INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

Getting Started with IMLS Museum Grants

Office of Museum Services

FY24 Video

August 2023

Introduction

Video Chapters

1. **Chapter 1:** What is IMLS?
2. **Chapter 2:** Is My Institution Eligible for an IMLS Museum Grant?
3. **Chapter 3:** Which Grant Program Should I Apply to?
4. **Chapter 4:** How Do I Apply?
5. **Chapter 5:** What if I Have More Questions?
6. **Chapter 6:** What if I'm Not Ready To Apply This Year?

Using This Video

Watch

Watch this video in its entirety

Review

Review the FY24 Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) at **www.imls.gov/grants**

Refer

Refer to this video as needed

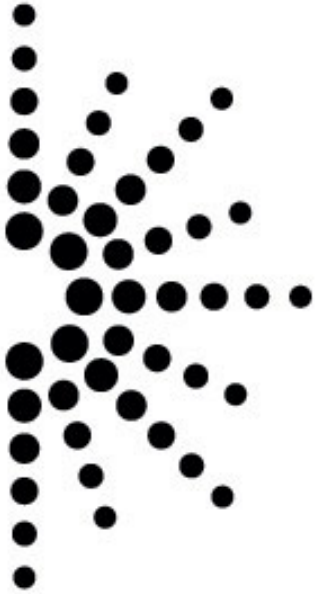
Chapter 1:
What is IMLS?

VISION: A nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage

MISSION: The mission of IMLS is to advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development.

Office of Museum Services

- Awards discretionary grants to a diverse group of institutions in the museum field
- Six grant programs accepting applications
  - August 15th – November 15th, 2023



Chapter 2:
Is My Institution Eligible for an IMLS Museum Grant?

Applicant Requirements

- Requirements for all potential applicants:
  - Your organization must be located in one of the United States' 50 States, its territories, or the District of Columbia
  - Your organization must be a unit of state, local, or Tribal government, or a private nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status

Program Eligibility

- Only museums may apply to
  - Museums for America
  - Museums Empowered
  - Inspire! Grants for Small Museums

Alabama Museum of Natural History

Museum Requirements

- Museums must
  - ✓ Have at least one full time or equivalent professional staff person, either paid or unpaid
  - ✓ Have a physical location that it owns or operates
  - ✓ Have been open to the public for at least 120 days in the year prior to November 15th, 2023
  - ✓ Own or use tangible objects
- Museums may be stand-alone organizations, or they may be part of a larger institution, such as a college, university, Tribe, or a state or local government.

Examples of Museums

- Aquariums
- Arboretums
- Art museums
- Botanical gardens
- Children's/youth museums
- General museums
- Historic houses/sites
- History museums
- Natural history/ anthropology museums
- Nature centers
- Planetariums
- Science/technology centers
- Specialized museums
- Zoological parks

Program Eligibility

- Programs with unique eligibility requirements
  - National Leadership Grants for Museums
  - Museum Grants for African American History and Culture
  - Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program

Allowable Costs

- Salaries, wages, and fringe benefits
- Travel expenses
- Materials and supplies
- Third-party costs
- Publication design and printing
- Program evaluation
- Staff and volunteer training
- Internships and fellowships
- Adaptive and/or assistive technologies and to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities
- Equipment to improve collections storage
- Program-specific overhead costs

Unallowable Costs

- General fundraising costs
- Contributions to endowments
- General operating support
- Acquisition of collections
- Construction or renovation of facilities
- Social activities, receptions, or entertainment

Chapter 3:
Which Grant Program Should I Apply To?

Available Programs

- Museums for America
- Museums Empowered
- Inspire! Grants for Small Museums
- National Leadership Grants for Museums
- Museum Grants for African American History and Culture
- Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program

Museums for America

The Denver Botanic Gardens

Goal: To strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public and is aligned with its strategic plan

Categories: Lifelong Learning, Community Engagement, and Collections Stewardship and Access

Duration: 1 – 3 years

Funding: $5,000 - $250,000 (1:1 Cost Share)

Museums Empowered

Science Museum of Minnesota

Goal: To support projects that use the transformative power of professional development to generate systemic change within a museum

