



Association of
Science-Technology
Centers

STEM PUBLIC PROGRAMS: Updates and Opportunities for Science Centers

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*In an effort to make ASTC members more aware of some of the lesser-known programmatic and funding opportunities offered by a variety of sources – and available to science centers and museums across the world – ASTC has launched **STEM Public Programs: Updates and Opportunities for Science Centers**, a series of electronic briefs where we'll share details from meetings and conversations with key representatives from U.S. federal agencies and elsewhere. In this issue – our first of the New Year – we showcase an opportunity jointly offered by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*

ASTC members – and ASTC itself – have a long history of collaborative work with the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). As most ASTC members know, IMLS offers a variety of competitive and well-respected grant programs available to museums of all kinds, provides a variety of additional support to museums, and is always present at the ASTC Annual Conference (where its staff serves as session leaders, panelists, and exhibitors). Over the years, ASTC members have received numerous grants from the agency, and a select group has been chosen to receive the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries. Nevertheless, some ASTC members may not be familiar with an opportunity IMLS offers in conjunction with the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Like the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award is the nation's highest honor – in this case, for out-of-school arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of America's young people, particularly those from underserved communities. Each year, the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program (NAHYP) Awards recognize 12 outstanding programs in the United States, from a wide range of urban and rural settings that showcase cultural excellence and enhance the availability of out-of-school arts and humanities programs to children and young people. Each year, the 12 winners receive: (1) a \$10,000 one-time grant; (2) an award presented by First Lady Michelle Obama at a ceremony at the White House; (3) a year of capacity building and marketing support and access to communications experts to help winners leverage their award; and (4) the prestige of receiving this honor for their work. Awards finalists – of which there are typically more than 30 – receive a Certificate of Excellence and have their program names listed as finalists in award publications and on the NAHYP website.

Museums are not only eligible to submit nominations, but IMLS is encouraging them to do so. In speaking with IMLS, it is clear that the awards honor institutions who offer exemplary hands-on learning experiences with an arts and humanities focus. Though this opportunity likely won't be of interest to all ASTC members, IMLS has indicated that science centers and museums have applied in the past and would certainly be considered for an award if they meet the award qualifications. Along those lines, winning programs must have been in place for at least five years and must offer sustained and consistent out-of-school or afterschool opportunities for young people to engage hands-on with the arts or humanities. IMLS puts forth teen apprenticeship and internship programs, junior docent and tour guide programs, youth councils, and studio-based programs as examples of winning programs.

With the 2013 NAHYP Award cycle recently underway – the nomination deadline is Monday, February 4 at 5:00 p.m. PST – now is the perfect time to review the award criteria and application information and consider submitting a nomination. For more information on the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, please visit their website at: <http://www.nahyp.org/>. Once there, you'll find details about the award itself, a list of past honorees, application instructions, and additional resources. You may also find this overview from IMLS – which includes tips – helpful: <http://www.imls.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/NAHYP%20Tips%20for%20Museums.pdf>. If you still have questions after reviewing the online information, you may contact IMLS program officer Allison Boals at: ABoals@imls.gov.

Previous issues of “STEM Public Programs: Updates and Opportunities for Science Centers” have focused on the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, the Science Education Drug Abuse Partnership Awards program, the Museums Connect program, the Environmental Education Grants program, the Women and Minorities in STEM Fields program, and the European Commission Work Programme. Please visit: <http://www.astc.org/about/government/STEMprog.htm> to view these archived bulletins.