UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2024 MUSEUM GRANTS

Funding opportunities to support your collections goals

Grants for American museums, cultural institutions, and industry professionals

Nationwide grants exist in the United States to help fill budgeting gaps faced by museums and cultural institutions. By pairing current and upcoming projects to relevant funding, museums and industry professionals can achieve more with their existing resources.

The **2024 Grants Guide for the United States** by Gallery Systems is an entryway into your grant research. Discover museum grants for project development, exhibition creation, hiring and training employees, acquiring technology and software, and much more.

Missed the deadline for a funding opportunity? Most grants in the 2024 Grants Guide for the United States are annual or biannual. Be sure to visit the granting websites for details on future admission periods.

2

WHICH PROJECTS QUALIFY FOR A MUSEUM GRANT?

Understanding if your project is a strong candidate for grant funding requires careful thought before you begin the application process.

Granting patterns tend to shift yearly. Which grant applications are successful depends, to a certain extent, on the current focus areas within museums and public interest. It's imperative to ensure your project is timely and topical when requesting funding.

> Keep an eye out for new grants emerging in response to current events and industry trends.

With all that in mind, museum grants often finance the following types of projects:

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT
Apply for funding to improve the collections management activities at your museum. Granting bodies will fund projects focused on:

- Increasing operational efficiency and best practices
- Streamlining workflows for **collections care**, **conservation**, **DAM**, and other departments
- Implementing a new **collections management system**

Grants: ➲ **Museums for America**, ➲ **Inspire! Grants for Small Museums**

DIGITIZATION PROJECTS
Providing online access to objects and collections is often a grant-worthy project, especially when focused on upholding an institution's DEIA mandate. Many grants exist to help:

- Offset the prohibitive costs of web cataloguing and publishing
- Share archival materials online from historically marginalized groups
- Support the implementation of **online collections software**

Grants: ➲ **Access to Historical Records: Major Initiatives**, ➲ **Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Amplifying Unheard Voices**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH
Museum staff can apply for a variety of professional development and research grants to enhance their skillset and knowledge. Through this funding, individuals can:

- Access **training sessions** and workshops
- Attend **industry conferences**
- Pursue research projects within their specialization

Grants: ➲ **Museums Empowered: Professional Development Opportunities for Museum Staff**, ➲ **Samuel H. Kress Grants for Research and Publication**

COLLECTIVE IMAGINATION 2025
Accelerate your career at Collective Imagination, the biannual Gallery Systems user conference. Learn, network, and discover new ways to use your TMS Suite or EmbARK software to the fullest. Watch **this space** for future details on CI 2025 in Berlin, Germany.

WHICH PROJECTS QUALIFY FOR A MUSEUM GRANT?

OBJECT EXHIBITION

Museum grants for exhibitions help facilitate the preservation and access to American heritage. This funding can be used towards:

- Creating and promoting a new exhibition
- Hosting a traveling exhibition
- Loaning and shipping your collections objects

Applications are most successful when shown to prioritize community engagement and be relevant to contemporary social topics.

Grants: ➲ **American Art: Exhibition Competition**, ➲ **Grants for Arts Projects**

COMMUNITY-BASED ENDEAVORS

Within the museum world, an increasing number of grants are available to support projects with historically marginalized and underrepresented groups. Successfully funded initiatives often aim to:

- Increase visibility and inclusion
- Engage diverse communities
- Decolonialize heritage spaces in the United States

Grants: ➲ **Challenge America**, ➲ **Humanities in Place**

CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

Grants offer valuable departmental funding for museum conservators, archaeologists, and their institutions. Eligible projects include:

- Art and object preservation
- Field studies, research, and professional development
- Acquisition of technology or **conservation software**

Grants: ➲ **Art Conservation Project**, ➲ **Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections**

ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

Arts and Culture

Through its Arts and Culture program, the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** provides grants to organizations that have been historically under-resourced. Multi-year funding is given to support collections care, conservation, and community histories. Organizations that embrace new operating and funding models, while centering equity and inclusion to further social change, are prioritized for funding.

Deadline: Grant proposals are invitation-only. To be considered, submit a funding inquiry through Mellon's grantee portal. **Read the full details**.

Humanities in Place

Humanities in Place, a program offered by the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**, strives to increase the visibility of histories from diverse communities. Project funding is available to history museums, heritage and public spaces, and other institutions that showcase American narratives in the public sphere.

