About the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

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

What do we do?
We make grants, convene groups, conduct research, and publish in order to build the capacity of museums and libraries to serve the public.

Enacted FY2015 budget
$227,860,000
LSTA Grants to States

Library Services and Technology Act
Grants to States Program

- Largest IMLS grant program
- Can support re-grant programs at state level
- To learn more:
  www.imls.gov/programs/
  state_profiles_map.aspx

http://www.imls.gov/programs/state_profile_Florida.aspx
Library Eligibility

- Varies according to program

  A library or a parent organization, such as a school district, a municipality, a state agency, or an academic institution, that is responsible for the administration of a library. Eligible libraries include public libraries, elementary and secondary school libraries, college and university libraries, research libraries and archives that are not an integral part of an institution of higher education and that make publicly available library services and materials that are suitable for scholarly research and not otherwise available, and private or special libraries that have been deemed eligible to participate in this program by the state in which the library is located.
# Library Grant Programs

## Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program
- **Support recruitment and education of library students, continuing education for those already in the profession, and development of new programs and curricula**

## National Leadership Grants for Libraries
- **Drive excellence in library practice to deliver STEM education, support innovative use of library spaces, and advance a national digital platform**
- **Support library and library organization projects that improve professional practice beyond the grantee institution**

## Project Categories
- **MA-level Programs**
- **PhD-level Programs**
- **Research & Early Career**
- **Continuing Education**
- **Building Institutional Capacity**
- **National Digital Platform**
- **Learning spaces**

## Deadline(s)
- **September 15, 2014**
- **October 13, 2014**
- **February 2, 2015**

## Amount
- **$50,000-$500,000**
- **$50,000-$2,000,000**
- **$50,000-$2,000,000**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goals</th>
<th>Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries</th>
<th>Native American Library Services: Basic Grants with Education/Assessment Option</th>
<th>Native American Library Services: Enhancement Grants</th>
<th>Native Hawaiian Library Services</th>
<th>LSTA Competitive Grants for the Pacific Region and US Virgin Islands</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Goals</td>
<td>Provide an opportunity to expand and test the boundaries of services and practices for the library and archival professions</td>
<td>To help buy library materials, fund salaries and training, and provide Internet connectivity and computers</td>
<td>Expand services for learning, access to information, and partnerships</td>
<td>Enhance existing or implement new library services in organizations that serve Native Hawaiians</td>
<td>Support library services in the U.S. Pacific Territories, Freely Associated States, and U.S. Virgin Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline</td>
<td>February 2, 2015</td>
<td>March 2, 2015</td>
<td>April 1, 2015</td>
<td>April 1, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>$10,000-$25,000</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Up to $150,000</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Harvard University - Cambridge, MA
Year: 2014
Amount: $50,000
Grant: National Leadership Grants for Libraries

The Milman Parry Collection of Oral Literature (MPCOL), at Harvard University, will adapt optical scanning methods for use on aluminum discs, a historically significant sound recording medium used mainly in the late 1920s. This will address significant challenges of the aluminum transcription disc for both conservation and digitization, as the physical characteristics of the medium previously made conventional methods of digital reformatting impractical. The project will use optical scanning methods that were developed through the IRENE project, an IMLS funded grant to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL).
Indiana University will support twelve students, including four doctoral students, four Master’s students, and four undergraduates, in the area of scholarly communication and the role of libraries. Because of current issues of open access, electronic publishing, and other digital initiatives, librarians have a great chance of influencing the evolution of scholarly communication. The project will recruit a diverse group of students and provide them with training and experience in scholarly communication. It will create opportunities for the development of new practices and tools; enhance core Masters of Library Science (MLS) curricula; spur the creation of scholarly literature by students; develop students’ leadership skills; and facilitate cooperation among librarians, library and information science faculty, and students.
Museum Eligibility

