



Boston City Council
ED FLYNN
Councilor - District 2

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Edward Markey
United States Senator
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Saving our Institute of Museum and Library Services

Dear Senator Warren and Senator Markey,

I am writing today to respectfully ask that you voice your opposition to the March 14th Executive Order targeting the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This executive order intends to dismantle this important agency and I urge you to speak up to the current White House Administration against this harmful approach that will hurt our treasured museums and libraries. It is of the utmost importance that we continue to support these institutions that are vital to the culture and knowledge of our nation.

Museums and libraries play a unique role in our country; they are repositories of knowledge, spaces for learning, places where ideas are exchanged and cultures are shared. This executive order threatens the invaluable role museums and libraries play across the nation and in the City of Boston.

Here in Boston, we are fortunate to be a major hub of history and culture, and arts and sciences. We have the cherished Boston Public Library, one of the largest municipal public library systems in the United States, with a collection of over 23.7 million items. IMLS remains an important source of funding for our library system, which supports various programs including the Digital Commonwealth program and English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Our well-loved institutions such as the Boston Children's Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Science, and smaller gems such as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the Museum of African American History, have also received grants from IMLS in the past. To keep our residents informed, families and students engaged, and develop a thirst for knowledge and appreciation of arts, culture, science, and history, it is critical that these treasured institutions remain open and well-funded.

IMLS provides essential funding and guidance for the vast collections of museums across America. It makes up only 0.0046% of the overall federal budget, yet, it generates more than \$50 billion dollars in economic benefits to the American economy and supports more than 726,000 jobs. Museums and libraries consistently receive bipartisan support from Americans all over.



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I join these institutions, residents, and my city, state, and federal colleagues to oppose the attack on IMLS and to respectfully ask that you urge the White House Administration to fully restore and protect funding so that our museums and libraries here in Boston and across the nation can continue to thrive.

Thank you for your leadership. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 617-635-3202, or at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Flynn".

Ed Flynn

Boston City Councilor, District 2