

Program Notebook

IMLS Offers 50 Grants for Digital Preservation Efforts

Many small and medium-sized libraries and museums are often hard pressed to secure the resources necessary to provide adequate preservation and protection for their collections.

In order to help libraries and museums preserve a vast array of historical archives, the Institute of Museum and Library Services is offering 50 grants of \$3,000 totaling \$150,000. From zoos and aquariums to art museums to local library branches, IMLS will award funds to help these institutions care for and maintain their most precious items – whether an elephant in a zoo habitat or the deed to a Victorian row house.

Announcing the second year of Digital Preservation grants, IMLS Director Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice said: “These grants are intended to assist your institutions with activities that ensure the safekeeping and care of our nation’s precious artifacts, and help you to share the impact of these activities with your community. It is through the preservation and care of our collective heritage that America’s communities stay vital.”

IMLS has identified three areas of funding for which institutions may apply.

The first funding area is for the treatment of library, museum and archival collections. Examples of projects

that may be funded through this category include the following:

- Conservation of the paint and wood for several 18th-century business signs held by a local historical society.
- Treatment and stabilization of an early 19th-century quilt held in the special collection of a local library.

The second funding category is for improvement of collections storage. Examples include:

- Remounting and rehousing locally gathered insect specimens in a nature center collection.
- Purchasing acid-free folders and boxes, and rehousing the class photo collection of the local college archives from the early 20th century.

The final funding category is for environmental improvement of collections. Examples include:


- Reframing several photographs from the library special collections on acid-free backings.
- Purchasing a hygrothermograph to monitor the temperature and humidity in a storage area.

Grant funds are not intended to be used to supplement a larger project, but rather should go toward a “stand alone” conservation project. Grants may not be used for activities such as the acquisition of collections, contributions to endowments, social activities, construction or major building improvements, renovation or any pre-grant costs.

All types of museums and libraries are eligible, but preference will be given to smaller institutions. Eligible museums include aquariums, arboretums and botanical gardens, art museums, youth museums, general museums, historic houses and sites, history museums, nature centers, natural history and anthropology museums, planetariums, science and technology centers, specialized museums and zoos.

IMLS will notify applicants of final decisions by the end of February, 2010. Projects may begin no earlier than March 1, 2010, and must begin no later than June 1, 2010.

Need more information?

To read the full IMLS announcement, go to: http://www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/pdf/AHPG_2010.pdf. 

American Heritage Preservation Grants

CFDA 45.303

Objective: To fund the preservation of endangered and fragile collections of art, rare books, scientific specimens and historical documents such as photographs, maps and deeds held in the nation’s small- and medium-sized museums, archives and libraries.

Eligibility: States and local governments, nonprofit organizations

Funding: IMLS will make 50 awards ranging from \$30,000 to \$150,000.

Match: There is no match requirement for this opportunity.

Deadline: Applications must be submitted electronically via Grants.gov by Sept. 15, 2009.

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