



State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF STATE MUSEUM

ANGÈLE DAVIS
SECRETARY

CARMA C. FAUNTLEROY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

-PRESS RELEASE-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date

For More Information Contact:

Kacey M. Hill
Office 504-568-6972
Cell 504-432-9432
khill@crt.state.la.us

LT. GOV. LANDRIEU ANNOUNCES GRANT FOR STATEWIDE EDLAB PROGRAM TO LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM

Students, Teachers will learn how to solve history's mysteries

The Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) *Museums for America* program has awarded the Louisiana State Museum a grant in the amount of \$150, 000 to revive the institution's pre-Katrina dream of expanding educational outreach on a statewide level.

The grant, submitted by the Louisiana Museum Foundation, will give students, teachers, families, and independent learners an opportunity to explore history through analysis of artifacts and hands-on investigations. This instructional method supports Louisiana's K-12 Comprehensive Curriculum and offers an alternative to the typical lecture and memorization methods traditionally used for teaching history.

“With classrooms disrupted and displaced by Hurricane Katrina, educators have to start thinking more creatively about reaching our state's young people,” said Landrieu, who oversees the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, the parent agency of the Louisiana State Museum. “This program not only changes the way children and teachers look at history but the way museums and cultural institutions look at outreach.”

With IMLS support, The Museum will establish EDLab (Educational Development Laboratory), a comprehensive, statewide museum education program headquartered at the Louisiana State Museum - Baton Rouge. EDLab will provide for the educational needs of learners of all ages, increase the State Museum's capacity to serve as an effective venue and resource for learning, strengthen cultural and historical education in Louisiana, and enhance the State Museum's ability to serve Louisiana residents and visitors to our state more effectively.

The five statewide EDLab Centers will include the State Museum complex headquarters in New Orleans, the Louisiana State Museum - Patterson, the Old Courthouse Museum in Natchitoches, the Louisiana State Museum – Baton Rouge and the E.D. White Historic Site in Thibodaux. These

centers will implement the EDLab educational program through exhibitions, school and community presentations and projects, web based class activities and lessons, and most importantly, teacher workshops.

The Museum's new Education Program Coordinator, Memory Seymour, will manage the EDLab project. Seymour holds a Master's degree in curriculum and instruction and has twenty-eight years experience in providing K-20 education. She served as educational coordinator and facilitator for previous State Museum projects including the highly successful 2001-2005 Teaching American History in Louisiana program, awarded to the East Baton Rouge Parish School System and funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, and the 2005-2007 IMLS-funded Louisiana Gumbo museum and library collaboration.

Following the completion of the two-year IMLS Museums for America grant program, EDLab and the EDLab Centers will continue to provide effective leadership, services, and resources as the nucleus of the State Museum's education program.

As IMLS' largest grant program, Museums for America provides more than \$16 million in grants to support the role of museums in American society. The grants build the capacity of museums to sustain our cultural heritage, support lifelong learning, and serve as centers of community engagement.

"Museums for America grants help museums position themselves to play a vital role in the development of strong learning communities," said the Institute's Acting Director Mary Chute. "The museums will match the federal dollars with an additional \$32,891,246 to fund educational and cultural exhibits, digitize and integrate collections for greater access, work with schools to develop curricula and programs, and conduct research that will encourage civic participation, build 21st century skills, invest in our youth, and reach out to seniors. The grants are investments in museums and in America."

For more information on this and other IMLS grants visit www.imls.gov. To schedule a school group visit to any of the Louisiana State Museum properties, call 800-568-6968.

The Louisiana State Museum is part of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, which is overseen by Lieutenant Governor Mitchell J. Landrieu. The State Museum network includes six museums in New Orleans and sites in Baton Rouge, Natchitoches, Patterson and Thibodaux. For details on sites, exhibitions and programs, visit <http://lsm.crt.state.la.us>.