

Top Stories: Houston restaurant protests Mayor Whitmire | Cougars land iconic name |

NEWS | HOUSTON & TEXAS

Trump's attack on libraries, museums may have 'enormous impact' in Texas

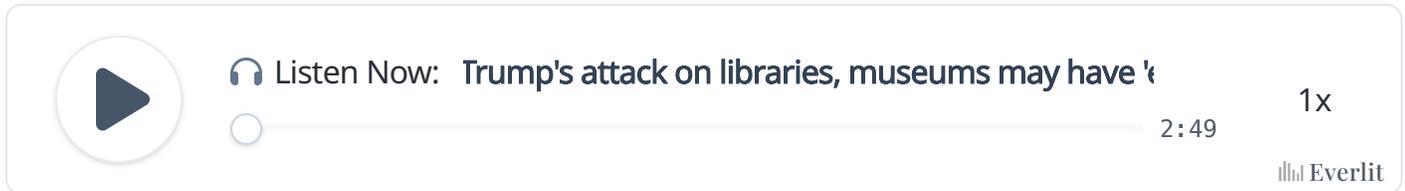
Several Houston institutions recently received thousands in federal funding.

By **Ariana Garcia**, *Assistant News Editor*

April 4, 2025



The Texas Library Association said the federal funding it receives supports critical services and programs.



[Texas libraries and museums](#) are bracing for cuts to services and programs after [President Donald Trump](#) signed an [executive order](#) to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as part of his administration's efforts to shrink government spending. The order directed the IMLS be "be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law." On Monday, the entire staff at the IMLS were reportedly placed on administrative leave.

A small, independent federal agency, the IMLS provides grants to [libraries and museums](#) across the country. Per the [American Library Association \(ALA\)](#), the IMLS provides "the majority of federal library funds." [Public libraries](#) are primarily funded by city and country taxes, with federal funding accounting for a smaller portion of a library's budget, according to the advocacy group [EveryLibrary](#). In a [statement](#) issued this week, the Texas Library Association (TLA)—the largest state library association—said it receives \$12.5 million in federal funding annually, which accounts for 33 percent of the total budget for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

The federal funding supports "technology classes for jobseekers; resources to support community learning and entrepreneurship; audiobooks for Texans with visual or reading disabilities; reading programs for families; computer training for seniors digitization of Texas' historical archives to make them available to the public; e-books for small [community libraries](#); and grants to support telehealth programs and other critical outreach," the TLA said.

In Texas, 20 institutions received funding from the IMLS in the 2024 fiscal year, including the [Houston Public Library](#) (\$100,000), the [Harris County Public Library](#) (\$10,000), and the [Children's Museum Houston](#) (\$10,000), according to an [online database](#) maintained by the agency.



The Houston Public Library received \$100,000 from the IMLS in the 2024 fiscal year, according to the agency.

benedek/Getty Images

The TLA urged library supporters to contact their members of Congress to make their voices heard. "Although [the President](#) cannot fully eliminate IMLS without Congressional approval, his order makes it clear that it is his goal to do so," the TLA said. "IMLS funding accounts for less than 0.003% of the annual federal budget but has an enormous impact on communities across our state and the country."

The ALA called the staff reductions and cuts at the IMLS "extremely shortsighted and perilous for the millions of Americans who rely on our public, school, academic, and special libraries."

More News

[Richest](#) | [Tilman Fertitta leads Houstonians billionaires on Forbes list](#)

[Filibuster](#) | [Texas' Sen. Cruz threatened to end Cory Booker's protest](#)

[Transformation](#) | [Legendary Houston park unveils \\$57.7M redesign](#)

[Surprise](#) | [FOX 26 Houston meteorologist makes baby announcement](#)

For the latest and best from Chron, [sign up for our daily newsletter here.](#)

April 4, 2025



Ariana Garcia

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR



Ariana is the assistant news editor of Chron. Her stories focus on space, wildlife, and any weird happenings in Texas. She previously covered community news and breaking news at the Austin American–Statesman for three years. She earned her B.A. in Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin in 2017. She enjoys watching horror films, nurturing her green thumb, and spoiling her dogs rotten.

Let's Play



Cross|word



Really Bad Chess



Bongo



SpellTowe

CHRON.

Top ^



About



Contact



Services



HEARST *newspapers* © 2025 Hearst Newspapers, LLC [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [DAA Industry Opt Out](#) |

 Your Privacy Choices (Opt Out of Sale/Targeted Ads)