



March 16, 2025

Urgent: Take Action to Protect IMLS & Support Our Cultural Institutions

Dear AAAM Members,

It has been brought to our attention—just as with the rest of the country—that the most recent Executive Order proposes drastic reductions or the dismantling of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) within the next seven days. This news is deeply concerning, as IMLS is one of the most vital federal agencies supporting museums, libraries, and cultural institutions nationwide, particularly those committed to preserving African American history and culture.

Over the past several days, I have been in continuous discussions with leaders from museum and library associations across the country. We are actively working on strategies to support IMLS and our other federal partners in the face of these alarming developments. However, our collective voices as museum professionals, cultural stewards, and community advocates will be critical in ensuring that decision-makers understand the irreplaceable role IMLS plays in our field.

We implore each of you to take immediate action by sending letters of support to your Congressmen, Congresswomen, and Senators, urging them to protect IMLS and the essential funding it provides to our institutions. To assist in these efforts, we have enclosed a [letter template](#) that you can use to contact your representatives.

Additionally, we strongly encourage you to mobilize your [organization's members, visitors, and supporters to send their own letters](#). Your museum's presence in the community is invaluable, and your patrons can be powerful advocates by sharing how your institution's IMLS-funded programs have contributed to economic development, increased tourism, and provided essential cultural and educational services in your city.

This is a crucial moment, and your voices matter more than ever. Please act now to safeguard the future of IMLS and the cultural institutions that rely on its support.

PLEASE NOTE: Congress will soon be in recess; we implore you to engage directly with legislators and their district offices.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to preserving and advancing African American history and culture. We are in this together...we are STRONGER TOGETHER!

The AAAM Board, staff, and I truly love and appreciate our incredible members and community.

In solidarity,

Vedet Coleman-Robinson, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Association of African American Museums