contained a number of provisions specifically supported by the museum field. It proposed to:

- Formally authorize a 21st Century Museum Professional Program, to improve the recruitment, preparation, and professional development of museum professionals, especially those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.
- Maintain the agency’s existing authority to support museum activities at both the state and regional level, while adding regional museum collaboration to its “Purpose” section, akin to how state museum collaboration is currently referenced.
- Add a new emphasis on ensuring that every American has access to high-quality museum experiences.
- Maintain and augment the agency’s research, data collection, and analysis about museums and libraries.
- Establish new reporting to ensure that the agency sufficiently collaborates with museum and library organizations at the national, regional, and state level on its research and data collection activities.
- Include additional federal entities on the list of potential interagency partnerships, allowing IMLS to expand its collaborative efforts with other agencies and magnify support for museums and libraries.
- Update the agency’s governance, so that it operates more closely in alignment with other federal cultural agencies.
- Reauthorize the agency for six years.



## 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.
- By leveraging significant private, state, and local funding, OMS grants amplify a small federal investment in museums for maximum impact in the community.
- In addition to awarding grants that benefit individual museums and communities, IMLS also awards National Leadership Grants for Museums, which support projects with the potential to advance the profession so that museums can improve services for the American public.
- 37 percent of museums are free at all times. Through IMLS' Museums for All initiative, many museums also offer free or greatly reduced admission to anyone with an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card.
- The current authorization level of \$38.6 million, first enacted in 2004, would be over \$50 million if adjusted just for inflation. This does not even consider increases in museum attendance.
- There is high demand for funding from the IMLS Office of Museum Services. It received 755 applications requesting \$115.5 million in 2016, but current funding has allowed the agency to fund only a small fraction of the highly rated grant applications it receives. This does not take into account the fact that many museums do not even apply for grants due to the unlikelihood of being funded.
- To learn more about grants awarded to museums in your state or district, visit: [imls.gov/grants/awarded-grants](https://www.imls.gov/grants/awarded-grants)

## Additional Information About Museums

- Museums support jobs and the economy. They spend \$21 billion annually, employ more than 400,000 Americans and spur tourism from around the world.
- Museums are an essential part of the nation's educational infrastructure, tailoring educational programs and materials to state and local curricula, spending more than \$2 billion a year on education, and promoting lifelong learning.
- Children who visited a museum during kindergarten had higher achievement scores in reading, mathematics and science in third grade than children who did not. This benefit is also seen in the subgroup of children who are most at risk for deficits and delays in achievement.
- Museums are beloved community anchors, attracting over a million volunteer hours every week.
- Museums are part of a robust arts and cultural production sector, which the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis has measured at \$704 billion annually—4.2 percent of the nation's economy.
- Many museums have developed innovative programs to meet the growing needs of their individual communities. For example, many have programs designed specifically for children with special needs and their families, some work with medical schools to teach observation and description skills, and some are helping veterans heal from their wounds—both physical and psychological.

## Status

S. 3391 expired at the end of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. At press time, it had not yet been reintroduced in 2017.



## Charitable Giving

### Request

- Along with the broader charitable community—including Independent Sector and the Charitable Giving Coalition—we oppose proposals that would hurt museums and other charities by limiting the scope or value of the tax deduction for charitable donations.
- We oppose proposals that would restrict the deductibility of gifts of property, which are critical to museums' ability to develop their collections.
- We urge Congress to ensure any comprehensive tax reform legislation encourages more giving by more Americans.
- We support allowing artists to deduct the fair market value of donated works (as specified in the Artist-Museum Partnership Act).

### Introduction

Charitable giving is the lifeblood of museums of all sizes and disciplines; it accounts for more than one-third of their operating funds. With spending constraints at all levels of government, reduced donations of either property or funds could significantly damage many museum budgets.

Nonprofit museums are an essential part of the broader community of nonprofit organizations, working alongside hospitals, educational institutions, food assistance and housing programs, foundations, and other charities. In recognition of their benefit to the public good, contributions made to 501(c)(3) nonprofits have been tax-deductible for 100 years. This tax structure has helped establish a tradition of charitable giving unmatched in the world.

