

FY 2014 **SENATE** Appropriations letter in support of the IMLS Office of Museum Services

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran,

We are writing to thank you for your support for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and to urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for OMS in the FY 2014 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. The Office of Museum Services is currently authorized to receive \$38.6 million annually.

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 a wide range of our nation's greatest challenges, from conducting medical research to hosting supervised visits for the family court system, and from creating energy efficient public buildings to collecting food for needy 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. Many museums also rely heavily on philanthropic donations to keep admission rates low and provide new exhibitions for their communities.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary federal agency that serves the nation's more than 17,500 museums, and its Office of Museum Services' funding has decreased in recent 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 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 robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY14 to support the important work museums are doing in our communities. 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,

Kirsten Gillibrand  
U.S. Senator

Senators that signed the FY 2013 IMLS Office of Museum Services Appropriations Letter  
Total FY 2013 Signatories: 18

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand	D-NY
Sen. Tim Johnson	D-SD
Sen. Daniel Akaka	D-HI
Sen. Frank Lautenberg	D-NJ
Sen. Max Baucus	D-MT
Sen. Patrick Leahy	D-VT
Sen. Jeff Bingaman	D-NM
Sen. Barbara Mikulski	D-MD
Sen. Richard Blumenthal	D-CT
Sen. Jack Reed	D-RI
Sen. Benjamin Cardin	D-MD
Sen. Bernie Sanders	D-VT
Sen. Richard Durbin	D-IL
Sen. Charles Schumer	D-NY
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen	D-NH
Sen. Tom Udall	D-NM
Sen. Debbie Stabenow	D-MI
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse	D-RI

FY 2014 **HOUSE** Appropriations letter in support of the IMLS Office of Museum Services

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We are writing to thank you for your previous support for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and to urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for OMS in the FY 2014 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. The Office of Museum Services is currently authorized to receive \$38.6 million annually.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school resources are strained and many families are struggling to make ends meet, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, museums provide more than 18 million instructional hours to schoolchildren, bring art and cultural heritage into local communities, and partner with other nonprofits to encourage national service and volunteerism. 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 hosting supervised visits for the family court system, and from creating energy efficient public buildings to collecting food for needy 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 new hiring. In addition, 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. Funding for OMS is especially critical at this time as many museums rely heavily on philanthropic donations that have been difficult to secure in the current economic environment.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary federal agency that serves the nation's more than 17,500 museums, and funding for its Office of Museum Services has decreased in recent 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 was unanimously reauthorized by both the House and Senate. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants support museums in every state. The re-authorization contained several provisions to further support museums, particularly at the state level, but many of the recently authorized activities cannot be accomplished without sustained funding.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY14 to support the important work museums are doing in our communities. This vital funding will aid museums of all types 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,

Paul Tonko  
U.S. Representative

Leonard Lance  
U.S. Representative

Louise Slaughter  
U.S. Representative

Michael Grimm  
U.S. Representative

Representatives who signed the FY 2013 IMLS Office of Museum Services Appropriations Letter  
Total FY 2013 Signatories: 86

Rep. Paul Tonko	D-NY	Rep. John Dingell	D-MI
Rep. Leonard Lance	R-NJ	Rep. John Conyers	D-MI
Rep. Louise Slaughter	D-NY	Rep. Keith Ellison	D-MN
Rep. Raul Grijalva	D-AR	Rep. Tim Walz	D-MN
Rep. Mike Ross	D-AR	Rep. Russ Carnahan	D-MO
Rep. Jackie Speier	D-CA	Rep. William Lacy Clay	D-MO
Rep. Doris Matsui	D-CA	Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho	D-MP
Rep. Pete Stark	D-CA	Rep. Brad Miller	D-NC
Rep. Xavier Becerra	D-CA	Rep. David Cicilline	D-NJ
Rep. Laura Richardson	D-CA	Rep. Rush Holt	D-NJ
Rep. Zoe Lofgren	D-CA	Rep. Steve Rothman	D-NJ
Rep. Lynn Woolsey	D-CA	Rep. Bill Pascrell	D-NJ
Rep. Bob Filner	D-CA	Rep. Ben Ray Lujan	D-NM
Rep. Diana DeGette	D-CO	Rep. Martin Heinrich	D-NM
Rep. Joe Courtney	D-CT	Rep. Shelley Berkley	D-NV
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton	D-DC	Rep. Yvette Clarke	D-NY
Rep. Kathy Castor	D-FL	Rep. Michael Grimm	R-NY
Rep. Frederica Wilson	D-FL	Rep. Eliot Engel	D-NY
Rep. Ted Deutch	D-FL	Rep. Edolphus Towns	D-NY
Rep. Alcee Hastings	D-FL	Rep. Carolyn Maloney	D-NY
Rep. David Scott	D-GA	Rep. Jerrold Nadler	D-NY
Rep. John Lewis	D-GA	Rep. Charles Rangel	D-NY
Rep. Hank Johnson	D-GA	Rep. Brian Higgins	D-NY
Rep. Madeleine Bordallo	D-GU	Rep. Dennis Kucinich	D-OH
Rep. Colleen Hanabusa	D-HI	Rep. Earl Blumenauer	D-OR
Rep. Mazie Hirono	D-HI	Rep. Suzanne Bonamici	D-OR
Rep. David Loebsack	D-IA	Rep. Robert Brady	D-PA
Rep. Bruce Braley	D-IA	Rep. Jason Altmire	D-PA
Rep. Mike Quigley	D-IL	Rep. Mike Doyle	D-PA
Rep. Danny Davis	D-IL	Rep. Mark Critz	D-PA
Rep. Jan Schakowsky	D-IL	Rep. Pedro Pierluisi	D-PR
Rep. Andre Carson	D-IN	Rep. James Langevin	D-RI
Rep. Cedric Richmond	D-LA	Rep. Steve Cohen	D-TN
Rep. James McGovern	D-MA	Rep. Lloyd Doggett	D-TX
Rep. Michael Capuano	D-MA	Rep. Charles Gonzalez	D-TX
Rep. Niki Tsongas	D-MA	Rep. Silvestre Reyes	D-TX
Rep. John Tierney	D-MA	Rep. Rubén Hinojosa	D-TX
Rep. Chris Van Hollen	D-MD	Rep. Gerry Connelly	D-VA
Rep. Mike Michaud	D-ME	Rep. Bobby Scott	D-VA
Rep. Sander Levin	D-MI	Rep. James Moran	D-VA
Rep. Hansen Clarke	D-MI	Rep. Peter Welch	D-VT
Rep. Gary Peters	D-MI	Rep. Jim McDermott	D-WA
Rep. Dale Kildee	D-MI	Rep. David McKinley	R-WV