

Office of Museum Services September 2015 Grant Announcement

National Leadership Grants

[Arkansas](#) • [Georgia](#) • [Illinois](#) • [Massachusetts](#) • [Missouri](#) • [New York](#) • [Pennsylvania](#) •
[Tennessee](#) • [Virginia](#) • [Washington](#) • [Wisconsin](#)

Arkansas

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art – Bentonville, AR

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Collections Stewardship

Log Number: MG-30-15-0064-15

Award Amount: \$112,340; Matching Amount: \$125,267

Crystal Bridges Museum of Art will lead an initiative to publish data on American art drawn from the collections of 14 museums participating in the American Art Collaborative. In addition to collection data, the material to be published will include curatorial notes, videos, exhibition data, and a selection of links to resources outside the American Art Collaborative that add value to the subject of American art. The project will provide training, technical support, and guidance to help the museums convert their data and promote wide access to the material using linked open data. Information about the project will be disseminated through a website, presentations at conferences, and case studies illustrating the process of conversion and record maintenance to help other museums implement linked open data projects.

Georgia

Zoo Atlanta – Atlanta, GA

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Collections Stewardship

Log Number: MG-30-15-0035-15

Award Amount: \$421,010

Zoo Atlanta will undertake the Bonobo Heart Disease Project as part of their ongoing efforts to address cardiovascular disease (CVD), a major cause of death in captive great apes. Currently, there is incomplete understanding of how to diagnose, treat, and monitor affected apes, and how to adapt techniques used in humans and domestic animals to apes. This project will analyze data from blood pressure, genome sequencing, and cardiac imaging and will set standards for cohesive, coordinated, community-based disease investigations using advanced technology and data tracking software. Results from this project will be the foundation for a national program to investigate potential CVD causes in a captive population of endangered bonobos, develop more consistent diagnostic recommendations for that species, and launch further research

investigations for other apes. Both the project design and results from this research will provide the groundwork to protect and conserve future generations of great apes within the American zoological community and beyond.

Illinois

Brookfield Zoo – Brookfield, IL

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Collections Stewardship

Log Number: MG-30-15-0046-15

Award Amount: \$422,365

The Brookfield Zoo will assess and validate an animal welfare monitoring tool that will enhance the quality of life of individual animals and be of use to the international zoological community. The project involves a user-friendly web application that allows zookeepers to complete surveys for individual animals and generate reports that flag potential shifts in animal welfare status. The zoo will partner with 15 American Zoo and Aquarium accredited facilities to monitor 60 chimpanzees, collecting behavioral and physiological data, processing and assaying physiological samples, carrying out data analysis and disseminating results. The project will benefit all animal care facilities in search of a user-friendly welfare monitoring tool. The system can be adapted for a variety of mammal, bird, and reptile species. The project will give animal care facilities the opportunity to intervene rapidly when welfare issues arise, resulting in improved health, longevity, and quality of life for all captive animals.

Massachusetts

Children's Museum – Boston, MA

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Community Anchors

Log Number: MG-20-15-0057-15

Award Amount: \$463,751; Matching Amount: \$483,750

Boston Children's Museum will strengthen and expand existing regional Massachusetts networks of museums, libraries, community organizations, and the state early learning systems to support school readiness for children and families across groups and especially those in underserved communities. Family and child preparation for kindergarten is a critical element in building a strong foundation for all aspects of child development. Museums and libraries offer invaluable opportunities to address disparities in access to school readiness activities and programs. This project will support, strengthen, and sustain existing museum and library networks by identifying lead organizations within regions that will act as hubs; develop and evaluate a Collective Impact model for replication and dissemination to other states; design, prototype, and evaluate new program ideas, activities, and materials; and pilot test the replication and dissemination of successful practices. The museum will also share the details of their work and their ongoing evaluation findings with the museum field throughout the three-year project.

Missouri

Missouri Botanical Garden – Saint Louis, MO

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Collections Stewardship

Log Number: MG-30-15-0094-15

Award Amount: \$351,579; Matching Amount: \$355,316

The Missouri Botanical Garden will develop methods and software to mobilize the vast stores of collections data contained in museums to predict and mitigate threats. Natural history museums and herbaria collectively hold hundreds of millions of zoological, botanical, and paleontological specimens. These collections serve as the foundation for understanding the distribution of life on Earth and the basis for addressing climate change, loss of biodiversity, emerging diseases, and other pressing global problems. This project will help museums respond effectively to these problems by identifying gaps in coverage of museum collections. The project team will develop methods to model the distributions of species using museum and herbarium data; create free, intuitive, open-source software that enables use of these methods; and disseminate the techniques and software through online video tutorials, webinars, and user manuals, and through publications.

