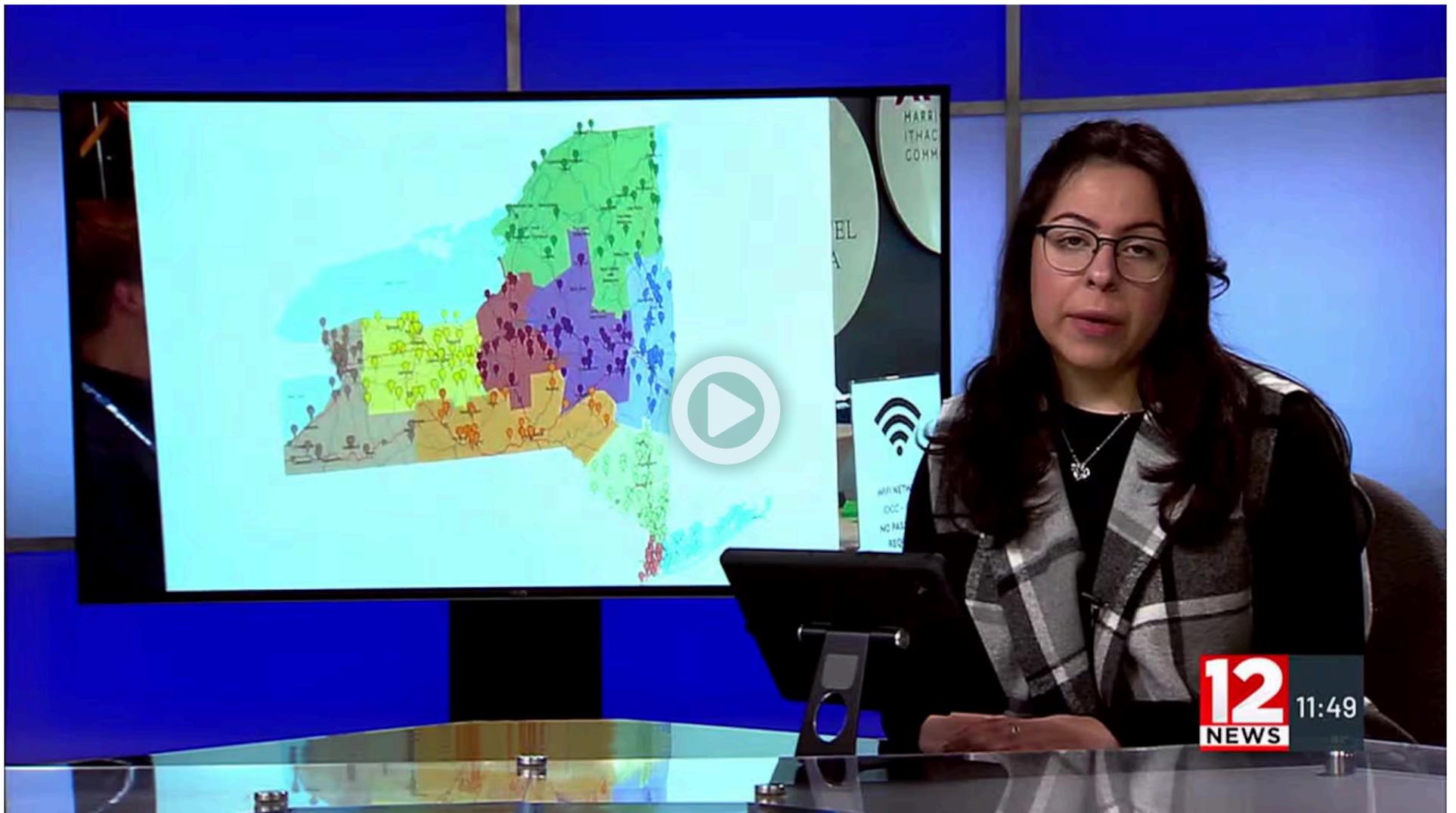


New York museum leaders express concern over massive cuts to federal funds



By [Autriya Maneshni](#)

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ITHACA N.Y. (WBNG) -- Exhibits that shape the history of New York State are being canceled or left without funds.

“We recently received a termination letter for our NEH grant for Shirley Chisholm: Changing the Face of Democracy exhibition. Our \$100,000 grant to support that exhibition was terminated,” said Nick Martinez, Vice President of Education & Engagement of City Museum of New York.

Staff could be without paychecks.

“The biggest impact to us is that part of those grants cover our staffing costs. Some six months [pay] of one of our five full-time employees is supposed to be covered by this IMLS grant,” said Executive Director of Hanford Mills Museums Kajsa Harley.

That’s because the largest source of federal funding for museums across the country is now in jeopardy. In an [executive order in March](#), President Donald Trump listed the Institute of Museum and Library Services as one of seven agencies he wants “eliminated to the maximum extent.”

At the Museum Association of New York Conference in Ithaca, museum leaders are worried about what this means for their resources.

“The issue is when you receive a federal grant, they’re typically reimbursement grants. We’ve already dispersed these funds, and many museums do not have large cash reserves,” said CEO and Director of the Hudson River Museum Masha Turchinsky. “We’re realizing that we may not be reimbursed for that outlaying of cash.”

As uncertainty lingers in the air, those working hard to preserve history are asking state and local officials to back them up.

“We urge you to continue to open the door for funding,” said the President of the Museum Association of New York, Georgette Grier-Key. “Support these museums and organizations.”

New York is home to more than 750 museums.

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