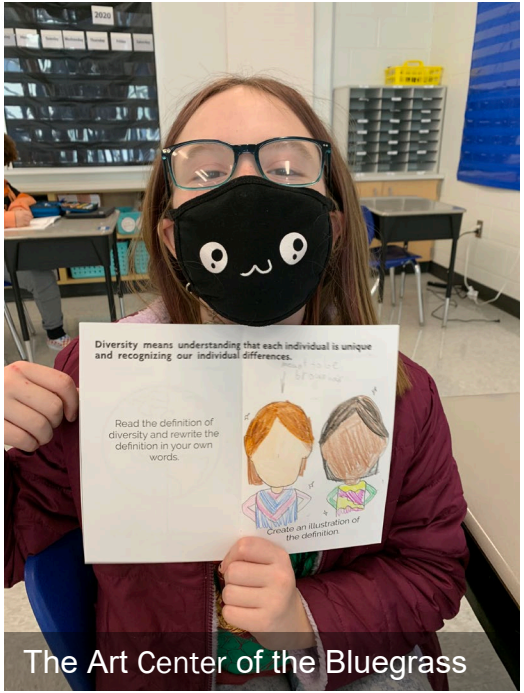
Categories: Digital Technology; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Evaluation; Organizational Management

Duration: 1 – 3 years

Funding: $5,000 - $250,000

Cost Share: 1:1

Inspire! Grants for Small Museums



The Art Center of the Bluegrass

Goal: To support small museums in addressing priorities identified in their strategic plans

Categories: Lifelong Learning, Institutional Capacity, and Collections Stewardship and Access

Duration: 1 – 2 years

	Small Projects	Large Projects
Funding	$5,000-$25,000	$25,001 - $75,000
Cost Share	None	1:1

National Leadership Grants for Museums

The Broad

Goal: To address critical needs of the museum field and to advance museum practice

Project Types: Research, Non-research

Duration: 1 – 3 years

	Non-Research	Research
Funding	$50,000 - $750,000	$50,000 - $750,000
Cost Share	1:1	None

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

Amistad Research Center

Goal: Build the capacity of African American museums and support the growth and development of museum professionals at African American museums and HBCUs

Duration: 1 – 3 years

	Small Projects	Large Projects
Funding	$5,000 - $100,000	$100,001 - $500,000
Cost Share	None	1:1

Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program

Goal: To enhance museum services that sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge among Indian Tribes and Native-Hawaiian serving organizations

Duration: 1 – 3 years

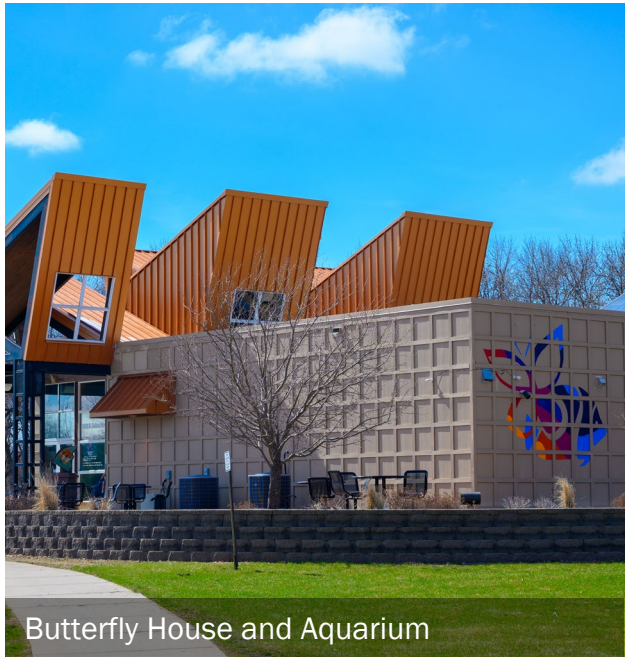
Funding: $5,000 – $250,000

Cost Share: None

Koniag, Inc.

