



## **Preserve America Summit Implementation** **One-Year Progress Report**

***Conserve cultural collections by pursuing cost-effective collaboration between the historic preservation community and the broader cultural heritage community, including support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' "Connecting to Collections" initiative.***

**Lead Agency/Agencies:** Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

**Summit Recommendation Progress:** Launched in November 2006, IMLS has made great progress in all areas of the *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action* initiative during the last year. This national initiative aims to raise public awareness of the importance of caring for the collections held by small and medium-sized museums and libraries across the nation. The kickoff event was the National Conservation Summit, where representatives of small and medium-sized museums and libraries from every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico met with national leaders in the nation's capitol on June 27-28, 2007. The summit explored strategies for preserving endangered collections, harnessing new technologies, engaging the public in conservation efforts, and identifying funding resources. The event would not have been possible without the support of federal cultural agency partners NEA, NEH, and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH). Heritage Preservation was the cooperating partner for the event, with additional funding provided by the Henry Luce Foundation and Metal Edge, Inc. A DVD of summit highlights and printed copies of keynotes were created and available from IMLS by request. An initiative overview film has also been created and is available on the initiative website.

IMLS, Heritage Preservation, and partners NEA, NEH, and PCAH have convened two of the four National Tour forums that explore specialized collections care issues: Atlanta (January 2008 – *Preserving America's Diverse Collections*) and Denver (June 2008 – *Collaboration in the Digital Age*). Planning is underway for the final two forums in San Diego (February 2009 – *Care for Living Collections*) and Buffalo (June 2009 – *Training in Collections Care*). The entire proceedings of each forum are posted on the initiative website within several weeks of the event. Support for the forums has been provided by NEA, NEH, PCAH, and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

In order to broaden the reach of the interagency collaboration of this effort, a presentation was also made to the Federal Preservation Officers (FPO) meeting in January 2008. Since that meeting many of the FPOs have contacted IMLS with questions and are considering ways that they may be able to be involved in this or related efforts regarding the care of their own extensive historic, cultural, and archaeological collections.

IMLS and its cooperating partner the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) have awarded two of three rounds of the *Connecting to Collections* Bookshelf, a compendium of conservation and collections care books, DVDs, and other resources. Ultimately, 3,000 Bookshelves will be awarded to small and mid-sized museums, archives, and libraries with special collections. An accompanying *User's*

*Guide* and *Guide to Online Resources* have been created and are available on the initiative website. The Bookshelf has been generously supported by the Henry Luce Foundation, the Getty Foundation, and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

IMLS has held one of two grant deadlines (19 awards thus far) of *Connecting to Collections* Statewide Planning Grants, of which the goal is to award a grant to each eligible state, commonwealth, and territory to advance their collective conservation goals guided by the *Heritage Health Index* report recommendations. The next deadline is October 16, 2008, with potential in 2009 for a set of implementation grants.

Another grant opportunity of the initiative is the Bank of America/IMLS American Heritage Preservation Program. With a single deadline of September 15, 2008, small museums, libraries, and archives are eligible to apply for funding to help preserve specific items, including works of art, artifacts, and historical documents that are in need of conservation.

**Next Actions:** Planning continues for the February 2009 National Tour forum in San Diego and the June 2009 forum in Buffalo, New York. A second deadline for the Statewide Planning Grants will be held in September. A third deadline for the Bookshelf will be held in January 2009.

**Important Links:**

*Connecting to Collections* initiative [www.ims.gov/collections](http://www.ims.gov/collections)

**Comments or Questions?** Please send comments or questions to [preserveamerica@achp.gov](mailto:preserveamerica@achp.gov).