New York

Cool Culture – Brooklyn, NY

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Learning Experiences

Log Number: MG-10-15-0063-15

Award Amount: \$490,540; Matching Amount: \$519,318

Cool Culture will provide professionals from smaller or culturally specific New York City-based museums and historic sites with hands-on-training and professional development support to increase their capacity to respond to the needs of non-traditional family audiences. Children raised in poverty are at an increased risk of negative educational outcomes. Museums' sensory-rich environments can play a critical role in closing our nation's early learning gap. However, research shows that Americans living in poverty are far less likely to visit museums than their more affluent counterparts. This program will create partnerships between museums and early childhood centers to develop and test culturally responsive program models, marketing collateral, and educational materials. It will also host a forum where museum professionals will use design thinking techniques to create new culturally responsive program models and strategies. To extend the program's impact, Cool Culture will create a best practices guide for community and family engagement and disseminate it nationally, including on-line and through conference presentations.

New York Hall of Science – Corona, NY

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Learning Experiences

Log Number: MG-10-15-0082-15

Award Amount: \$448,728; Matching Amount: \$500,763

The New York Hall of Science, along with three partner science museums, will leverage its expertise in making and design-based learning to provide professional development and online resources for informal educators in libraries and other community settings. There is growing interest among a broad range of informal education institutions in using these techniques to transform learning in science, technology, engineering, and math—areas of education critical for the nation’s future. This project will create community-based networks of museums, libraries, and out-of-school organizations interested in design-based learning, develop professional development for staff at these informal learning environments, foster design based learning projects, and develop robust online resources. The project will expand opportunities for young people to experience design-based learning STEM activities in libraries and other out of-school, informal learning settings; build capacity among informal education professionals to teach STEM in these out-of-school settings; and develop a model for empowering informal educators to teach using design-based learning activities.

Sciencenter – Ithaca, NY

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Learning Experiences

Log Number: MG-10-15-0089-15

Award Amount: \$381,695; Matching Amount: \$400,666

The Sciencenter Discovery Museum will lead a collaborative of six museums in developing tools for the museum field to fill a critical gap in Head Start teacher science training and strengthen the museum field’s ability to foster early science learning among underserved audiences in communities nationwide. There is a strong correlation between STEM literacy and success in our society and economy. There is a surprising lack of STEM integrated into early learning programs, particularly in programs for underserved youth. This project will pool the experience of the collaborative to identify best practices in science professional development for Head Start teachers and will develop and disseminate a toolkit to help museums create the kinds of partnerships that will improve early science learning for underserved audiences.

International Coalition of Historic Site Museums of Conscience – New York, NY

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Community Anchors

Log Number: MG-20-15-0072-15

Award Amount: \$481,114; Matching Amount: \$441,114

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (the Coalition) will convene leaders from museums and partner community organizations across the country to create public programs engaging youth in community dialogs on race, education equity, and incarceration in the context of civil rights history. As trusted spaces frequented by youth from a variety of backgrounds, museums are ideal locations for exploring challenging topics and giving young people the

opportunity to have their voices heard. The Coalition will work with participating museums and community organizations to build the capacity of young people to lead their own civic engagement programs at museums in their communities and create model programs that can be replicated in other communities.

Pennsylvania

Harrisburg University of Science and Technology – Harrisburg, PA

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Learning Experiences

Log Number: MG-10-15-0071-15

Award Amount: \$139,518; Matching Amount: \$146,457

The National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (NCSCE) at Harrisburg University of Science and Technology has experience building partnerships between museums and higher education institutions and collaborating on projects that use civic challenges to engage audiences in STEM topics. This project will match established museum-higher education partners with newly developed partners to provide online mentoring that supports collaboration between formal and informal institutions and enhances the educational offerings of both. In addition to being provided with a mentor partnership, the new partners will receive professional development at a summer institute as well as assistance building evaluation into their projects. Five new museum-higher education partnerships will be supported in their development and will benefit from interacting with college students as a strategy to build audiences for the future. NCSCE will explore the feasibility of scaling up the e-mentoring program and will disseminate a paper about this effort.