Deadline: Grant proposals are invitation-only. To be considered, submit a funding inquiry through Mellon's grantee portal. **Read the full details**.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA (AIA)

Ellen and Charles Steinmetz Endowment for Archaeology

As the largest nonprofit of its kind in North America, the **Archaeological Institute of America** is committed to preserving and protecting global heritage. The Steinmetz Endowment, open to AIA members, supports innovative uses of technology in archaeological research. Projects must strive to address the unknowns of human past, explored through technological means. Early-career archaeologists are prioritized for funding, but all are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: November 1, 2024

Julie Herzig Desnick Endowment for Archaeological Field

Stewarded by the **Archaeological Institute of America**, the Julie Herzig Desnick Endowment funds new archaeological survey projects for AIA members. Projects must include field study on the ground in a focused capacity, although some remote sensing data is allowed. Early-career archaeologists are prioritized for funding, but all are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: November 1, 2024

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA (AIA)

Samuel H. Kress Grants for Research and Publication in Classical Art and Architecture

Looking to publish your archeological research? The Samuel H. Kress Grant supports publication preparation, or research leading to publication, undertaken by professional members of the **Archaeological Institute of America**. Research must focus on Graeco-Roman Art and Architecture and the broader Mediterranean world of Classical antiquity.

Deadline: March 1, 2024

Site Preservation Grant

Presented by the **Archaeological Institute of America**, the Site Preservation Grant is awarded to archaeological projects that serve the core AIA mission of preserving and protecting heritage worldwide. The grant—awarding a maximum of $15,000—aims to enhance worldwide preservation efforts, raise awareness of threatened sites, and promote public outreach and education.

Deadline: November 1, 2024

BANK OF AMERICA

Art Conservation Project

The **Bank of America**'s Art Conservation Project is a unique program that provides grants to museums throughout the world. These grants support projects that conserve historically or culturally significant works of art in danger of degeneration, including works that have been designated as national treasures.

Deadline: **Visit the website** for upcoming due dates.

COSTUME SOCIETY OF AMERICA

CSA Angels Project

Overseen by the **Costume Society of America**, the CSA Angels Project is open to institutions located in, or near, the host city of that year's **CSA National Symposium**. Through the program, a costume collection is selected to receive the tools and support to complete a major project, culminating in an intensive one-day conservation plan. Submissions must show a high impact on the overall institution, prove to be significant to the collection, and be feasible within the time allotted.

Deadline: 2024 Angels Project applications are being accepted from institutions located in the Washington, D.C. area.

COSTUME SOCIETY OF AMERICA

CSA Small Museum Collection Care Grant

The CSA Small Museum Collection Care Grant, provided by the **Costume Society of America**, is awarded to help small institutions in preserving costume and textile collections. Funding can support the care, conservation, and exhibition of collections that have historic, regional, or other significance.

Deadline: **Visit the website** for upcoming due dates.

CSA Travel Research Grant

Available to **Costume Society of America** members, the CSA Travel Research Grant provides travel funding to conduct research at a collection, library, archive, museum, or other site relevant to the intended project.

Deadline: **Visit the website** for upcoming due dates.

COUNCIL ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESOURCES (CLIR)

Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Amplifying Unheard Voices

Administered by the **CLIR**, Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives is a nationwide grant competition for digitizing rare and unique content in museums and cultural institutions. Projects should further the public understanding and visibility of historically marginalized communities and populations.

Deadline: November 1, 2024

HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION

American Art: Exhibition Competition

Looking for support towards a loan exhibition? The Exhibition Competition, within the American Art Program of the **Henry Luce Foundation,** awards grants to loan exhibition proposals shown to advance the nationwide study and understanding of art.

Deadline: April 28, 2024

HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION

American Art: Responsive Grants

Part of the **Henry Luce Foundation**'s American Art Program, The Responsive Grant funds projects by arts and culture organizations that protect collections that are important to the overall field of museums, libraries, and culture. The grant covers an array of projects, including conservation, collection digitization, and large installations. Although independent conservation projects are funded only rarely, conservation components can be included in proposals for collections-based projects.

