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fungobat



What's happening with the Institute of Museum and Library Services after Trump's executive order



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grantmaking, research, and policy development. The institute combined the services of previous government agencies, including the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and the Institute of Museum Services.

It distributes thousands of grants nationwide, totaling in recent years to more than \$200 million annually. Awards in 2024 ranged from \$240,000 for the Chicago History Museum to more than \$1 million for several state library training programs named for former Republican first lady Laura Bush to nearly \$25,000 for the Lorain Historical Society, which is based in the Ohio hometown of Nobel laureate Toni Morrison.

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EllyKayNobodysFool · 18d ago

few things have ROI like libraries for communities, outside of fire departments.

the amount of knowledge, resources, and in some cases power tools and yard tools, and access to internet from a library pales in comparison to giving every single citizen the same exact access in their own homes.

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EllyKayNobodysFool · 18d ago

what happens next?

JSOC Dewey Decimal is activated

thousands of librarians and museum docents activate like Jason Bourne.

then we rise up.

and the librarians and docents become peaceful...for now.

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Noobhammer3000 · 18d ago

What's happening

[This, apparently.](#)

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Rex_Gently · 18d ago

This will be the Smithsonians final installment

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Reddit_wander01 · 18d ago



1. Executive Order Issued (March 2025)

- Trump signed the order instructing IMLS to wind down operations.
- Purpose: Signal intention to eliminate or reduce IMLS.
- Reality: The EO does not have the power to defund the agency. It begins administrative pressure.

2. 7-Day Compliance Report (Due March 21, 2025)

- What happens: IMLS must send a report to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) stating:
- What functions are legally required by statute
- What functions are not legally required
- Why it matters: This determines what they can try to shut down internally vs. what must continue by law.

3. Internal Rollback (Late March–April 2025)

- IMLS will be pressured to stop all "non-statutory" operations, like certain grant programs.
- They may pause hiring, freeze funds, or lay off staff tied to non-required programs.
- But: All "required by law" services must continue unless Congress says otherwise.

4. Department of Government Efficiency Takeover (April–May 2025)

- Trump's EO creates or uses the DOGE to take over assets and facilities of "terminated" agencies.
- If IMLS is listed as such, DOGE may claim its property unless Congress intervenes.

5. Congress Decides Funding (By September 2025 Budget Process)

- Congress controls the money.
- The current fiscal year ends Sept 30, 2025.
- If Congress continues funding IMLS, it remains operational — full stop.
- If Congress removes funding in the FY2026 budget, the agency shuts down.

6. Legal and Public Pushback (Ongoing)

- Groups like the American Library Association may file lawsuits or rally public support.

7. Outcome: Congress is the Decider (Mandatory)

- Despite the EO, IMLS lives or dies based on what Congress funds.
- If enough legislators support IMLS, it cannot be eliminated, no matter what the EO says.

Summary

- EO = pressure, not power.
- OMB report = bureaucratic step.
- Congress = final authority.
- IMLS stays alive unless Congress kills it in the 2026 budget

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tapdancingtoes · 18d ago

Ugh. Use your fucking brain at least. We have enough shitty AI botted replies on Reddit as is.

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frd1963 · 16d ago

Let's see how much they cut. It is possible that, like in the case of SSA cuts, it will simply be a matter of reducing the size of the middle-man so that more of the funding can go to the libraries. A quick search shows that the IMLS has a budget of about \$380M/yr. About \$280M goes to museums and schools, so the other \$100M goes to expenses (employees, rent, equipment, etc). Their budget from 2023 doesn't break it out very well but shows \$22M going to 'administration'. There are 70 employees, so if 'administration' is what they pay employees, then the average salary there is about \$315K. Even if the other \$78M overhead turns out to be very efficiently administered and untouchable, simply cutting head count by 1/2 could result in each state getting an additional \$440K/yr. Of course I'm sure it won't be that simple, but remember that the goal is to reduce costs to make things more efficient, not just just pull funding. My gut tells me that it shouldn't cost \$100M to figure out where to allocate \$280M.

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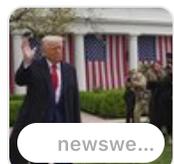
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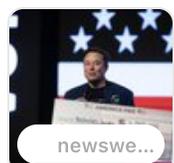
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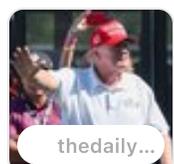
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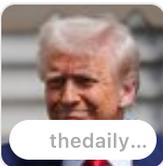


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