Additional Information

- You can apply to multiple programs
- Full details are available at www.imls.gov/grants



Butterfly House and Aquarium

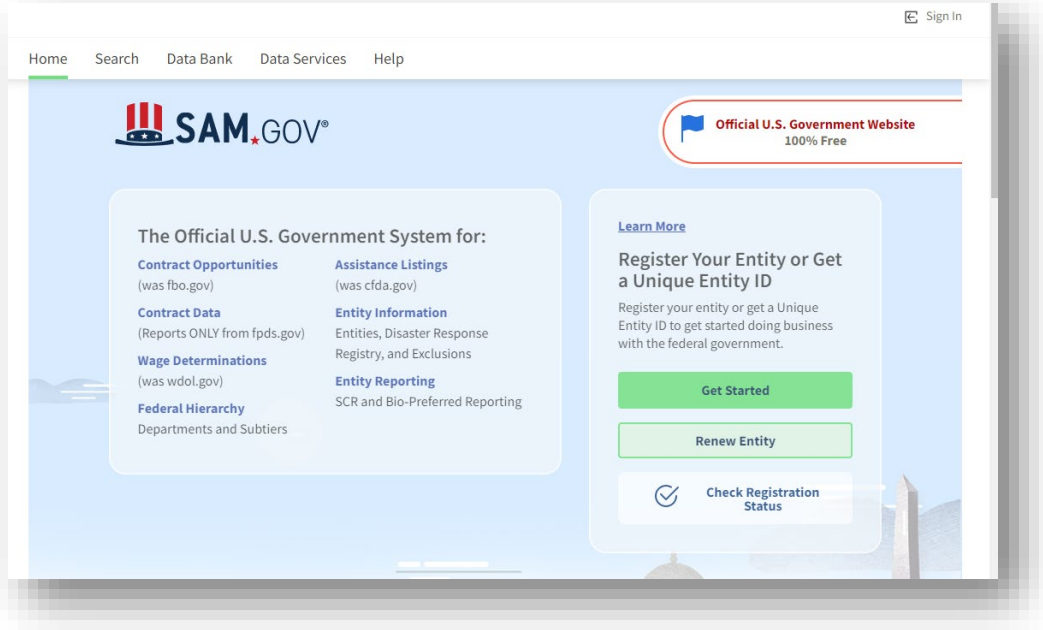
Chapter 4:
How do I Apply?

Key Dates

August 15, 2023	November 15, 2023
• Applications Open	• Applications Close

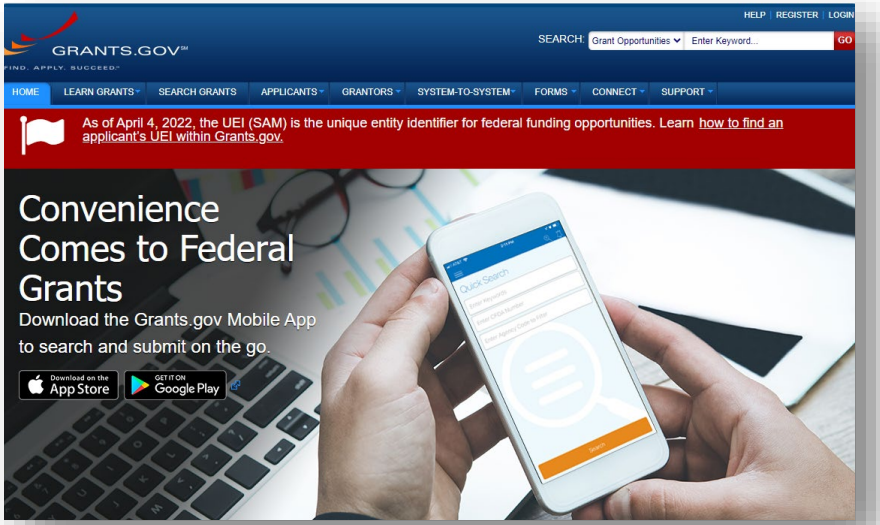
SAM.gov

- Create or update Sam.gov account immediately
- Register with the bank account that should receive grant funds
- For further assistance: call the Federal Service Desk at 866-606-8220, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.



Grants.gov

- Use your Unique Entity Identifier to register with Grants.gov
- Register with the bank account that should receive grant funds
- If you need further assistance, visit www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html, email support@grants.gov, or call 800-518-4726; available 24/7 except on federal holidays;



Chapter 5:
What if I Have More Questions?