Deadline: Applications are considered three times per year in March, June, and November.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

Collections Assessment for Preservation Program

The Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program is a joint effort of **IMLS** and the **Foundation for Advancement in Conservations (FAIC)** to help small and mid-sized museums better care for their collections through a grant and recommendations. Application info is available on the **FAIC website**.

Deadline: **Visit the website** for upcoming due dates.

Community Catalyst Initiative

Overseen by the **IMLS**, the Community Catalyst Initiative (CCI) challenges museums and libraries to transform how they collaborate with their communities. Grantees receive support through a partnership with DePaul University to provide training and coaching on asset-based community development.

Deadline: **Visit the website** for upcoming due dates.

Inspire! Grants for Small Museums

Inspire! Grants for Small Museums is a special initiative of the **IMLS**'s **Museums for America** program. The grants assist small museums in implementing projects that address priorities identified in their strategic plans, including support for exhibitions, educational programs, digital learning resources, technology enhancements, and community outreach.

Deadline: November 15, 2024

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

Museum Assessment Program (MAP)

Within a one-year cycle, the Museum Assessment Program is designed to help museums fortify their operations and future planning using self-assessment and consultative peer review. MAP is supported in a collaboration between **IMLS** and the **American Alliance of Museums**.

Deadline: February 1, 2024

Museums Empowered: Professional Development Opportunities for Museum Staff

Museums Empowered: Professional Development Opportunities for Museum Staff is a special initiative of the **IMLS**'s **Museums for America** program. Eligible projects leverage training and professional development for staff to generate systemic change within an institution.

Deadline: November 15, 2024

Museums for America

The Museums for America program, run by the **IMLS**, supports projects that strengthen the ability of museums to serve their public audiences. Funding can be used toward exhibitions, educational programing, digital resources, and collections management, curation, and conservation, along with other public-focused initiatives.

Deadline: November 15, 2024

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

Through the **IMLS**, the Museum Grant for African American History and Culture is awarded to projects by African American museums looking to improve operations, collections management, and professional management of the institution. The grant period may last up to three years.

Deadline: November 15, 2024

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

National Leadership Grants for Libraries

National Leadership Grants for Libraries (NLG-L), an **IMLS** program, support projects that enhance the quality of library and archive services nationwide by advancing theory and practice. Proposed projects should lead toward new models, tools, practices, and services that can be widely implemented.

Deadline: September 20, 2024

National Leadership Grants for Museums

Offered by the **IMLS**, National Leadership Grants for Museums are cost-sharing grants, awarded to projects that resolve major issues in the museum field, while advancing the profession and serving the public. The grant period may last up to three years.

Deadline: November 15, 2024

Native American Library Services: Basic Grants

Native American Library Services: Basic Grants, an **IMLS** program, supports library operations and helps to maintain core library services for tribal communities. Grants can be used to improve services for learning and accessing information, along with broadening the skills of current library staff through professional development opportunities.

Deadline: March 1, 2024

Native American Library Services: Enhancement Grants

Run through the **IMLS**, Native American Library Services: Enhancement Grants is a granting program that supports Native American tribes in enhancing library operations within their communities. Funding aims to preserve tribal cultures and languages, improve library programing, and enhance the digital services available.

Deadline: April 3, 2024

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

⬀ Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program

The Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program, offered by the **IMLS,** supports tribal institutions that serve and represent Native Hawaiians. The funding backs projects that sustain heritage, culture, and learning through exhibitions, public programming, collections care, educational programming, and professional development.

Deadline: November 15, 2024

⬀ Native Hawaiian Library Services

As an **IMLS** program, Native Hawaiian Library Services is designed to assist Native Hawaiian libraries in improving core library services for their communities. The program goals include expanding digital services, improving educational programs, and enhancing the preservation and revitalization of Native Hawaiian culture and language.

Deadline: April 3, 2024

⬀ Save America's Treasures

Save America's Treasures supports the preservation of nationally significant historic properties and collections in the United States. This **National Park Service** grant program is in collaboration with the **IMLS,** the **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**, and the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)**.

Deadline: Visit the **grants.gov portal** for upcoming due dates.

KNIGHT FOUNDATION

⬀ Arts Program

Through its Art Program, **Knight Foundation** supports the use of technology to the create, distribute, and experience art. Focusing on areas where the Knight Brothers once owned newspapers, the program funds projects that innovate audience outreach and increase arts audiences in select communities. View the **list of eligible communities** for further details.

