



Fact Sheet: The National Medal for Museum and Library Service

- Since 1994, a total of 212 institutions have been recipients of this honor. Past winners can be viewed here: www.ims.gov/our-work/national-medals/national-medal-winners.
- The [National Medal for Museum and Library Service](#), presented annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), is the United States' highest honor for institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities.
- Recipient institutions will receive the National Medal at an in-person ceremony in Washington, DC in July 2024, and a financial award in recognition of their extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions.
- IMLS highlights each finalist in the *Share Your Story* campaign over the six weeks leading up to the announcement of the winners with photos and stories from their communities on their X (formerly known as Twitter), Facebook and Instagram pages. For more information, please follow [#IMLSmedals](#).

National Medal Selection Process

- 30 institutions—15 libraries and 15 museums—have been named as 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service finalists.
- IMLS will announce the 2024 museum and library winners in late May. Each year, IMLS honors 3-5 institutions in each category.
- Members of the National Museum and Library Services Board, the presidentially appointed advisory board for IMLS, review the nominations and make recommendations to the IMLS Director, who selects the winners.
- All types of museums, from anthropological to zoological, fine art to folk art, urban and rural, large and small, are eligible for this award.
- Public or private nonprofit libraries of all sizes and types are eligible to receive this award.
- Any individual, including a member of Congress, may nominate a museum and/or library in the United States and its territories for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service.
- To learn more about nominating, please visit the [IMLS website](#).
- The 2025 National Medals will be open for applications in the summer of 2024.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

- IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the museums and libraries of America.
- IMLS supports museums and libraries as trusted public spaces that meet the needs of their communities and essential caretakers of America's history and culture.
- IMLS ensures that museums and libraries have the resources they need to anticipate and meet the needs of the individual communities they support.
- IMLS is supporting institutions in their efforts to expand public access to their collections through digitization, online programming, and other technological innovations.
- IMLS strengthens the capacity of museums and libraries to ensure community members are informed, educated, and prepared to participate fully in society.
- For more information, please visit ims.gov.