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Saturday, April 5, 2025



INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES UPDATE

4/4/2025 - A lawsuit (https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/court-filings/new-york-et-al-v-donald-j-trump-institute-of-museum-and-library-services-et-al-complaint-2025_0.pdf) was filed by 21 State Attorneys General to stop President Trump's Executive Order #14238 (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>) from dismantling 3 federal agencies that provide services and funding for museums and public libraries, mediation services, and minority business development. Specifically, the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** was forced to place 85% of its staff on administrative leave and cancel all open grants on 3/31/25. This lawsuit is led by the Attorneys General of **New York, Hawaii, and Rhode Island** and are joined by **Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, Washington state, and Wisconsin**.

The lawsuit argues that the **executive order violates the Constitution and the Administrative Procedure Act** by eliminating the programs of agencies without any regard for the laws and regulations that govern each source of federal funding. The coalition argues that the President cannot decide unilaterally to override laws governing federal spending, and that this executive order unconstitutionally overrides Congress' power to decide how federal funds are spent.

► **Read more about this update.** (<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/ag-letitia-james-sues-trump->

administration-museum-and-library-funding-cuts-1234737905/)

ff memorandum.

es/artsactionfund.org/files/IMLS%20Letter.pdf)

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IE ARTS UPDATE

4/3/2025 - The U.S. District Court in Rhode Island denied a motion for preliminary injunctive relief to arts organizations applying for **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)** funding, despite the possibility of President Trump's **Executive Order #14168** (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/defending-women-from-gender-ideology-extremism-and-restoring-biological-truth-to-the-federal-government/>) certification being reimposed. However, the court held that any NEA decision to make projects that promote "**gender ideology**" ineligible for funds is "likely" a violation of the First Amendment and outside its statutory authority.

► **Read the ACLU press release.** (<https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/court-denies-preliminary-relief-to-arts-organizations>)

► **Read the judge's ruling.**

(<https://www.artsactionfund.org/sites/artsactionfund.org/files/RILA%20v.%20NEA%20PI%20Order.pdf>)

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES UPDATE

4/4/2025 - The Trump administration made drastic cuts at the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)**, by placing **80% of its staff on indefinite administrative leave** and cancelling all open grants issued under the Biden administration. These extreme cuts were made by DOGE, part of Elon Musk's government restructuring effort. The move has drawn strong criticism from humanities advocates, who warn that it could devastate state humanities councils and cultural institutions that rely on NEH funding.

► **Read the full statement from the National Humanities Alliance** (<https://nhalliance.org/nha-statement-neh-doge-threats/>). (<https://rhodeislandcurrent.com/2025/03/27/lgbtq-theater-groups-have-day-in-court-over-endangered-arts-funding/>)

► **Take Action with the National Humanities Alliance** (<https://nhalliance.org/federal-funding/savetheneh/>). (<https://rhodeislandcurrent.com/2025/03/27/lgbtq-theater-groups-have-day-in-court-over-endangered-arts-funding/>)

THREATS TO NONPROFIT CHARITIES CONDUCTING DEI PROGRAMS

4/1/2025 - The conservative American Alliance for Equal Rights (AAER) formally filed complaints to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to open investigations regarding three prominent tax-exempt charitable organizations—the **Gates Foundation**, **Lagrange Foundation**, and **Creative Capital Foundation**—of "intentionally discriminating against white people." The complaints request the IRS revoke their tax-exempt **501(c)(3) charitable status**.

► **Read more about this update.** (<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/american-alliance-for-equal->

rights-files-request-to-irs-to-examine-racial-practices-at-three-tax-exempt-foundations-gates-foundation-pital-foundation-302417428.html)

the IRS.

fa/2655691/American_Alliance_for_Equal_Rights_Files_Request_to_IRS.pdf?



STAY UP-TO-DATE

Monitor our breaking news stories and timeline to see how current and previous congressional, judicial, and executive branch actions are impacting the arts and culture at www.ArtsActionFund.org/breaking-news-updates-impacting-arts-culture (<https://www.artsactionfund.org/breaking-news-updates-impacting-arts-culture>).

Thank you for being an arts champion!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina".

Nina Ozlu Tunceli

Executive Director

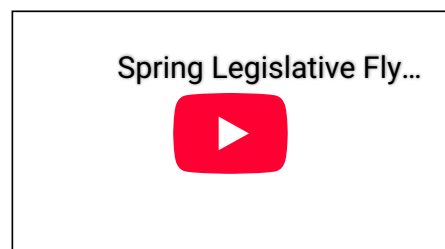
Americans for the Arts Action Fund

P.S. Please consider making a **contribution** (https://www.artsactionfund.org/formassembly/fa_form/40) to the Arts Action Fund to help us keep you informed on the latest breaking news impacting the arts and culture.



(https://www.artsactionfund.org/formassembly/fa_form/40)

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