Deadline: Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

KRESS FOUNDATION

↗ Conservation Grants

Kress Foundation's Conservation Grants program offers support to museums to enhance their conservation practices, with a special interest in pre-modern European art. Grants are awarded to projects that focus on preserving collections and archives, create scholarly databases and publications, and help to advance the science and techniques used by conservators.

Deadline: March 1, September 1, and December 15, 2024

↗ Digital Art History Grants

Presented by the **Kress Foundation**, Digital Art History Grants support the integration of new technologies and the creation of online resources to further pre-modern European art history. Grants may be used to develop new forms of research and collaboration, digitize visual resources and textual sources, and/or create innovations in online publishing and digital art history.

Deadline: March 1 and September 1, 2024

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)

↗ Challenge America

Presented by the NEA, Challenge America is a granting program for small organizations looking to offer arts programing to underserved populations. Eligible projects include arts exhibitions, commissioning artists or artworks, marketing activities, and planning within the organization.

Deadline: View the **Application Calendar** for key dates.

↗ Grants for Arts Projects

Grants for Arts Projects, an **NEA** granting program, fund projects within arts organizations that support community engagement, exhibitions, and collections. Many kinds of proposals are eligible, including projects that highlight exhibitions, collections care, and conservation.

Deadline: View the **Application Calendar** for key dates.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

Digital Humanities Advancement Grant

The Digital Humanities Advancement Grant program supports digital projects at different stages of their lifecycles. Experimentation, reuse, and extensibility are hallmarks of this **NEH** initiative, leading to innovative work that can scale to enhance scholarly research, teaching, and public programing in the humanities. Proposals are welcome for digital initiatives in any area of the humanities.

Deadline: January 12, 2024

Digital Projects for the Public

The Digital Projects for the Public, an **NEH** program, supports projects that interpret and analyze humanities content in primarily digital platforms and formats. Examples include websites, mobile apps and tours, games, and virtual environments. Projects must be designed to attract broad public audiences, either online or in person at museums, libraries, or cultural institutions.

Deadline: June 12, 2024

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

Presented by the **NEH,** Humanities Collections and Reference Resources gives funding to projects that are looking to extend the life of collections and make their content widely available, including through digital technologies. Awards are offered for both planning and implementation and can involve a single institution or partnership between multiple organizations.

Deadline: July 16, 2024

Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities

Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities supports training programs for humanities professionals to broaden and extend their knowledge of digital humanities. Through this program, the **NEH** seeks to increase the number of humanities practitioners using digital technology in their research and to broadly disseminate knowledge about advanced technology tools and relevant methodologies.

Deadline: February 15, 2024

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

Awarded by the **NEH**, Preservation Assistance Grants help small and mid-sized institutions improve their ability to preserve and care for their significant humanities collections. Organizations may apply for up to $10,000 in funding to cover preservation and collection care, supplies and equipment, and related conservation costs.

Deadline: January 11, 2024

Public Humanities Projects

Public Humanities Projects, an **NEH** program, provides funding for organizations looking to expand audience engagement through their public programming. Rooted in humanities scholarship, proposed projects should be intended to reach a wide, diverse audience through appealing and accessible means.

Deadline: January 11, 2024

Research and Development

Offered through the **NEH**, the Research and Development program helps alleviate difficulties associated with preserving and providing access to humanities collections. Projects are encouraged to preserve audiovisual and digital heritage, conserve material past and cultural heritage, respond to climate change, and/or serve under-represented communities. The program supports projects in all stages of development, from early planning to implementation.

Deadline: May 21, 2024

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections (SCHC) helps cultural institutions meet the complex challenges of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials for future generations. This NEH program supports sustainable conservation measures that mitigate deterioration, prolong the useful life of collections, and support institutional resilience: the ability to anticipate and respond to disasters resulting from natural or human activity.

Deadline: January 12, 2024

NATIONAL FILM PRESERVATION FOUNDATION (NFPF)

NFPF Grants

Through their granting program, the **National Film Preservation Foundation** supports the preservation and exhibition of American films, including **time-based media collections**. Various conservation grants—including award cash and donated services by laboratories and post-production houses—are available to institutions of all sizes. Each year, between 30 to 40 grants are awarded nationwide.

