

SUBCHAPTER III—MUSEUM SERVICES

§ 9171. Purpose

It is the purpose of this subchapter—

- (1) to encourage and support museums in carrying out their public service role of connecting the whole of society to the cultural, artistic, historical, natural, and scientific understandings that constitute our heritage;
- (2) to encourage and support museums in carrying out their educational role, as core providers of learning and in conjunction with schools, families, and communities;
- (3) to encourage leadership, innovation, and applications of the most current technologies and practices to enhance museum services through international, national, regional, State, and local networks and partnerships;
- (4) to assist, encourage, and support museums in carrying out their stewardship responsibilities to achieve the highest standards in conservation and care of the cultural, historic, natural, and scientific heritage of the United States to benefit future generations;
- (5) to assist, encourage, and support museums in achieving the highest standards of management and service to the public, and to ease the financial burden borne by museums as a result of their increasing use by the public;
- (6) to support resource sharing and partnerships among museums, libraries, schools, and other community organizations;
- (7) to encourage and support museums as a part of economic development and revitalization in communities;
- (8) to ensure museums of various types and sizes in diverse geographic regions of the United States are afforded attention and support; and
- (9) to support efforts at the State level to leverage museum resources and maximize museum services.

(Pub. L. 94-462, title II, §272, formerly §271, as added Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(e) [title VII, §702], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-233, 3009-302; renumbered §272 and amended Pub. L. 108-81, title III, §§301, 306(1), Sept. 25, 2003, 117 Stat. 1000, 1002; Pub. L. 111-340, title III, §301, Dec. 22, 2010, 124 Stat. 3603.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 272 of Pub. L. 94-462 was renumbered section 273 and is classified to section 9172 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Par. (3). Pub. L. 111-340, §301(1), inserted “through international, national, regional, State, and local networks and partnerships” after “services”.

Pars. (7) to (9). Pub. L. 111-340, §301(2)-(4), added pars. (7) to (9).

2003—Pub. L. 108-81, §301, amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “It is the purpose of this subchapter—

“(1) to encourage and assist museums in their educational role, in conjunction with formal systems of elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education and with programs of nonformal education for all age groups;

“(2) to assist museums in modernizing their methods and facilities so that the museums are better able to conserve the cultural, historic, and scientific heritage of the United States; and

“(3) to ease the financial burden borne by museums as a result of their increasing use by the public.”

§ 9172. Definitions

As used in this subchapter:

(1) Museum

The term “museum” means a public or private nonprofit agency or institution organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes, that utilizes a professional staff, owns or utilizes tangible objects, cares for the tangible objects, and exhibits the tangible objects to the public on a regular basis. Such term includes museums that have tangible and digital collections and includes aquariums, arboretums, botanical gardens, art museums, children’s museums, general museums, historic houses and sites, history museums, nature centers, natural history and anthropology museums, planetariums, science and technology centers, specialized museums, and zoological parks.

(2) State

The term “State” means each of the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

(Pub. L. 94-462, title II, §273, formerly §272, as added Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(e) [title VII, §702], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-233, 3009-303; renumbered §273 and amended Pub. L. 108-81, title III, §§302, 306(1), Sept. 25, 2003, 117 Stat. 1000, 1002; Pub. L. 111-340, title III, §302, Dec. 22, 2010, 124 Stat. 3603.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 273 of Pub. L. 94-462 was renumbered section 274 and is classified to section 9173 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Par. (1). Pub. L. 111-340 inserted “includes museums that have tangible and digital collections and” after “Such term”.

2003—Par. (1). Pub. L. 108-81, §302, inserted at end: “Such term includes aquariums, arboretums, botanical gardens, art museums, children’s museums, general museums, historic houses and sites, history museums, nature centers, natural history and anthropology museums, planetariums, science and technology centers, specialized museums, and zoological parks.”

§ 9173. Museum services activities

(a) In general

The Director, subject to the policy advice of the Museum and Library Services Board, may enter into arrangements, including grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other forms of assistance, with museums, States, local governments, and other entities as the Director considers appropriate, to pay the Federal share of the cost of—

- (1) supporting museums in providing learning and access to collections, information, and educational resources in a variety of formats (including exhibitions, programs, publications, and websites) for individuals of all ages;