Overview

- Museums for America (MFA) Program Goals
- Eligibility Requirements
- Types of Projects Supported
- Funding Levels and Matching Requirements
- Allowable and Unallowable Costs
- Tips for Success
MFA Program Goals

Museums for America supports projects that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public.
What is a “museum”?  

- Aquariums  
- Arboretums  
- Art museums  
- Botanical gardens  
- Children’s/youth museums  
- General museums (two or more significant disciplines)  
- Historic houses/sites  
- History museums  
- Natural history/anthropology museums  
- Nature centers  
- Planetariums  
- Science/technology centers  
- Specialized museums (single distinct subject)  
- Zoological parks
Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for Museums for America grants, you must...

- Be either a unit of state or local government, or a private nonprofit organization that has tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code;

- Be located in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau

- Qualify as a museum that
  a. uses a professional staff;
  b. is organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes;
  c. owns or uses tangible objects, either animate or inanimate;
  d. cares for these objects; AND
  e. exhibits these objects to the general public on a regular basis through facilities that it owns or operates.

OR

- Qualify as a public or private nonprofit agency which is responsible for the operation of a museum as defined above
Eligibility Requirements

You are *not* eligible to apply if you are:

- A federally funded institution
- A for-profit organization
- An individual
- A foreign country or organization
Three IMLS programmatic strategic goals define MFA project categories. You will choose one for your project.

**Learning Experiences:** IMLS supports the unique ability of museums to empower people of all ages through experiential learning and discovery.

**Community Anchors:** IMLS promotes the role of museums as essential partners in addressing the needs of their communities by leveraging their expertise, knowledge, physical space, technology, and other resources.

**Collections Stewardship:** IMLS supports the exemplary management, care, and conservation of museum collections, as well as their broadened access and expanded use.
MFA Collections Stewardship projects might include:

- Planning for collections management, care, and conservation
- Cataloguing, inventorying, documenting, and registration
- Developing and enhancing collections databases
- Digitization activities designed to improve collections management and/or to broaden access and expand use of collections
- Conservation surveys and treatments
- Rehousing collections

- Environmental improvements for collections storage/exhibit areas
- Training of staff, volunteers and interns in collections management, care, and/or conservation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Number</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Focus/Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA-30-15-0269-15</td>
<td>University of Colorado Museum of Natural History</td>
<td>Digitize 1,100 fossils from its Paleogene mammal collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA-30-15-0281-15</td>
<td>San Diego Natural History Museum</td>
<td>Upgrading its current database for its 1.2 million paleontology research specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA-30-14-0324-14</td>
<td>University of Colorado Museum of Natural History</td>
<td>Imaging and georeferencing its vascular flora and cryptograms; transcribing labels into digital format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA-31-15-0210-15</td>
<td>Fernbank Science Center</td>
<td>Rehousing and relocating its collection of bird study skins, bird eggs, mammal study skins, insect specimens, and other natural history specimens; updating database</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Recently Funded Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Number</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Focus/Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA-30-15-0491-15</td>
<td>American Museum of Natural History</td>
<td>Rehousing, conserving, cataloging, and databasing recently acquired Mapes Collection of marine fossils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA-30-15-0392-15</td>
<td>Centennial Museum and Gardens, University of Texas</td>
<td>Organizing biodiversity/natural history collections and entering associated data into updated centralized database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA-30-15-0276-15</td>
<td>Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum</td>
<td>Processing, identifying, cataloging, label-printing, and online posting of mollusks, shells, and associated materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA-30-15-0096-15</td>
<td>Rochester Museum and Science Center</td>
<td>Consolidating, reorganizing, and rehousing zoology collections; updating database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA-30-14-0313-14</td>
<td>L.C. Bates Museum</td>
<td>Conserving 63 ornithological mounts and their associated case housing and a large blue marlin caught by Ernest Hemingway; hosting collections-care themed workshops for the public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recently Funded Projects

Reading a grant number:
- **MA**: Museums for America
- **30** or **31**: Collections Stewardship (05 before 2013)
- **15**: Fiscal Year in which application was submitted
- **1234**: Individual application
- **15**: Awarded status