Deadline: Visit the **NFPF site** to view the grants and their respective deadlines.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSIONS

Access to Historical Records: Major Initiatives

Have a project that will increase public awareness and use of historical records? The **National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)**, part of the **National Archives**, is looking for collections of early legal records that showcase the evolution of America's legal history. Funding is offered to projects to digitize collections, create online collections, and improve accessibility through new user tools.

Deadline: **Visit the website** for upcoming due dates.

Archives Collaboratives

Working with other institutions on an archival collections project? Within the **National Archives**, the **NHPRC** is offering grant funding to three or more institutions collaborating to increase public visibility and access to an archive. Collections that center on BIPOC voices and perspectives are especially encouraged to request Archives Collaboratives funding.

Deadline: May 8, 2024

Major Collaborative Archival Initiatives

To increase collaboration between institutions, **NHPRC** offers grants through the Major Collaborative Archival Initiatives. **National Archives** funding is meant to promote discovery and access to U.S. historical records collections. All types of historical records—including documents, photographs, born-digital records, analog audio, and moving images—are eligible. Projects must be undertaken between multiple institutions and strive to digitize and publish historical records online and create new methodology for increasing public access. Collections that center on BIPOC voices and perspectives are encouraged to request funding.

Deadline: May 8, 2024

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSIONS

Publishing Historical Records in Collaborative Digital Editions

Administered by the **NHPRC** of the **National Archives**, this granting program supports the publication of U.S. historical records to promote their access. Projects that center on historically marginalized groups are especially encouraged. Most types of historical records are eligible for funding consideration, except for film and video.

Deadline: May 8, 2024

State Board Programming Grants

State Board Programming Grants, overseen by the **NHPRC** within the **National Archives**, focus on the advancement of the national archival network, including increased online access to historical records, collaboration with other organizations, and the advancement of outreach programs. Projects that center on historically marginalized groups are especially encouraged.

Deadline: May 8, 2024

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) Grants

The **National Parks Service**'s Tribal Preservation Program seeks to preserve collections and objects cared for by tribal organizations through the THPO and **Tribal Heritage Grants**. Funding is focused on promoting unique cultural heritage with Indian Tribes, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

Deadline: Application deadlines are available on the **grants.gov portal**.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

Grants from the **National Trust**'s African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund advance ongoing preservation activities for historic places such as sites, museums, and landscapes that represent African American cultural heritage. Funding amounts range between $50,000 to $150,000, with $12.4 million invested to date in conserving culturally significant buildings and landscapes.

Deadline: **Visit the website** for upcoming due dates.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

↗ National Trust Preservation Funds (NTPF)

Overseen by the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**, the Preservation Funds support institutions focused on ongoing preservation work for local audiences. By financing conservation-related seed projects, these funds also encourage funding from the private sector, spur local groups to get involved, and teach preservation to the public. Grants typically range from $2,500 to $5,000 and require a funding match through cash or in-kind donations.

Deadline: February 1, 2024

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

↗ Grants and Fellowships

Founded by George Soros, the **Open Society Foundations** awards grants and fellowships internationally, mostly to organizations. This funding can vary in allocation and support expenses related to specific projects or operating budgets. Applications should focus on social issues and preserving local cultural heritage.

Deadline: Visit the **Grants and Fellowships** page to view the grants and their respective deadlines.

SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

↗ SJHS Grants & Applications

Through its granting program, the **Southern Jewish Historical Society** offers funding to American institutions with projects relating to Southern Jewish history. Grants are available towards production or completion expenses of exhibitions, research travel, and the preservation of archival materials.

Deadline: May 1, 2024

STANTEC

↗ Community Engagement Program

Stantec funds community initiatives globally through its Community Engagement Program. Museums and arts organizations can request funding through the Arts division for projects focused on strengthening and engaging diverse communities. Only non-profit institutions are eligible to apply.

Deadline: Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

PARTNERING WITH
GALLERY SYSTEMS

Gallery Systems has **collections management software** to enhance every facet of your daily collections management workflow, collaboration, and reporting. Whether you want to **publish your collections online**, **better manage your digital assets**, or **streamline your conservation documentation**, our applications are designed to support your collection needs in efficient and cost-effective ways.

We have assisted many institutions with successful grant applications, related to software implementation, upgrades, and development training. **Contact us** to learn more.