

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 26, 2025

The Honorable Keith Sonderling
Acting Director
Institute of Museum and Library Services
955 L'Enfant Plaza, North, SW, Suite 4000
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Sonderling:

As the lead authors of the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) of 2018 (PL 115-40), which was signed into law by President Trump, we write to remind the Administration of its obligation to faithfully execute the provisions of the law as authorized. The MLSA established the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and tasked the Director with the “primary responsibility for the development and implementation of policy to ensure the availability of museum, library, and information services adequate to meet the essential information, education, research, economic, cultural, and civic needs of the people of the United States.” It requires that the Institute has an Office of Museum Services and an Office of Library Services and details the federal programs to support museums and libraries that are to be carried out by each office.

For Fiscal Year 2024, Congress appropriated \$294.8 million for IMLS, specifying that funding should be allotted across the programs in the following manner:


Library Services Technology Act	
Grants to States	\$180,000,000
Native American Library Services	\$5,763,000
National Leadership: Libraries	\$15,287,000
Laura Bush 21 st Century Librarian	\$10,000,000
Museum Services Act	
Museums for America	\$30,330,000
Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services	\$3,772,000
National Leadership: Museums	\$9,348,000
African American History and Culture Act	\$6,000,000
National Museum of the American Latino Act	\$6,000,000
Research, Analysis, and Data Collection	\$5,650,000
Program Administration	\$22,650,000

We expect that the Administration will implement the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act of 2025 in a manner consistent with these allocations enacted in Fiscal Year 2024. We also expect that the Administration will allow the IMLS to engage with and support both libraries and museums as Congress intended and as authorized in the MLSA.


Libraries and museums play a vital role in our communities. Libraries offer access for all to essential information and engagement on a wide range of topics, including skills and career training, broadband, and computing services. IMLS grants enable libraries to develop services in every community throughout the nation, including people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, residents of rural and urban areas, Native Americans, military families, veterans, and caregivers. Museums serve not only as centers for education but also as drivers of local economic development. The IMLS Office of Museum Services is the largest dedicated source of investment in our nation's museums, which typically support more than 700,000 jobs and contribute \$50 billion annually to the U.S. economy. IMLS funding plays a significant role in this economic impact by helping museums reach more visitors and spur community development.

We look forward to working with you to support IMLS in fulfilling its purpose and meeting all of its statutory requirements.


Sincerely,




Jack Reed
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Cc: Russell Vought, Director, Office of Management and Budget