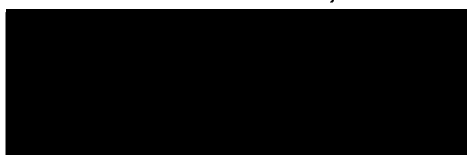


Labor Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Witness Disclosure Form

Clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires non-governmental witnesses to disclose to the Committee the following information. A non-governmental witness is any witness appearing on behalf of himself/herself or on behalf of an organization other than a federal agency, or a state, local or tribal government.

Your Name, Business Address, and Telephone Number:

Laura H. Foster, President and CEO
Please Touch Museum®, The Children's Museum of Philadelphia™



1. Are you appearing on behalf of yourself or a non-governmental organization? Please list organization(s) you are representing.

American Association of Museums

2. Have you or any organization you are representing received any Federal grants or contracts (including any subgrants or subcontracts) since October 1, 2008?

Yes No

3. If your response to question #2 is "Yes", please list the amount and source (by agency and program) of each grant or contract, and indicate whether the recipient of such grant or contract was you or the organization(s) you are representing.

Granted to AAM - The Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Leadership Grant, "Strategic Planning for a New Vision of Museum Accreditation: Phase One"
Grant # LG-00-09-028-09 - \$50,000

Granted to AAM - The Institute of Museum and Library Services, Cooperative Agreement, "Museum Assessment Program"
Award # IM-00-07-0001-07-\$876,000 (\$442,000 original award; \$434,000 amendment)
From October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2010

Granted to AAM - The Institute of Museum and Library Services, Cooperative Agreement, "Museum Assessment Program"
Award # IM-00-09-0001-09-\$920,000 (\$460,000 original award; \$460,000 amendment)
From October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2011

Granted to AAM – The Institute of Museum and Library Services, Cooperative Agreement, “Museum Assessment Program”
Award # IM-00-11-0001-11-\$884,229 (\$195,316 original award; \$251,942 amendment; \$436,971 amendment)
From February 1, 2011 to September 30, 2013

Granted to AAM: US Department of State, Professional and Cultural Exchange Programs, Citizen Exchanges, “Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad (MCCA)”
Grant # S-ECACU-08-CA-137 (JY), \$640,000
From: September 1, 2008 to December 31, 2010

Granted to AAM - US Department of State, Professional and Cultural Exchange Programs, Citizen Exchanges, “Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad (MCCA)”
Grant # S-ECACU-09-CA-125 (SM), \$1,100,000
From September 3, 2009 to September 12, 2011

Granted to AAM - US Department of State, Professional and Cultural Exchange Programs, Citizen Exchanges, “Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad (MCCA)”
Grant # S-ECACU-10-CA-135 (MJ), \$1,250,000
From July 15, 2010 to July 31, 2012

Granted to AAM - US Department of State, Professional and Cultural Exchange Programs, Citizen Exchanges, “Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad (MCCA)”
Grant # S-ECACU-11-CA-116 (SS), \$1,100,000
From September 1, 2011 to July 31, 2013

Granted to AAM - The National Endowment for the Arts, Art Works Grant, “The Reinvention of Accreditation”
Grant # 11-4400-7004, \$75,000
From January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011

Granted to AAM - The National Endowment for the Arts, Art Works Grant, “The Reinvention of Accreditation”
Grant # 12-4400-7013, \$50,000
From January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

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Date: 3-26-12



Laura H. Foster
President and CEO
Please Touch Museum®

Laura Foster is President and CEO of Please Touch Museum®, the Children’s Museum of Philadelphia™. Ms. Foster has been with the Museum since 1991 and previously held the positions of Executive Director, Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff, Vice President of Development, and Director of Development and Marketing at the Museum. Please Touch Museum was founded in 1976 and was the first museum to focus exclusively on exhibits and programs for young children ages birth to seven. Ms. Foster was part of the leadership team for the expansion and relocation of Please Touch Museum to Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park in 2008. She is a Board member of the American Association of Museums and also served as a Board member of the Association of Children’s Museums from 2000-2010 and as President of the Association from 2008-2010.

Ms. Foster holds a BA in anthropology from Barnard College and a JD from University of Baltimore School of Law, and she is a graduate of the Getty Museum Management Institute. She is a participant in National Arts Strategies, Chief Executive Program, a two-year initiative designed to unleash the collective power of 100 of the top executive leaders in the cultural sector to re-imagine what cultural institutions will be and how they can contribute to civil society. Ms. Foster has over 30 years of management experience in nonprofits, government, and museums. Ms. Foster was Adjunct Associate Professor in the Museum Studies Department at the University of the Arts where she taught Museum Governance: Legal Issues, Ethics and Museums.

**Testimony of
Laura H. Foster
President and CEO, Please Touch Museum®, The Children's Museum of Philadelphia
Board Member, American Association of Museums**

**www.aam-us.org
to the House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education and Related Agencies
March 29, 2012**

Chairman Rehberg, Ranking Member DeLauro, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to testify today. My name is Laura Foster and I serve as President and CEO of Please Touch Museum®, the Children's Museum of Philadelphia™. I also serve as a Board Member of American Association of Museums (AAM) and am here to represent AAM and the larger museum community – including the American Association for State and Local History, the Association of Art Museum Directors, the Association of Children's Museums, the American Public Gardens Association, and Heritage Preservation – to request that the Subcommittee make a renewed investment in museums in FY13. We urge your support for at least \$35 million for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

AAM is proud to represent the full range of our nation's museums – including aquariums, art museums, botanic gardens, children's museums, culturally specific museums, historic sites, history museums, maritime museums, military museums, natural history museums, planetariums, presidential libraries, science and technology centers, and zoos, among others – along with the professional staff and volunteers who work for and with museums. AAM is proud to work on behalf of the 17,500 museums that employ 400,000 people, spend more than \$2 billion annually on K-12 educational programming, receive more than 90 million visits each year from primary and secondary school students, and contribute more than \$20 billion to local economies.

