



## ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF LIVING HISTORY, FARM AND AGRICULTURAL MUSEUMS (ALHFAM)

**ALHFAM members on average employ 9 full time and 7 to 17 part time people in their communities.**

**ALHFAM members on average serve 106,616 visitors each year.**

**ALHFAM members on average serve 11,610 schoolchildren each year through school visits to museums.**

**Over 20% of ALHFAM members have received a Federal Grant from the IMLS, NEA or NEH.**

**Total number of members in the United States of America: 671**

**ALHFAM has international members in Canada, Spain, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Scotland, and Sweden.**

***The Mission of ALHFAM: The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) shares practical knowledge and skills among those who make history relevant to contemporary lives. We draw strength from our diverse network of members, sharing experience, research and passion for participatory learning.***

ALHFAM is an international organization for people who bring history to life, open to all people and institutions interested in living historical farms, agricultural museums and outdoor museums, including but not limited to history, folk life and agriculture. To reach its constituents, ALHFAM provides a forum for communicating the various ways to interpret history, including but not limited to agricultural and rural life. ALHFAM does this by using the ever-evolving means and modes of museum interpretation as the state of the art permits.

ALHFAM is incorporated in the State of Maryland as a non-profit tax-exempt (501[c][3]) organization, and is governed by a member-elected Board in accordance with member-approved bylaws.

ALHFAM draws its membership from a broad spectrum of individuals and organizations involved in the collection, preservation or interpretation of material culture, traditional skills and historical processes. Members include volunteers, reenactors, institutional staff and vendors of goods or services. ALHFAM's original focus on farming and agriculture has expanded to embrace disciplines from architecture to zymurgy and many in between. ALHFAM maintains, and seeks to expand relationships with other museum, historical and interpretive organizations with related interests.

Services provided to members include publications, conferences, specialized instructional programs, electronic media, including a website and listserv, and support for regional affiliates. ALHFAM services assist members in fulfilling their professional responsibilities and improving the quality of their public offerings.



**On a national scale, museums are economic engines:**

- Museums employ 400,000 Americans, according to the American Association of Museums.
- U.S. museums contribute \$21 billion to the American economy each year (2008 estimate), encouraging economic growth in their communities.
- Museums rank among the top three family vacation destinations.
- Trips including cultural and heritage activities comprise one of the most popular and significant segments of the travel industry, accounting for over 23% of all domestic trips. Visitors to historic sites and cultural attractions, including museums, stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other kinds of tourists.
- Quality of life issues contribute significantly to decisions businesses make in choosing to relocate, including access to cultural resources that includes a dynamic museum community. In fact, according to research by the National Governors Association, "It has been shown that the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates over \$166 billion in economic activity annually, supports over 5.7 million full time jobs, and returns over \$12 billion in federal income taxes annually. Governments which support the arts on average see a return on investment of over \$7 in taxes for every \$1 that the government appropriates."
- Museums spend more than \$2.2 billion a year on education, 3/4 of which is typically spent on K-12 students.
- Each year, museums provide more than 18 million instructional hours for educational programs such as guided tours for students, staff visits to schools, school outreach through science vans and other traveling exhibits, and professional development for teachers (IMLS study).



# ALHFAM



The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums

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