- You must be either a unit of State or local government or be a private nonprofit organization that has tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code;
- You must be located in one of the 50 States of the United States of America, its territories, or a freely associated state;
- For some programs: An institution of higher education, including public and nonprofit universities, and organizations that engage in activities designed to advance the well-being of museums and the museum profession.
# Museum Grant Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Goals</th>
<th>Museums for America</th>
<th>National Leadership Grants for Museums</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Support activities that strengthen museums as active resources for lifelong learning, vital components of livable communities, and good stewards of the nation’s collections</td>
<td>Support projects that address challenges or needs of the museum field, have broad impact, and demonstrate innovation and collaboration</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Project Categories | • Learning Experiences  
• Community Anchors  
• Collections Stewardship | • Learning Experiences  
• Community Anchors  
• Collections Stewardship |
| Deadline | December 1, 2015 | December 1, 2015 |
| Amount | $5,000–$25,000  
$25,001–$150,000 | $50,000–$500,000 |
| Cost Share | None allowed  
1:1 required | 1:1 required |
# Museum Grant Programs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program Goals</th>
<th>Museum Grants for African American History and Culture</th>
<th>Native American / Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program</th>
<th>Sparks! Ignition Grants for Museums</th>
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<td>Strengthen African American museums by improving care of collections, developing professional management, or providing internship and fellowship opportunities</td>
<td>Enhance museum services to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge for federally recognized tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations</td>
<td>Provide opportunities to expand and test the boundaries of museum services and practices</td>
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<th>Deadline</th>
<th>December 1, 2015</th>
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<td>Cost Share</td>
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Montana State University

Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University - Bozeman, MT
Year: 2014
Amount: $71,972
Grant: Museums for America - Learning Experiences

The Museum of the Rockies at Montana State University will create a new field trip program for schoolchildren in kindergarten through twelfth grade to keep museum education and informal learning experiences at the forefront of standards-based education for Montana's schools. The project will increase the museum's capacity to reach more students each year, create guides for teachers and students, and increase the number of Montana State University student-led field trip programs. Results of this research will be shared with other informal STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education programs statewide to increase the quality and relevance of all informal education experiences available to Montana schoolchildren.
The New School - New York, NY
Year: 2014
Amount: $484,769
Grant: National Leadership Grants/Museums - Community Anchors

The New School will use the grant to establish an ongoing national training program to explore best practices for museums to use in opening public dialogue on civic issues. The program will cultivate 150 new museum trainees who will collaboratively design, implement, and evaluate an exhibit to travel nationally, web platform, and public dialogue strategies related to the history of a contested issue of shared concern, such as immigration or mass incarceration. The school aims to use this program as a test run for new strategies in the use of museums as effective catalysts for civic engagement. A goal and byproduct of the project is the creation of a national network of students, faculty, and museum staff that are experienced and interested in using museums for the purpose of civic participation.
Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History will purchase new collections storage cabinets to rehouse three components of its invertebrate zoology collection. Much of this material is associated with the research of Yale's first professor of zoology, Addison E. Verrill, and it includes previously unrecognized type specimens. As a result of this grant, the collection will be systematically organized, catalogued, and properly housed in state-of-the-art storage facilities with greater accessibility for the public.
Preparing to Apply

- Select a grant program.
- Check eligibility requirements.
- Read the application guidelines.
- Participate in a free IMLS webinar.
- Check your registrations: DUNS, SAM.gov, and Grants.gov.
- Talk with a program staff member.
What Reviewers Want to See

- Project goals align with those of the grant program.
- Applicant follows instructions.
- Project addresses a documented key need or challenge.
- Application reflects a thorough understanding of current practice and knowledge about the subject matter.
What Reviewers Want to See

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

- Project does not match the program goals.
- Underdeveloped evaluation component
- Inconsistency among application components
- Unsupported generalizations, claims
- Copy-and-paste redundancies
- Crucial information missing or incomplete
- Unsupported costs in the budget
How to Get There

- Start planning early to avoid deadline pressure.
- Recheck grant guidelines and project categories as you go along.
- Remember the people you serve and why this work is important.
- Do your background research.
- Be sure your application is complete and includes all required elements.
- Ask a colleague to review your application before you submit it.
- Submit your application through Grants.gov **early** so you have time to correct any errors.
Special Resources from IMLS

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

**Podcasts** about projects, awards, and initiatives

**Blogs** by grantees, constituents, and staff
Robert Horton
Associate Deputy Director for Library Services
rhorton@imls.gov
202.653.4660

Christopher Reich
Senior Advisor
Office of Museum Services
creich@imls.gov
202.653.4685
Thank you and good luck!