

FY 2021 HOUSE appropriations letter in support of the IMLS Office of Museum Services

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

We write to thank the Subcommittee for its previous support, and to urge you to support robust funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Office of Museum Services (OMS) in the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

Despite its small size, the IMLS Office of Museum Services is the largest dedicated source of investment in our nation's museums, which support over 700,000 jobs and contribute \$50 billion annually to the U.S. economy. OMS funding plays a significant role in this economic impact by helping museums reach more visitors and spur community development. In addition to their economic benefits, OMS grants also support museums' advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning, and conservation and preservation. These successes notwithstanding, only a small fraction of the nation's museums are currently being reached and many highly rated grant applications go unfunded.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school and community resources are strained, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, they welcome more than 55 million schoolchildren, bring art, science and cultural heritage into communities, and partner with other nonprofits to meet the specific needs of their local population. In addition, our nation's museums are opening their doors to more people than ever with over 850 million visits each year – with many of these visitors offered free or reduced admission. Museums are also part of a robust nonprofit community working to address a wide range of our nation's greatest challenges, from conducting medical research to helping veterans heal physically and psychologically, and from creating energy efficient public buildings to collecting food for needy families.

Congress reauthorized IMLS in late 2018, by enacting the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-410). This legislation was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and by a vote of 331 to 28 in the House, showing Congress' renewed bipartisan support for the agency's programs and a renewed commitment to its funding. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants leverage significant private resources while supporting museums in every state.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY 2021 to support the important work museums are doing in our districts. This vital funding will aid museums of all types and enable them to continue bolstering the economy, serving our schools and communities, and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee's prior support for OMS and request this investment to strengthen and sustain the work of our nation's museums.

Sincerely,

Paul Tonko
U.S. Representative

Andy Barr
U.S. Representative

Chellie Pingree
U.S. Representative

David B. McKinley, P.E.
U.S. Representative

For your reference, the following page lists the **198 Representatives who signed on to this letter last year**, led by Representatives Tonko (D-NY), Barr (R-KY), Pingree (D-ME), and McKinley (R-WV). This may be an indication that they will be willing to sign the FY 2022 letter this year.

Don Young (R-AK)
Terri Sewell (D-AL)
Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)
Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ)
Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ)
Karen Bass (D-CA)
Julia Brownley (D-CA)
Salud Carbajal (D-CA)
Tony Cárdenas (D-CA)
Judy Chu (D-CA)
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr. (D-CA)
J. Luis Correa (D-CA)
Susan Davis (D-CA)
Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)
Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA)
John Garamendi (D-CA)
Jimmy Gomez (D-CA)
Jared Huffman (D-CA)
Ro Khanna (D-CA)
Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Ted W. Lieu (D-CA)
Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)
Doris Matsui (D-CA)
Jerry McNerney (D-CA)
Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)
Scott Peters (D-CA)
Harley Rouda (D-CA)
Linda T. Sánchez (D-CA)
Adam B. Schiff (D-CA)
Jackie Speier (D-CA)
Eric Swalwell (D-CA)
Mark Takano (D-CA)
Mike Thompson (D-CA)
Jason Crow (D-CO)
Diana DeGette (D-CO)
Doug Lamborn (R-CO)
Joe Neguse (D-CO)
Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)
Scott Tipton (R-CO)
Joe Courtney (D-CT)
Jahana Hayes (D-CT)
Jim Himes (D-CT)
John B. Larson (D-CT)
Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)
Kathy Castor (D-FL)
Ted Deutch (D-FL)
Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL)
Al Lawson (D-FL)
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL)
Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)
Darren Soto (D-FL)
Frederica Wilson (D-FL)
Ted S. Yoho, DVM (R-FL)
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D-GA)
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. (D-GA)
John Lewis (D-GA)
Lucy McBath (D-GA)
Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI)
Cindy Axne (D-IA)
Abby Finkenauer (D-IA)
Dave Loebsack (D-IA)
Cheri Bustos (D-IL)
Sean Casten (D-IL)
Danny K. Davis (D-IL)

Rodney Davis (R-IL)
Bill Foster (D-IL)
Jesús G. "Chuy" García (D-IL)
Robin L. Kelly (D-IL)
Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)
Darin LaHood (R-IL)
Daniel W. Lipinski (D-IL)
Bobby Rush (D-IL)
Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
Bradley S. Schneider (D-IL)
André Carson (D-IN)
Sharice L. Davids (D-KS)
Roger Marshall (R-KS)
Andy Barr (R-KY)*
Brett Guthrie (R-KY)
John Yarmuth (D-KY)
Cedric Richmond (D-LA)
Bill Keating (D-MA)
Joseph P. Kennedy III (D-MA)
Stephen Lynch (D-MA)
Jim McGovern (D-MA)
Seth Moulton (D-MA)
Richard E. Neal (D-MA)
Ayanna Pressley (D-MA)
Lori Trahan (D-MA)
Anthony G. Brown (D-MD)
Jamie Raskin (D-MD)
Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)
John P. Sarbanes (D-MD)
David Trone (D-MD)
Jared Golden (D-ME)
Chellie Pingree (D-ME)*
Debbie Dingell (D-MI)
Daniel T. Kildee (D-MI)
Andy Levin (D-MI)
Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)
Haley M. Stevens (D-MI)
Angie Craig (D-MN)
Ilhan Omar (D-MN)
Collin C. Peterson (D-MN)
Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO)
Wm. Lacy Clay (D-MO)
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP)
Bennie Thompson (D-MS)
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. (D-NC)
G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)
Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH)
Chris Pappas (D-NH)
Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)
Andy Kim (D-NJ)
Tom Malinowski (D-NJ)
Donald Norcross (D-NJ)
Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)
Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)
Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-NJ)
Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ)
Albio Sires (D-NJ)
Jefferson Van Drew (R-NJ)
Deb Haaland (D-NM)
Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)
Steven Horsford (D-NV)
Susie Lee (D-NV)
Dina Titus (D-NV)
Anthony Brindisi (D-NY)
Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY)
Antonio R. Delgado (D-NY)

