

Support Museums in Your District

Invest in Our Cultural and Educational Infrastructure

Support Funding for the Office of Museum Services

****This is a programmatic request and does not require a disclosure letter.****

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to join us in signing the attached bipartisan letter requesting 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 2018 Appropriations bill.

Museums are a vital part of our communities and educational infrastructure. Each year, they spend \$21 billion in their communities, more than \$2 billion of which is invested directly in education programs. They are economic engines – employing 400,000 Americans, spurring local tourism and contributing to the cultural fabric of our nation. They are also beloved by our constituents, drawing over 1 million volunteer hours every week.

Museum attendance continues to increase and educational services are in greater demand than ever. As a result, many are struggling to balance this increasing demand with decreased sources of funding. **For FY18, we recommend robust funding to support the important work that the nation’s museums are doing in our communities.** This funding would support crucial technology upgrades, education programs, collections care, community engagement and data collection. Museums frequently leverage modest federal investments with state, local, and private funding to amplify their impact.

When the Institute of Museum and Library Services – the primary federal agency that supports our nation’s museums – was last reauthorized, the legislation cleared both the House and Senate unanimously. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants serve every state.

For more information or to sign onto this letter, please contact Emily Duhovny with Rep. Tonko at emily.duhovny@mail.house.gov, Bri Hearn with Rep. Lance at bri.hearn@mail.house.gov, Jack Spasiano with Rep. Slaughter at jack.spasiano@mail.house.gov, or Margie Almanza with Rep. McKinley at margie.almanza@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/
Paul Tonko
U.S. Representative

/s/
Leonard Lance
U.S. Representative

/s/
Louise M. Slaughter
U.S. Representative

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

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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