
Part 2a: Funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Office of Museum Services at the Institute of Museum and Library Services

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National Endowment for the Humanities

Enriching America's Cultural and Intellectual Life

Erin Mosley, National Humanities Alliance

- *The National Humanities Alliance is an advocacy coalition of more than 100 member organizations and institutions dedicated to the advancement of humanities education, research, preservation, and public programs.*

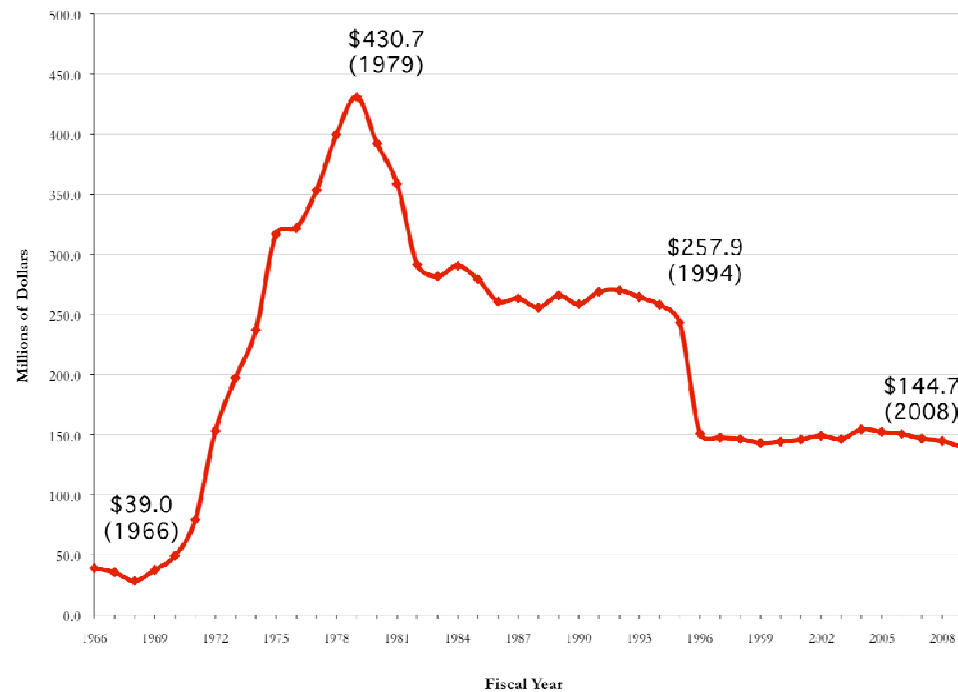
National Endowment for the Humanities

Background

- Funded through the Interior, Environment & Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
 - The largest single funder of the humanities in the United States
 - Awards go to nonprofit cultural institutions, such as colleges, universities, museums, archives, libraries, state humanities councils, public television, and radio stations; and to individual scholars.
 - Fields of study include: history, languages, literatures, philosophy, the arts, religion, anthropology, and others.
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Funding Overview

**National Endowment for the Humanities
Appropriations, Fiscal Years 1966-2008
Adjusted for Inflation (2008 Constant Dollars)**



Community Request

We urge Congress to support \$75 million in new funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, including: \$50 million for competitive grant programs and \$25 million for operating grants to state humanities councils.

NEH provides critical leadership for our nation's research and education infrastructure. The requested increase will:

- address significant, unmet needs throughout NEH core programs: Research, Education, Preservation & Access, Challenge Grants, Public Programs, Digital Humanities, and the Federal/State Partnership
- help offset severe economic pressures on the academic workforce and humanities institutions
- enable NEH to introduce or expand current support for:
 - global perspectives
 - innovative use of digital technologies
 - graduate education and research
 - data collection and dissemination of information on the state of the humanities

Unmet Needs

- Demand for humanities project support far exceeds available funding
- In FY 2008, applications for NEH grants represented about \$420 million in requested funds
- Approximately 16% of competitive peer-reviewed project proposals were funded
- This compares to a 26% funding rate for merit-reviewed projects at the National Science Foundation (NSF)

Investing in the Humanities

- Advancement in the humanities is critical to our nation's well-being and continued status as a world leader
- The humanities impart practical knowledge and skills needed by all Americans
- The humanities are innovative
- A relatively small investment through NEH yields high returns
- The humanities workforce is significant

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- Susan Collins (Maine)
- George Voinovich (Ohio)

Office of Museum Services, Institute of Museum & Library Services

Promoting Lifelong Learning and Protecting Our National Heritage

Carla J. Myers, American Association of Museums

- *The American Association of Museums (AAM) represents the full range of our nation's museums – including aquariums, arboretums, archaeological museums, art museums, botanical gardens, children's museums, culturally specific museums, historic sites, history museums, maritime museums, military museums, natural history museums, nature centers, planetariums, presidential libraries, science and technology centers, zoological parks, and other specialty museums – along with the professional staff and volunteers who work for and with museums.*

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Background

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

- Primary federal agency responsible for supporting the nation's 17,500+ museums

- **Office of Museum Services (OMS)**
 - Supports all types of museums
 - Museum grants support the following:
 - Educational programming
 - Professional development
 - Collections management
 - Essentially flat funded for the past four years

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Action Needed

THE REQUEST (2 requests this year)

- 1) **Support an appropriation of \$50 million for the Office of Museum Services (OMS)** within IMLS in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.
- 2) **Reauthorize the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within IMLS at \$95 million incrementally over the 5-year reauthorization period** by strengthening existing national programs; initiating state needs assessments; devoting new funding to conservation endowment grants, traveling exhibitions and a new program to help smaller museums compete more effectively for federal grants; and establishing a federal-state partnership that dedicates funding to a state grant program for museums.

Talking Points

Museums Serve Every Community

- At least 22% of museums are located in rural areas
- Museums reach rural communities with traveling exhibitions
- 35% of museums are **always** free to the public; more than 97% offer free or reduced admission days

Museum Collections Are at Risk

- 59% of museums have collections damaged by light; 53% by moisture
 - 56% have insufficient security to protect their collections
 - 71% need additional training and expertise for staff caring for collections
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Talking Points

Museums are Key Partners in Education

- American museums provide more than 18 million instructional hours to K-12 schoolchildren each year.
- Museums spend more than \$1 BILLION annually on educational programming.

Museums are Economic Engines

- Museums employ more than a half-million Americans
- U.S. museums spend more than \$14.5 billion a year, encouraging economic growth in their communities.
- What is the local economic impact of YOUR museum?

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Reauthorization Request

- Strengthen existing national programs
- Initiate state needs assessments
- Devote new funding to
 - Conservation endowment grants
 - Traveling exhibitions
 - New program to help smaller museums compete more effectively for federal grants
- Establish a federal-state partnership that dedicates funding to a state grant program for museums.

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AND EDUCATION**

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Republicans (6):

- **Arlen Specter (Pennsylvania),
Ranking Member**
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- Judd Gregg (New Hampshire)
- Kay Bailey Hutchison (Texas)
- Richard Shelby (Alabama)
- Lamar Alexander (Tennessee)