### Deductibility of Charitable Gifts

- Limiting the charitable deduction would hurt museums and other charities by reducing the incentive to give for the most generous taxpayers. A 2016 study by the American Enterprise Institute found that President Trump's proposed overall limit on itemized deductions would cause giving to decline by more than \$17 billion in the first year alone.
- Studies indicate that many factors influence giving—incentives such as tax deductions among them. While Americans do not make charitable gifts only for tax reasons, tax incentives encourage and enable greater generosity.
- A 2016 study by Independent Sector found that 88 percent of voters believe we should make it easier for people to deduct charitable contributions from their taxes. A public opinion poll commissioned by the United Way found that most Americans (79 percent) believe reducing or eliminating the charitable tax deduction would have a negative impact on charities and the people they serve.



- Weakening charitable giving incentives will have lasting, harmful consequences for nonprofit services and U.S. jobs. With essential support from charitable donations, the nonprofit sector boosts local economies, employing roughly 10 percent of America's workforce.
- Deductions for gifts of property worth over \$5,000 require an independent appraisal to ensure proper valuation. The House Ways and Means Committee in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress looked extensively at gifts of art and did not propose any changes to the existing deduction or the model enforcement system administered by the IRS.

**STATUS:** President Trump has proposed setting a cap on all itemized deductions at \$100,000 for individuals and \$200,000 for joint filers. For taxpayers whose other deductions (home mortgage interest or state and local taxes, for example) exceed these thresholds, this proposal would effectively eliminate the charitable deduction. Other proposals would also impact charitable giving: then-President Obama proposed a 28% limit on the value of all itemized deductions, while a tax reform draft circulated by former Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp would only have allowed deductions for charitable contributions exceeding 2 percent of adjusted gross income. All of these proposals would have the effect of taxing some portion of donated income, thus reducing charitable giving.

### **Artist-Museum Partnership Act**

- Artists, writers, scholars, choreographers, and composers—many of whom earn very little—have almost no financial incentive to donate their works, because they cannot claim a tax deduction for the works' fair market value. Rather, they can deduct only the value of materials like paper, ink, paint, and canvas. As a result, works of great significance are sold into private hands and may never come into the public domain.
- Small and mid-sized museums—which often do not have the same financial resources and support as larger institutions—especially rely upon donations from creators to build and enhance their collections.
- Collectors have the right to deduct the fair market value of gifts that they donate. It is only fair that the creators of those works should have the same right when they donate their own works.
- For many years, creators were allowed to take a fair market value deduction for donated works. When Congress changed the law in 1969, the effect was immediate and drastic: donations of self-created works to some museums declined by more than 90 percent.

**STATUS:** The Senate has passed artist deduction legislation five times in previous years, but the bills have not been reviewed by the House of Representatives. In the 114th Congress, the Artist-Museum Partnership Act was introduced in the House (H.R. 4948) by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) and Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL), and in the Senate (S. 931) by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT). At press time, it had not yet been reintroduced in the 115th Congress. The bill provides a deduction equal to appraised fair market value for charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor, provided that the recipient organization uses the work in a manner related to its charitable mission.



## Issues at a Glance

Museums play a key role in education, job creation, tourism, economic development, historic preservation, environmental conservation, and advancing scientific literacy and global competitiveness. 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, and zoos—has worked together to develop this federal policy agenda.

### **Institute of Museum and Library Services’ Office of Museum Services Funding**

The Institute of Museum and Library 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 and digitizing collections, and engaging communities. 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. IMLS has been regularly reauthorized by Congress with broad support, most recently in 2010 with a funding authorization of \$38.6 million for the Office of Museum Services. The FY 2016 appropriations provided \$230 million to IMLS, of which just \$31.3 million went to the Office of Museum Services. It is currently level funded by a continuing resolution through April 28, 2017.

- We support funding of \$38.6 million in FY 2018 for the IMLS Office of Museum Services and urge members of Congress to sign the Gillibrand and Tonko/Lance/Slaughter/McKinley letters in support of robust funding for OMS.

