

THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER AMERICA

OFFICE OF MUSEUM SERVICES (OMS)

PROMOTING LIFELONG LEARNING AND PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to:

- Support full funding for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).
- Enact legislation reauthorizing IMLS, similar to S. 3391 in the 114th Congress.

Office of Museum Services Appropriations, FY 2005 to present (in millions of dollars)

Fiscal Year	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16
Appropriation	30.3	31.8	31.8	31.4	35.0	35.0	31.5	30.9	30.9*	30.1	30.1	31.3

*This total was reduced to \$29.2 million through sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act as amended by PL 112-240. Figures above are not adjusted for inflation and do not include program administration. Source: IMLS.

TALKING POINTS

OMS advances the role of museums in lifelong learning and as key partners in education.

- The educational role of museums is at the core of their service to the public. They spend over \$2 billion annually on education programming, roughly three-quarters of which is at the K–12 level.
- Museums receive approximately 55 million visits each year from students in school groups, with art museums alone reaching approximately 40,000 public, private, charter, parochial, magnet, and home schools spanning nearly every congressional district.
- Through its 21st Century Skills initiative, OMS gives learners tools they will need in a modern economy: critical thinking, creativity, numerical literacy, problem solving, innovation, and communication skills.
- Visitors of all ages engage with art, history, science, and the natural world regardless of the size of their communities or their socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds.
- Museums often tailor educational programs in coordination with state and local curriculum standards.

OMS enhances museums' economic impact.

- By helping museums engage their communities and build institutional capacity, OMS amplifies museums' \$21 billion direct economic impact and bolsters their 400,000 jobs nationwide.
- With schools and their local communities increasingly pressed for funding, museums are filling these gaps.

OMS helps museums care for their collections.

- Museums care for more than 1 billion objects. The 2005 *Heritage Health Index*, published by the Institute of Museum & Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities, together with support from foundations, concluded that immediate conservation action is needed to prevent the loss of millions of artifacts. An updated survey due this year is expected to show collections in an equally urgent state of need.

BACKGROUND

Dedicated to sustaining a nation of learners, the Office of Museum Services at the Institute of Museum and Library Services awards grants to museums to enable them to carry out educational programs, reach new audiences, and care for their collections. It supports all types of museums including art, history, science, children's, specialized institutions, and living collections, such as zoos and aquariums. The agency encourages leadership, innovation, and applications of the most current technologies and practices to enhance museum services. It supports museums as core providers of learning, both directly and in conjunction with schools, families, and communities.

IMLS has been regularly reauthorized by Congress with broad support, most recently in 2010 with a funding authorization of \$38.6 million for OMS. In September 2016, Senators Reed (D-RI), Cochran (R-MS), Gillibrand (D-NY), and 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, and Congress had passed a continuing resolution to keep the government funded through April 28, 2017.