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The Michigan Museums Association is proud to support the hundreds of museums throughout our state that preserve and share priceless works of art and historic artifacts, and promote scientific exploration and a better understanding of our shared Michigan culture. Michigan's museums provide jobs and support communities. They educate children and engage families and groups. They protect our treasures and define our sense of place.

Included in this packet are letters from members of the Michigan museum community who have been impacted by federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, or the Institute of Museum and Library Services. They have shared how funding from these organizations have helped them achieve their mission, and make our state a better place to live.

The Michigan Museums Association is pleased to represent Michigan's museums on Museums Advocacy Day and every day. Please do not ever hesitate to contact our office if you are in need of more information about any of Michigan's museums and how the work you do will impact them.

Thank you for your good work on behalf of the citizens of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Lisa Craig Brisson
Executive Director, Michigan Museums Association
lcbrisson@michiganmuseums.org



February 2, 2018

Dear Michigan Senators and Representatives,

In 2016, the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, located on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, received a Preservation Assistance grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to purchase five environmental data loggers to monitor temperature and relative humidity in the museum and to complete a collection environment study.

Prior to receipt of the NEH grant, environmental conditions in the museum were measured via inaccurate hygrothermographs and sensors in the ceiling, approximately 20-30 feet above the art objects. Each week, museum staff received a standard trend report from the university's facilities department charting the previous week's temperature and relative humidity. Following installation of the new data loggers in February 2017, museum staff now has accurate real-time access to current environmental conditions within the museum, enabling us to better monitor fluctuations in the collections environment and alert the university's HVAC technicians so that they can make immediate adjustments to the system when necessary.

Additionally, temperature and relative humidity information gathered from the new data loggers over the last year will be evaluated by a museum climate control specialist from SmithGroupJJR, Inc., an integrated architecture, engineering and planning firm with extensive experience in collection environment studies. Using this data, the specialist will develop an effective and efficient plan and implementation process for long-term environmental improvements in the museum.

At the end of the project period in June 2018, the museum will have a strong base level of knowledge and targeted definition of the next steps required in our long-term goal of achieving an improved conservation environment. This base level of information will allow the museum to move forward with future conservation planning and enable the museum to proceed with targeted grant requests and funding initiatives to support our goals. Improving environmental conditions is extremely critical to the long-term preservation of the museum's collections.

These improvements in our monitoring systems and the forthcoming environmental study would not have been possible without funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Such investments in the museum's institutional capacity ensure that we fulfill our mission to "to celebrate the artistic legacy of Marshall M. Fredericks through collecting, preserving, presenting, and interpreting his life's work for the educational and cultural enrichment of Saginaw Valley State University and the broadest possible audience".

Sincerely,


Marilyn L. Wheaton
Director


Melissa M. Ford, CA
Archivist

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center (SDHC), a local history organization serving local residents and tourists to our area of western Michigan, benefitted greatly from Federal cultural funding initiatives in 2017, which will carry forward into 2018 and beyond.

SDHC operates facilities in two historic structures, each of which contains educational exhibits, programming and other opportunities for learning. Roughly 10,000 individuals attended our programs and visited our exhibits in 2017. We estimate that between 30,000-40,000 individuals visit our outdoor gardens and learning stations throughout the year when our facilities are closed, which enables our presence in the community to have a wide-reaching impact.

In 2017, SDHC benefitted from support in the following initiatives:

- SDHC applied to the **Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs** for operating support funding (up to \$25,000) to support our programs and facilities in FY18. For 2018, we were awarded a total of \$12,500, of which \$1,732 is direct “pass through” money provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA). Approximately 8% of MCACA’s total grantmaking dollars come from the NEA via a state partnership agreement. MCACA/NEA’s operating grants are competitive and matching, leveraging other donor and grant dollars to bring projects to fruition. This \$12,500 total award represents approximately 7% of SDHC’s operating budget.
Learn more: <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/community/council-arts-cultural-affairs/#MCACA>
- In 2017, SDHC took part in the Museum Assessment Program – jointly administered by the American Alliance for Museums and the **Institute for Museum and Library Services** (IMLS) to survey SDHC’s collection of historical documents, photographs, artworks, and artifacts, apply best practices for their preservation, and study how to make them more accessible. Funding and guidance from IMLS was critical to our participation. This assessment laid the groundwork for a \$54,000 investment by SDHC in 2018 to create a brand-new collections and archives research center on our site, which will also create one limited-term full-time job. This project is funded by private donations and organization reserve funds. In the end, we will have expanded and more organized space to properly store our collections and a dedicated and comfortable research space where these items can actually be used by the public.
Learn more: <https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/museum-assessment-program-map>
- SDHC jointly applied with Grand Valley State University for a **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH) *Common Heritage* grant in 2017. Common Heritage supports both the digitization of cultural heritage materials and the organization of outreach through community events that explore and interpret these materials as a window on the community’s history and culture. In late 2017, we were informed we have been awarded a \$12,000 grant which will allow SDHC and GVSU to record new oral histories and digitize documents, photographs and more dating from Saugatuck-Douglas’ recent past, the 1950s-1970s. Common Heritage requires community participation and education elements which would not be possible without NEH funding. Access to these new materials will directly benefit from the new collections research center highlighted in the bullet point above. Our Common Heritage “*Stories of Summers in Saugatuck*” project will begin this spring and continue into early 2019.
Learn more: <https://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/common-heritage>

