



Fact Sheet: The National Medal for Museum and Library Service

- Since 1996, a total of 170 institutions have been recipients of this honor. Past winners can be viewed here: <https://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 via mail after a virtual ceremony this summer, 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 Facebook and Twitter pages. For more information, please follow #IMLSmedals on Twitter and Facebook.

National Medal Selection Process

- 30 institutions—15 libraries and 15 museums—have been named as 2021 National Medal for Museum and Library Service finalists.
- In May 2021, IMLS will announce the three museum and three library winners.
- 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 2022 National Medals will be open for applications in fall 2021.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

- IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the museums and libraries of America.
- IMLS advances, supports, and empowers America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development.
- For more information, please visit [ims.gov](https://www.ims.gov).