Eliot L. Engel (D-NY)
Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)
Brian Higgins (D-NY)
Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)
John Katko (R-NY)
Peter King (R-NY)
Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY)
Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY)
Joseph D. Morelle (D-NY)
Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)
Kathleen Rice (D-NY)
Elise Stefanik (R-NY)
Tom Suozzi (D-NY)
Paul D. Tonko (D-NY)*
Nydia Velázquez (D-NY)
Joyce Beatty (D-OH)
Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH)
Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH)
Steve Stivers (R-OH)
Mike Turner (R-OH)
Kendra Horn (D-OK)
Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)
Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)
Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR)
Brendan F. Boyle (D-PA)
Madeleine Dean (D-PA)
Mike Doyle (D-PA)
Dwight Evans (D-PA)
Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA)
Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA)
Jennifer González-Colón (R-PR)
David N. Cicilline (D-RI)
Jim Langevin (D-RI)
Dusty Johnson (R-SC)
Joe Wilson (R-SC)
Steve Cohen (D-TN)
Jim Cooper (D-TN)
Colin Allred (D-TX)
Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Joaquin Castro (D-TX)
Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
Veronica Escobar (D-TX)
Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX)
Al Green (D-TX)
Marc Veasey (D-TX)
Filemon Vela (D-TX)
Ben McAdams (D-UT)
Tom Beyer (D-VA)
Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA)
A. Donald McEachin (D-VA)
Denver Riggleman (R-VA)
Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)
Jennifer Wexton (D-VA)
Stacey E. Plaskett (D-VI)
Peter Welch (D-VT)
Suzan DelBene (D-WA)
Denny Heck (D-WA)
Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)
Kim Schrier (D-WA)
Adam Smith (D-WA)
Ron Kind (D-WI)
Gwen Moore (D-WI)
David McKinley (R-WV)*

*The Alliance is also aware that some legislators send their own letter in support of the Office of Museum Services, or include OMS on a letter listing their priorities to the Appropriations Committee. Those efforts are often due directly to advocate outreach to those offices. These individual letters also help our cause and are worthy of thanks on social media! These legislators included Representatives Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ) and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA).

FY 2021 SENATE appropriations letter in support of the IMLS Office of Museum Services

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We write to thank the Subcommittee for its previous support, and to urge you to support robust funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Office of Museum Services (OMS) in the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

Despite its small size, the IMLS Office of Museum Services is the largest dedicated source of investment in our nation's museums, which support over 700,000 jobs and contribute \$50 billion to the U.S. economy each year. OMS funding plays a significant role in this economic impact by helping museums reach more visitors and spur community development. In addition to their economic benefits, OMS grants also support museums' advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning, and conservation and preservation. These successes notwithstanding, only a small fraction of the nation's museums are currently being reached and many highly rated grant applications go unfunded.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school and community resources are strained, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, they welcome more than 55 million schoolchildren, bring art, science and cultural heritage into communities, and partner with other nonprofits to meet the specific needs of their local population. In addition, our nation's museums are opening their doors to more people than ever with over 850 million visits each year – with many of these visitors offered free or reduced admission. Many museums have developed innovative programs to meet the growing needs of their individual communities. For example, some museums have programs designed specifically for children with special needs and their families, some work with medical schools to teach observation and description skills, and some are helping veterans heal from their wounds, both physical and psychological.

Congress reauthorized IMLS at the end of 2018, by enacting the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-410). This legislation was adopted by unanimous consent in the Senate and by a vote of 331 to 28 in the House, showing Congress' renewed bipartisan support for the agency's programs and a renewed commitment to its funding. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants leverage significant private resources while supporting museums in every state.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY 2021 to support the important work museums are doing in our states. This vital funding will aid museums of all types and enable them to continue bolstering the economy, serving our schools and communities, and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee's prior support for OMS and request this investment to strengthen and sustain the work of our nation's museums.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator

Susan M. Collins
U.S. Senator

For your reference, here is the list of the **41 Senators who signed on to this letter last year**, led by Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Susan Collins (R-ME). This may be an indication that they will be willing to sign the FY 2022 letter this year.

Doug Jones (D-AL)
Dan S. Sullivan (R-AK)
Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)
Diane Feinstein (D-CA)
Kamala D. Harris (D-CA)
Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Thomas R. Carper (D-DE)
Christopher A. Coons (D-DE)
Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)
Richard J. Durbin (D-IL)
Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)
Susan M. Collins (R-ME)
Angus S. King, Jr. (I-ME)
Gary C. Peters (D-MI)
Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
Tina Smith (D-MN)
John Tester (D-MT)
John H. Hoeven (R-ND)
Margaret Wood Hassan (D-NH)
Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Cory A. Booker (D-NJ)
Martin Heinrich (D-NM)
Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)
Jacky Rosen (D-NV)
Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
Ron Wyden (D-OR)
Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA)
Jack Reed (D-RI)
Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
Tim Kaine (D-VA)
Bernard Sanders (I-VT)
Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Joe Manchin III (D-WV)