In summary, Federal dollars help SDHC maintain its operations, have enabled best-practice planning resulting in a significant facility and access upgrade, and provide the means for us to take on collaborative special projects which will benefit the community long into the future, which we would not otherwise have the means to undertake. Continued support of NEA, NEH and IMLS is critical for supporting small and medium size organizations such as ours which have a demonstrated ability to impact local populations and improve quality of life.

February 20, 2018

Dear Senators and Representatives from Michigan:

I am writing in support of my Michigan Museum colleagues meeting with you on Museums Advocacy Day to share with you the benefits my institution has received from federal funding and advocacy for museums. I am a curator (and former director) in the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. Our museum is nearly a century old and cares for more than three million artifacts and specimens from research conducted on human cultures and archaeology around the world. In particular, we hold the state's largest archaeological collections from our state, as well as irreplaceable documentation of Michigan's archaeological heritage. In addition, we hold collections from nearly every continent (except Antarctica) and that span in time from more than 1.5 million years ago to the present. The museum's collections play important roles in educating students here at the University of Michigan, and through our outreach activities and collaborative exhibitions, serve K-12 students and the general public in Southeast Michigan and beyond.

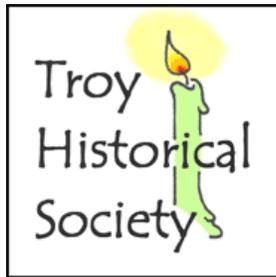
Caring for massive collections, and disseminating information on them, is an ongoing challenge. We have benefited greatly from grant support from Federal agencies including the National Science Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities to enable us to improve the care of our collections – and move them into archival housing that will assure that they will endure for future generations. Most recently, we received a grant from the NEH to help us we move our collections from a 90-year old building to a new climate-controlled state of the art research facility. This funding has made an important contribution to our work.

Museums, and the collections they hold, are important repositories of the history of the natural and cultural world. They are invaluable resources for education and for engaging the curiosity and empathy of our visitors. And, of course, they are important economic engines for their communities. For all of these regions, I thank you for your past support of the important agencies that help museums fulfill their important mission, and humbly request your continued support for Michigan's museums.

Yours sincerely,



Carla M. Sinopoli
Curator of Asian Archaeology and Ethnology, Museum of Anthropological Archaeology
Professor, Department of Anthropology
Director, Museum Studies Program



Statement on Behalf of the Troy Historical Society

In 2016 the Troy Historical Society was one of five Michigan nonprofits and one of 37 in the nation to be awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant for \$50,000. In 18 months our organization used that challenge to raise \$50,000 through new memberships and restricted donations. Those contributions will be matched by NEH and the \$100,000 fund spent over the next three years to improve long term sustainability through new programs and services at the Troy Historic Village. The momentum from this grant also contributed to the establishment of a new permanent endowment fund through the North Woodward Community Foundation and a \$450,000 appropriation by the City of Troy to complete restorations on the 1837 Niles Barnard House at the Troy Historic Village. The support of the federally funded NEH has had a huge positive impact on the long term financial sustainability of the Troy Historical Society and the historic village it operates for the City of Troy.

Loraine Campbell, Executive Director, Troy Historic Village

Louise Beck
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Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Michigan Senators and Representatives,

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the reason that I live in Michigan. After I finished graduate school, I applied to work at The Henry Ford, an opportunity that arose due to their receipt of an IMLS grant. My husband and I moved to Michigan for this opportunity – museum and heritage jobs, especially in conservation, are competitive, and I was and am so excited to be here. My husband, who had just finished his PhD, found a job in the automotive industry, working on autonomous vehicles. The importance of opportunities like this for others is something that motivates me in an enormous way. I think of how recently the term “brain drain” was thrown around with regards to Michigan, and how far the state has come in retaining students and gaining educated individuals. My husband and I are part of this statistic, and we are here because of federal funding. I am grateful for this opportunity, and to be quite honest, disheartened by the recent threats to IMLS, the NEH, and the NEA. Other Michiganders deserve these opportunities as well, and to have their own stories of impact and change.