Tennessee

Memphis Zoo – Memphis, TN

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Collections Stewardship

Log Number: MG-30-15-0076-15

Award Amount: \$480,415; Matching Amount: \$113,995

The Memphis Zoo and its partners will help establish the country's first amphibian genome bank to support living collections and species recovery programs. This project will begin securing genetic material from captive amphibian species representing a wide array of evolutionary and ecological specializations, especially those suspected to be most at risk of extinction, and expand partnerships among academia, government, and non-profit zoological institutions to address a critically important conservation issue. Outreach and informal learning experiences for the zoo's visitors and peers will increase knowledge of the extinction crisis and build awareness of what steps the zoo and its partners are taking to reverse the current loss of frog and toad populations.

Virginia

Monticello, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation – Charlottesville, VA

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Learning Experiences

Log Number: MG-10-15-0095-15

Award Amount: \$296,312; Matching Amount: \$345,070

Monticello will partner with Mystic Seaport Museum to research what and how teachers learn in professional development programs at history museums. This project will develop an evaluation tool and use it to assess historic site-based teacher education programs at five different historic sites to obtain generalizable understandings about what teachers are learning. The foundation will share the tool and the knowledge gained from using it and will provide training in how to use it for other researchers, museum professionals, and educators. This project will enable history museums to evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of current teacher professional development programming and to develop, adjust, and implement programs that more fully support teacher growth and development.

National Art Education Association – Reston, VA

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Learning Experiences

Log Number: MG-10-15-0079-15

Award Amount: \$499,804; Matching Amount: \$102,617

The National Art Education Association and the Association of Art Museum Directors will conduct the first major national study in the United States on the impact of single-visit programs to art museums on K-12 students. This project will qualitatively and quantitatively explore how engaging directly with original works of art within the distinctive physical setting of art museums nurtures skills and capacities among students. The partners will finalize the research study design, complete a literature review, test research protocols, select sites for the study, carry out data collection and processing at six selected museums and associated classrooms, analyze the data, develop and disseminate the final report, write a user's guide, and hold a symposium to share findings. The project will result in research-based understanding of the benefits of single visit art museum programs for children in grades 5-8, public and field-wide discussion about the value of art museums to young people, advocacy tools, increased research-based decision making, and the identification of new questions to research.

Washington

Pacific Science Center – Seattle, WA

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Learning Experiences

Log Number: MG-10-15-0083-15

Award Amount: \$345,961; Matching Amount: \$360,277

Pacific Science Center will partner with a history and an art museum to expand a program, Portal to the Public, that trains scientists and researchers to engage with the public in science museum

settings. The expanded program will explore how to bring STEM professionals and visitors together in history and art museums and, conversely, how artists and historians can fit within the programmatic offerings of science museums. The project tackles a new approach to learning which brings these seemingly disparate areas together in a holistic way in order to understand, address, and solve real work challenges in the 21st century. The museum partners will adapt the Portal to the Public framework, provide professional development to STEM and humanities professionals, test new cross-disciplinary engagement events, and publish disseminate a new guide for use by the museum field. The project will enhance museum professionals' capacity to effectively partner with cross-disciplinary professionals in STEM, art, or history fields and successfully create related programming that helps achieve their institution's mission and desired impacts.

Wisconsin

University of Wisconsin System – Milwaukee, WI

Grant Program: National Leadership Grants for Museums

Project Type: Collections Stewardship

Log Number: MG-30-15-0102-15

Award Amount: \$454,163

The University of Wisconsin, in collaboration with the San Diego Zoo and a team of zoo and aquarium biologists, will improve the management of living collections by integrating DNA data into breeding pair selection strategies. Nearly 500 cooperatively managed Species Survival Plans (SSP) provide a framework for zoos and aquariums across the United States to collectively breed and maintain priority collection species. This project will use DNA sequencing methods that generate accurate empirical estimates of the kindships between animals to provide SSPs with a more complete pedigree for each animal and enable more effective breeding pair selection that supports the long-term sustainability of priority species. This project will develop test and deploy necessary infrastructure (protocols, software programs, and training workshops) for SSPs to effectively integrate DNA data into breeding pair selection strategies, to ultimately improve the long term retention of genetic diversity in these collections.