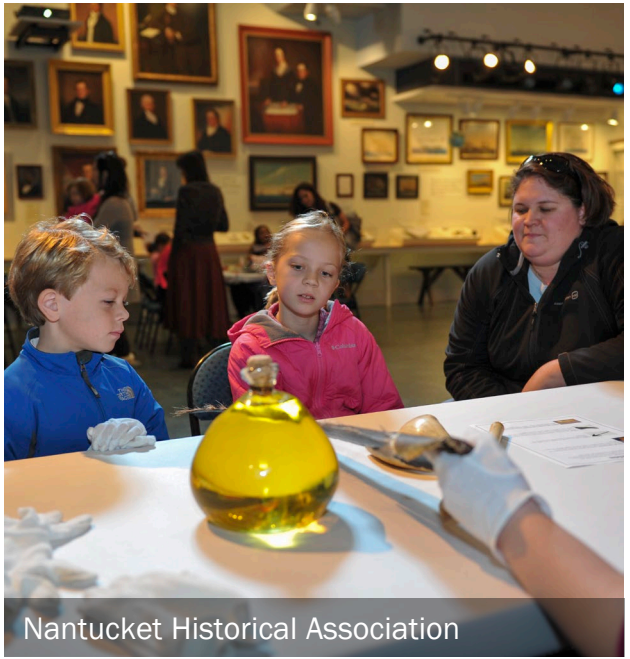
IMLS.gov

- Strategic Plan
- NOFOs for all grant programs
- Project descriptions
- Sample applications
- Contact information of IMLS staff

National Veterans Art Museum

Upcoming Videos

- Program-specific videos coming in September
- Check imls.gov/webinars



One-on-One Counseling

- 30-minute sessions with our program officers
- Request a session through any of the program landing pages at www.imls.gov/grants

Museums Empowered: Professional Development Opportunities for Museum Staff

Deadline: November 15, 2023*
Application: The FY 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity is not yet available. The **FY 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity** (NOFO) (PDF, 664KB) is available for reference..
Grant Amount: $5,000–$250,000
Grant Period: One to three years
Cost Share Requirement: You must provide funds from non-federal sources in an amount that is equal to or greater than the amount of your IMLS request.

Program Overview:
Museums Empowered: Professional Development Opportunities for Museum Staff is a special initiative of the Museums for America grant program. It is designed to support projects that use the transformative power of professional development and training to generate systemic change within museums of all types and sizes.

Museums Empowered has four project categories:

- **Digital Technology**: Provide museum staff with the skills to integrate digital technology into museum operations.
- **Diversity and Inclusion**: Support museum staff in providing inclusive services to people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds and to individuals with disabilities.
- **Evaluation**: Strengthen the ability of museum staff to use evaluation as a tool to shape museum programs and improve outcomes.
- **Organizational Management**: Strengthen and support museum staff as the essential part of a resilient organizational culture.

Program Contacts:
Mark Isaksen
Supervisory Grants Management Specialist
misaksen@imls.gov
202-653-4667
To schedule a time to talk to Mark Isaksen, click here.

Example of an IMLS program landing page

Chapter 6:
What if I'm Not Ready to Apply This Year?

Peer Reviewing

- Peer reviewers are industry professionals who read and score grant applications.
- Gain a better understanding of what makes a proposal successful.
- www.imls.gov/grants/peer-review
- https://www.imls.gov/webinars/webinar-potential-museum-reviewers

Assessment Programs

- Technical assistance programs can help you strengthen operations, care for collections, and plan for the future.
- Participating in an assessment program may be a great place to start.
- Open to small and mid-sized museums.

Museum Assessment Program (MAP)

Goal: To help small and mid-sized museums of all types strengthen operations, plan for the future, and meet professional standards

Categories: Organizational; Collections Stewardship; Education & Interpretation; Community & Audience Engagement; and Board Leadership

Administered by: American Alliance of Museums

Applications Due: February 1, 2024

Visit: https://www.aam-us.org/map

Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP)

Goal: To provide small and mid-sized museums with prioritized recommendations for improving the care of their collections

Administered by: The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC)

Application Period Opens: January

Visit: www.culturalheritage.org/cap

Conclusion

Reminders

- Review www.imls.gov/grants for details on specific grant programs
- Register with SAM.gov, then Grants.gov, as soon as possible
- All applications are due by 11:59 pm Eastern on November 15th, 2023
- Additional videos are available on our website imls.gov/webinars

Credit

This presentation text is a work of the U.S. Government, and its contents are in the public domain. Images in this presentation are used with permission of the source noted unless otherwise indicated. If you reuse our work, please acknowledge IMLS as the source.

Thank you and good luck!