

Earmarks (House of Representatives Only)

Request

We urge the House to:

- lift the unreasonable and unfair ban that makes museums ineligible for House Community Project Funding (also known as earmarks) in the annual appropriations process.

Talking Points

- Last year a small group of Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives forced their then-leadership to name museums as ineligible for Community Project Funding (also known as earmarks) in Appropriations Committee guidance.
- This deprives museums of needed support and is in direct opposition to the 96 percent of Americans who favor funding support for museums.
- Museum earmarks serve critical needs in communities including K-12 education, improvements to energy-efficiency, and increasing tourism and economic development – projects that support communities' health and vitality.
- The total economic contribution of museums in 2016 amounted to more than \$50 billion in GDP, 726,200 jobs, and \$12 billion in taxes to local, state, and federal governments. (Source: [Museums as Economic Engines](#), researched and prepared in partnership with Oxford Economics and with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.)
- Nationally, museums spend more than \$2 billion yearly on education activities, and the typical museum devotes 75% of its education budget to K-12 students. They are essential community infrastructure that have the support of the 96 percent of Americans who think positively of their elected officials who take legislative action in support of museums.
- Communities across the country—rural to urban—rely on the services museums of every type provide and their significant educational and economic impact.
- We urge the House to lift the ban and allow museums to compete on their own merits, as they always have, for Community Project Funding in FY 2025 Appropriations.