IMLS is the primary federal agency that supports the nation's museums, and OMS awards grants to help museums digitize, enhance and preserve their collections; provide teacher training; and create innovative, cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary programs and exhibits for schools and the public. The 2012-2016 IMLS Strategic Plan lists clear priorities: placing the learner at the center of the museum experience, promoting museums as strong community anchors, supporting museum stewardship of their collections, advising the President and Congress on how to sustain and increase public access to information and ideas, and serving as a model independent federal agency maximizing value for the American public. IMLS is indeed a model federal agency.

In late 2010, a bill to reauthorize IMLS for five years was enacted (by voice vote in the House and unanimous consent in the Senate). The bipartisan reauthorization included several provisions proposed by the museum field, including enhanced support for conservation and preservation, emergency preparedness and response, and statewide capacity building. The reauthorization also specifically supports efforts at the State level to leverage museum resources, including statewide needs assessments and the development of State plans to improve and maximize museum services throughout the State. The bill (now Public Law 111-340) authorized \$38.6 million for the IMLS Office of Museum Services to meet the growing demand for museum programs and services. The FY12 appropriation of \$30,859,000 – equal to President Obama's FY13 budget request – represents a nearly 15% decrease from the FY10 appropriation of \$35,212,000. We urge the subcommittee to provide at least \$35 million for the IMLS Office of Museum Services.

To be clear, museums are essential in our communities for many reasons:

- Museums are key education providers. Museums already offer educational programs in math, science, art, literacy, language arts, history, civics and government, economics and financial literacy, geography, and social studies, in coordination with state and local curriculum standards. Museums also provide experiential learning opportunities, STEM education, youth training, and job preparedness. They reach beyond the scope of instructional programming for schoolchildren by also providing critical teacher training. There is a growing consensus that whatever the new educational era looks like, it will focus on the development of a core set of skills: critical thinking, the ability to synthesize information, the ability to innovate, creativity, and collaboration. Museums are uniquely situated to help learners develop these core skills.
- Museums create jobs and support local economies. Museums serve as economic engines, bolster local infrastructure, and spur tourism. Both the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Governors Association agree that cultural assets such as museums are essential to attracting businesses, a skilled workforce, and local and international tourism. Museums pump more than \$20 billion into the American economy, creating many jobs.
- Museums address community challenges. Many museums offer programs tailored to seniors, veterans, children with special needs, persons with disabilities, and more, greatly expanding their reach and impact. For example, some have programs designed specifically for children on the autism spectrum, some are teaching English as a Second Language, and some are serving as locations for supervised family visits through the family court system. In 2011, more than 1,500 museums participated in the Blue Star Museums initiative, offering free admission to all active duty and reserve personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- Digitization and traveling exhibitions bring museum collections to underserved populations. Teachers, students, and researchers benefit when cultural institutions are

able to increase access to trustworthy information through online collections and traveling exhibits. Most museums, however, need more help in digitizing collections.

Grants to museums are highly competitive and decided through a rigorous, peer-reviewed process. Even the most ardent deficit hawks view the IMLS grantmaking process – the “regular process” – as a model for the nation. It would take approximately \$124.6 million to fund all the grant applications that IMLS received from museums in 2011. But given the significant budget cuts, many highly-rated grant applications go unfunded each year:

- Only 32% Museums for America/Conservation Project projects were funded;
- Only 15% National Leadership/21st Century Museum Professionals projects were funded;
- Only 64% Native American/Hawaiian Museum Services projects were funded; and
- Only 37% African American History and Culture projects were funded.

It should be noted that each time a museum grant is awarded, additional local and private funds are also leveraged. In addition to the required dollar-for-dollar match required of museums, grants often spur additional giving by private foundations and individual donors. A recent IMLS study found that 67% of museums that received Museums for America grants reported that their IMLS grant had positioned the museum to receive additional private funding.

Here are just two examples of how Office of Museum Services funding is used:

- The Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM) in Billings, Montana was awarded a \$110,000 Museums for America grant in 2011 to develop “Building on Solid Foundations.” Working with the Crow Indian reservation, Yellowstone County’s Title I schools, northern Wyoming schools, and area Head Start programs, this program will help the museum’s school programming reach more grade levels and extend YAM’s geographic

reach to a remote part of the country with few cultural resources. The curriculum coordinator at St. Labre Indian Academy in Ashland, Montana reported, “I have been a member of the Yellowstone Art Museum for many years, but I don’t think I ever truly appreciated the education program. Seeing the impact this experience had on our students, I am now convinced that it is one of the most important things you do.”

- The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven, Connecticut was awarded a \$148,015 Museums for America grant in 2011 to support “EVOLUTIONS,” an after-school science literacy program that engages New Haven Public School students in grades 9-12 from groups traditionally underrepresented in the sciences in a comprehensive, museum-based curriculum. Through hands-on projects, field trips, college preparation, career awareness, and transferable skills development, this program will engage teens and their teachers, parents, and community in science. When this grant was awarded, Peabody Museum Director Derek Briggs said, “The Museum is enormously grateful to IMLS whose support ensures the continuation of this vital program that has so successfully instilled the bug for learning and the sciences in scores of students and opened the door for careers they might not have dreamt possible.” Ranking Member DeLauro noted, “This is a great example of how public-private partnerships can help get young people excited about science and history while enhancing their learning experience with skills they will use in both their collegiate and professional careers.”

In closing, I would like to share with you for the record a bipartisan letter to the Subcommittee requesting at least \$35 million for OMS signed by 86 of your House colleagues. Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.