With all of this, my point is that the impact of federal funding for museums extends far beyond the museums themselves and their collections. The collection that I am working on at The Henry Ford is undeniably benefitting from this grant, as it is stabilized, placed into improved storage, and photographed and made available online. But the reach of this grant extends to the employees, myself included; the local community, which benefits economically from growth in the heritage and tourism sector; and the wider community, who have access to this collection and all of the educational benefits thereof.

Thank you for your time and your support.

Sincerely,

Louise Stewart Beck

Louise Beck

In support of the Michigan Museums Association (MMA) advocacy for Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a brief review of two projects undertaken by the Detroit Historical Society (DHS) reflect the importance of IMLS funding.

Six years ago, the DHS—which manages the historical archives and artifact collection of the City of Detroit, as well as its two museums—received a matching IMLS grant for the digitization of photographic and printed images (posters, ship plans, etc.). Over the next three years, one full-time manager and two part-time technicians, along with a team of interns and volunteers, were able to capture and preserve over 38,000 images as well as three-dimensional objects.

This process included updating the computer catalog records (meta data) for each item, and upgrading the storage for these pieces (when necessary) to reflect current industry best practices. An additional benefit of the system developed during this program allows for easy additions to the image and artifact library. In the past few years more than 2,000 new records and images have been added by DHS staff and volunteers. All are currently available through the DHS online portal for citizens and researchers to access anywhere, anytime.

Three years ago, the DHS received a similar IMLS matching digitization grant that has allowed us to address over 1,000 audiovisual assets including film, video and audio clips. Topics range from early 1920s home movies and maritime scenery, to cultural events and political rallies into the 21st century. Both the still images and moving pictures proved a real asset while the DHS and our partner organizations were addressing the 50th anniversary of Detroit's 1967 Riot/Rebellion. These resources were leveraged for award winning exhibitions at the Detroit Historical Museum and a companion publication, but—more importantly—were used by community organizations, publishers, film makers, and worldwide media outlets to illustrate a difficult time in the city's history. Digitization staff also facilitated the archiving and web launch for over 500 oral histories collected for the '67 project, all of which are available to the public for free.

Such is the interest in our digitized and born-digital holdings that image licensing now generates income that helps support the collections as well as the DHS; approximately \$125,000 over the

last five years, anticipated to grow as awareness increases. In addition, our staff has been able to share processes and lessons-learned with other cultural institutions, and DHS technicians have assisted other repositories digitize rare and important video records stored on outdated media, such as Betamax and U-Matic formats.

While this is a good example of IMLS's goals realized, we only wish there were more resources available. We have applied for grants to catalog and upgrade our priceless maritime history archives and library, held at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, but had those applications declined—not because they were unworthy, but because the resources have gradually diminished in lieu of more political priorities. The recent initiative to reduce IMLS funds by almost ninety percent is an affront to Americans who understand the importance of our nation's history and culture to future generations. We strongly encourage Congress and the current administration to abandon this disastrous course, and not only restore current IMLS funding but consider increasing it in the same ratio as that of proposed defense spending.

Joel Stone

Senior Curator

Detroit Historical Society

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Mason County Historical Society

HISTORIC WHITE PINE VILLAGE • PORT OF LUDINGTON MARITIME MUSEUM

February 14, 2018

Michigan Senators and Representatives:

Please accept this as Mason County Historical Society's (MCHS) view of how federal funding has had an impact on our operations at our museums.

MCHS was established in 1937 and currently operates two museums—Historic White Pine Village and Port of Ludington Maritime Museum, a research library, and partners with several organizations and entities to maintain Ludington's murals, offer a county Sports Hall of Fame, a Veterans Mall, and several county-wide trails (Agriculture, Sculpture, Music, Lumbering, and Barn Quilt). We are located in an underserved, rural area along the Lake Michigan shoreline in West Michigan.

We see thousands of annual visitors from local areas, from the State, from across the Midwest, from around the nation, as well as from other countries around the globe. Federal and State support for special projects has been instrumental in our ability to deliver a quality visitor experience.

We were the recipients of a National Park Service Maritime Heritage grant to refurbish and restore two irreplaceable historic lighthouse Fresnel lenses, which are featured exhibits in our maritime museum. We also received the largest grant ever made to an organization like ours (\$650,000) from the Michigan Department of Transportation to restore the 1934 United States Coast Guard Station (on the Registry of Historic Places) and refurbish it into our Port of Ludington Maritime Museum. This grant was pivotal in our ability to leverage private funds to reach our \$5.2 million fund-raising goal for this major project. MCHS has also received grant funding from the Michigan Council for Arts Cultural Affairs, with partial funding from the National Endowment of the Arts, to fund a First-Person Interpreter project, and an annual Americana-Roots Music Festival.

We are able to deliver on our mission of preserving, protecting, and presenting our historical assets precisely because of public and private support. Federal grants have been, and hopefully will continue to be, instrumental in our growth and development.

Sincerely,



Rick J. Plummer, PhD
Executive Director