

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 diverse 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 they serve their communities in new and different ways;

(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;

(9) to support efforts at the State and regional levels to leverage museum resources and maximize museum services; and

(10) to assist museums in their civic engagement efforts to ensure that every person in the United States has access to high-quality 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; Pub. L. 115-410, § 16, Dec. 31, 2018, 132 Stat. 5419.)

Editorial Notes

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

2018—Par. (1). Pub. L. 115-410, § 16(1), (2), redesignated par. (2) as (1) and struck out former par. (1) which read as follows: “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;”.

Par. (2). Pub. L. 115-410, § 16(3), added par. (2). Former par. (2) redesignated (1).

Par. (4). Pub. L. 115-410, § 16(4), inserted “diverse” before “cultural”.

Par. (5). Pub. L. 115-410, § 16(5), substituted “as they serve their communities in new and different ways” for “as a result of their increasing use by the public”.

Par. (9). Pub. L. 115-410, § 16(7), substituted “State and regional levels” for “State level” and “services; and” for “services.”

Par. (10). Pub. L. 115-410, § 16(6), (8), added par. (10).

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, tribal, or private nonprofit agency or institution organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational, cultural heritage, 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; Pub. L. 115-410, § 17, Dec. 31, 2018, 132 Stat. 5420.)

Editorial Notes

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

2018—Par. (1). Pub. L. 115-410, § 17(2), inserted “, cultural heritage,” after “educational”.

Pub. L. 115-410, § 17(1), which directed insertion of “, tribal,” after “public”, was executed by making the insertion after “public” the first time appearing, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

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;

(2) supporting museums in building learning partnerships with the Nation's schools, including tribal schools, and developing museum resources, capabilities, and programs in support of State and local efforts to offer a well-rounded educational experience to all students;

(3) supporting the conservation and preservation of museum collections, including efforts to—

(A) provide optimal conditions for storage, exhibition, and use;

(B) prepare for and respond to disasters and emergency situations;

(C) establish endowments for conservation;

(D) curate, stabilize, and organize object-related information; and

(E) train museum staff in collections care;

(4) supporting efforts at the State level to leverage museum resources, including statewide assessments of museum services and needs and development of State plans to improve and maximize museum services through the State;

(5) creating shared technology tools and data resources, and developing museum staff training plans to improve and maximize museum services through organizations such as museum associations, professional networks, community-based organizations, and foundations, and through other collaborative mechanisms;

(6) stimulating greater collaboration, in order to share resources and strengthen communities, among museums and—

(A) libraries;

(B) schools;

(C) institutions of higher education;

(D) international, Federal, State, regional, tribal, and local agencies or organizations;

(E) nongovernmental organizations;

(F) other community organizations; and

(G) other relevant research and policy organizations;

(7) encouraging the use of new and emerging technologies and media, including new ways to disseminate information, engage varied audiences in experiential learning, and support teachers and students to enhance access to and engagement with museum collections, programs, and services;

(8) supporting museums in developing, carrying out, and providing programs and services that meet the needs of communities throughout the Nation, including people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic

backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, residents of rural and urban areas, Native Americans, military families, veterans, and caregivers, and for State institutions;

(9) supporting professional development and technical assistance programs to enhance museum operations, and the skills of museum staff, at all levels, and to support the development of the next generation of museum leaders and professionals, in order to ensure the highest standards in all aspects of museum operations;

(10) supporting museums in research, program evaluation, and the collection and dissemination of information to museum professionals and the public;

(11) encouraging, supporting, and disseminating model programs of museum and library collaboration;

(12) enabling museums to serve as anchor institutions to support community revitalization and the creation of opportunities for advancement; and

(13) developing public and private partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations to expand and enhance museum services.

(b) Federal share**(1) 50 percent**

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share described in subsection (a) shall be not more than 50 percent.

(2) Greater than 50 percent

The Director may use not more than 20 percent of the funds made available under this subchapter for a fiscal year to enter into arrangements under subsection (a) for which the Federal share may be greater than 50 percent.

(3) Operational expenses

No funds for operational expenses may be provided under this section to any entity that is not a museum.

(c) Review and evaluation**(1) In general**

The Director shall establish procedures for reviewing and evaluating arrangements described in subsection (a) entered into under this subchapter.

(2) Grant distribution

In awarding grants, the Director shall take into consideration the equitable distribution of grants to museums of various types and sizes and to different geographic areas of the United States.

(3) Applications for technical assistance**(A) In general**

The Director may use not more than 10 percent of the funds appropriated to carry out this subchapter for technical assistance.

(B) Individual museums

Individual museums may receive not more than 3 technical assistance awards under subparagraph (A). Subsequent awards for technical assistance shall be subject to review outside the Institute.