### **Institute of Museum and Library Services Reauthorization**

IMLS has been regularly reauthorized by Congress with broad support. In September 2016, Senators Reed (D-RI), Cochran (R-MS), Gillibrand (D-NY), and Collins (R-ME) introduced S. 3391, The Museum and Library Services Act of 2016. The legislation contained a number of provisions specifically supported by the museum field: bolstering the agency’s research and data collection, maintaining an emphasis on state and regional collaboration, expanding interagency partnerships, and highlighting the importance of access to high-quality museum services for every American. It also authorized a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum Professional Program, for the training of museum professionals, especially those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.

- We urge Congress to enact legislation reauthorizing the Institute of Museum and Library Services, similar to S. 3391, introduced during the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### **Charitable Giving**

Museums depend on charitable gifts for more than one-third of their operating funds. We support efforts to extend and expand incentives for charitable giving. Limitations on these incentives could have a chilling effect on the ability of museums to attract donations needed to serve their communities and protect their collections.



- We oppose proposals that would limit the scope or value of the tax deduction for charitable donations, as well as any proposal to restrict the deductibility of gifts of property, which are critical to a museum's ability to develop its collections. We support allowing artists to deduct the fair market value of donated works, as specified in the Artist-Museum Partnership Act. Any comprehensive tax reform legislation should encourage more charitable giving by more Americans.

## **Economy and Jobs**

Each year, museums directly contribute \$21 billion to the national economy, employ more than 400,000 Americans, and bolster a large tourism industry in local communities. Museums and other cultural organizations return over five times more in tax revenue than they receive in government funding. Unfortunately, in 2009, Congress excluded zoos and aquariums from competing for any funds made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and only narrowly avoided excluding all museums and other cultural institutions as well. In 2013, the federal government shutdown forced federally operated museums to close their doors for 16 days. These actions by Congress ignore the economic impact of museums in communities nationwide.

- We urge Congress to amend the Anti-Deficiency Act to allow for the continuity of public access to our nation's public lands and federally operated museums in the event of a funding gap.
- We oppose any effort to restrict the ability of zoos, aquariums or any other type of museum to compete for federal funding.
- We urge Congress to enact the CREATE Act (S. 2648 in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress) to support artists and entrepreneurs while bolstering the creative economy.

## **Elementary and Secondary Education**

Museums are key education providers, educating students, providing professional development to teachers, and helping teach the local curriculum. The recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (the "Every Student Succeeds Act") provides states with significantly more flexibility in setting and meeting performance targets, which could make it easier for schools to work with museums.

- We support efforts to promote school-museum partnerships (including museum schools), require greater collaboration between the US Department of Education and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, support funding for federal education programs in which museums participate, and fully implement the "well-rounded education" provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act, which include the many subject areas in which museums help teach the curriculum.

## **National Endowment for the Humanities**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) provides direct grants to museums, universities, archives, and libraries in support of research, education, and preservation. Due to high demand and extremely limited funding, NEH was only able to fund 16 percent of the proposals it received in 2016. It also provides annual grants to state humanities councils in every state and U.S. territory. NEH received \$147.9



million in FY 2016 appropriations and is currently level funded by a continuing resolution through April 28, 2017.

- We urge Congress to provide at least \$155 million for NEH in FY 2018.

## **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 urban centers. It provides grants to all types of arts organizations—including museums—to exhibit, preserve, and interpret visual materials. The agency's federal role is uniquely valuable: no other funder—public or private—funds the arts in every state and the US territories. NEA also distributes roughly forty percent of its grant funds to state arts agencies for re-granting. NEA received \$147.9 million in FY 2016 appropriations and is currently level funded by a continuing resolution through April 28, 2017.

- We urge Congress to provide at least \$155 million for NEA in FY 2018.