For more information on any of these awarded grants and to look up others, please see **SEARCH AWARDED GRANTS** at https://www.imls.gov/grants/awarded-grants and search by grant lot number, grant program name, institution name, city, state, and/or keyword.
## FY2015 Museums for America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Applications</th>
<th>Number of Awards</th>
<th>Funds Requested</th>
<th>Funds Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Experiences</strong></td>
<td>245</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>$27,769,737</td>
<td>$10,339,048</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community Anchors</strong></td>
<td>65</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>$6,853,257</td>
<td>$1,981,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collections Stewardship</strong></td>
<td>211</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>$19,280,499</td>
<td>$7,886,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>521</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>$53,903,493</td>
<td>$20,207,105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Funding Levels and Matching Requirements**

**HOW MUCH MAY I REQUEST?**

**Option 1:** $5,000-$25,000 with **no cost share** permitted

**Option 2:** $25,001-$150,000 with **1:1 cost share** required

**HOW MANY APPLICATIONS MAY I FILE?**

If you choose **Option 1**, you are limited to **one** application in the FY2017 MFA grant program.

If you choose **Option 2**, there is no limit on the number of applications your museum may submit to MFA.
Allowable Costs

Examples of allowable costs

- personnel salaries, wages, and fringe benefits
- travel expenses
- materials, supplies, software, and equipment
- HVAC equipment to improve collections environments
- consultant fees
- publication design and printing
- design, technical support, printing, non-construction labor
- staff and volunteer training
- internships/fellowships
- contracts and subcontracts
- indirect or overhead costs
Examples of unallowable costs

- general museum fundraising costs
- contributions to endowments
- general museum operating support
- acquisition of collections
- general advertising or public relations costs
- construction and renovation of museum facilities
- exhibit fabrication that involves contract labor of the construction trades
- reconstruction or renovation of historic sites
- social activities, ceremonies, receptions, or entertainment
- pre-award costs
Digital Stewardship
Supplementary Information Form

Resource
Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative (www.digitizationguidelines.gov)
Characteristics of Successful MFA Applications

- **Institutional Impact:** Projects address a key need or challenge identified in the museum’s strategic plan.
- **In-depth knowledge:** Proposals reflect a thorough understanding of current practice and knowledge about the subject matter.
- **Project-based design:** Work plans consist of a set of logical, interrelated activities tied directly to addressing the key need or challenge.
- **Demonstrable results:** Projects generate measureable results that tie directly to the need or challenge it was designed to address.
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Tips for Success: Registration

Register early!

1. D-U-N-S® Number: **www.dnb.com/us**
2. SAM Registration: **www.sam.gov**
Tips for Success: Important Dates

Note the dates...

Applications are due by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on December 1, 2016.

Awards will be announced September, 2017.

Projects must start October 1, November 1, or December 1, 2017.
Tips for Success: www.imls.gov

Use www.imls.gov as a resource...
MUSEUMS FOR AMERICA

Deadline: December 01, 2015

Application:

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY 2016 will be made available 60-90 days before the deadline. FY 2015’s NOFO is available below as a reference, but applicants must use the FY 2016 NOFO and application to apply.

Access FY 2015 Notice of Funding Opportunity (PDF, 446KB)

Read more about the Museums for America program on the IMLS website.

Grant Amount: $5,000–$150,000

Grant Period: Up to three years

Cost Share Requirement: For applications requesting Museums for America funding of more than $25,000, you must provide funds from non-federal sources in an amount that is equal to or greater than the amount of the request. No cost sharing is permitted for applications requesting amounts of $5,000–$25,000.

Program Overview:

The Museums for America (MFA) program supports projects that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public. MFA has three project categories:
SAMPLE APPLICATIONS

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

- Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
- Museum of the African Diaspora
- National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture, Alabama State University

Museums for America

Learning Experiences

- Harvard Museums of Science and Culture
- Minneapolis Institute of Arts
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
- Queens Museum of Art

$5,000 - $25,000 Funding Level:

- Discovery Center at Murfree Spring

Community Anchors

- Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- Minnesota Historical Society

Collections Stewardship

- The Henry Ford
- Metal Museum
- Portland Art Museum
- National Music Museum, University of South Dakota
- American Museum of Natural History
## Review Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Review Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1, 2016*</td>
<td>Applicants submit packets through Grants.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan – Feb 2017*</td>
<td>IMLS staff review applications for completeness and eligibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar - Jun 2017</td>
<td>Review period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2017</td>
<td>IMLS staff analyze panel review scores; review budgets; prepare materials for IMLS Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2017</td>
<td>IMLS Director renders final award decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2017*</td>
<td>IMLS notifies applicants of award decisions; provide reviewer comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct/Nov/Dec 1, 2017</td>
<td>Awarded projects begin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contact Information

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202.653.4636

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Your turn...