## **STEM Education**

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' Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) program. AISL supports research, development, infrastructure, and capacity building for STEM learning outside formal school settings. Programs at other science-related agencies—including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and National Institutes of Health (NIH)—are also critical to helping museums attract, inspire, and educate the current and future STEM workforce. The FY 2016 appropriations legislation provided \$62.5 million for AISL, and continued funding for the NOAA and NIH programs in which museums participate, but was silent on NASA. These programs are all currently level funded by a continuing resolution through April 28, 2017.

- We urge Congress to fully restore funding for the AISL program to \$65 million—the FY 2010 funding level—and to continue to support informal STEM programs at NASA, NOAA, and NIH.

## **Historic Preservation**

In addition to preserving and protecting more than 1 billion objects, many museums are historic themselves, and their collections are critical to telling our collective national story. Historic sites and historic preservation efforts not only protect our national heritage, they are also economic engines and job creators in the thousands of communities they serve. Minimal government funding helps to leverage significant private support, often through the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit. The FY 2016 appropriations provided \$46.9 million to State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), \$10 million to Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), and \$500,000 for grants to underserved communities—all through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). It also provided an additional \$8 million from the HPF to document, interpret, and preserve the stories and sites associated with the Civil Rights movement. These programs are all currently level funded by a



continuing resolution through April 28, 2017. While Save America's Treasures (SAT) and Preserve America have not been funded in recent years, the House of Representatives did propose restoring funding of \$5 million for SAT in its FY 2017 legislation.

- We urge Congress to support FY 2018 funding of at least \$55 million for SHPOs, \$15 million for THPOs, \$25 million for civil rights sites, to restore funding of \$30 million for Save America's Treasures and \$4.6 million for Preserve America, and to continue to support the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

### **Public Diplomacy and the Protection of Cultural Property**

As welcoming and trusted community anchors, museums are perfectly positioned to help build cross-cultural relationships, which are enhanced by collections that span the world across centuries. In recent years, irreplaceable cultural property has been lost in places like Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Mali, and Afghanistan. Protecting this property is a vital part of United States diplomacy, showing the respect of the United States for other cultures and the common heritage of humanity. American museums and the conservation professionals who work with them are some of the world's best at protecting and caring for cultural property.

- We urge Congress to pursue measures that protect cultural property around the world, and to consider museums and conservation professionals as part of the solution to these issues.

### **The Multinational Species Conservation Funds and Wildlife Conservation**

In addition to educating the public about wildlife, accredited zoos and aquariums also protect endangered species in their collections and across their natural habitat. The Multinational Species Conservation Funds (MSCF) are targeted investments in global priority species, such as African and Asian elephants, tigers, rhinoceros, great apes, and sea turtles. The MSCF program has helped to sustain wildlife populations by controlling poaching, reducing human-wildlife conflict, and protecting essential habitat globally. Despite its modest funding level, this program has a significant impact because it consistently leverages three or four times its federal investment in matching funds from corporations, conservation groups, and national governments.

- We urge Congress to support funding for the Multinational Species Conservation Funds and to pass H.R. 227, which would reauthorize the MSCF programs through FY 2022.
- The museum community, including botanical gardens, strongly supports efforts to protect native wildlife, including declining pollinator populations.



## About The Alliance

The American Alliance of Museums was established in 1906, and is the one organization that supports all museums, including:

- Anthropology Museums
- Aquariums
- Arboretums/Botanic Gardens
- Art Museums
- Children's Museums
- Culturally Specific Museums
- Halls of Fame
- Historic Houses
- Historic Sites
- Historical Societies
- History Museums
- Military/Battlefield Museums
- Natural History Museums
- Nature Centers
- Planetariums
- Presidential Libraries
- Science/Technology Centers
- Transportation Museums
- Visitor Centers
- Zoos

According to recent data from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, there is an average of approximately 75 museums in each congressional district.

We are proud to work on behalf of these institutions by developing standards and best practices and by championing the cause of museums. The Alliance serves as the national voice for museums, highlighting their roles as key providers of education, economic engines, and community anchors.

The Alliance also represents the directors, curators, registrars, educators, exhibit designers, public relations officers, development officers, security managers, trustees, students, and volunteers who work in museums.

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