Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Round 5, 2026

Lilly Endowment is pleased to invite selected museums and cultural organizations in the United States to participate in the fifth round of the Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative (RCII). Through this endeavor, the Endowment seeks to assist major museums and cultural organizations located in the United States in mounting exhibitions and conducting educational programs, as well as engaging in other activities, to strengthen their capacities to provide fair, accurate and balanced portrayals of the role religion has played and continues to play in the United States and around the globe. The primary aim of RCII is to improve public understanding of religion and thus foster greater knowledge of and respect for people from a broad range of religious traditions.

Invited museums and cultural organizations may submit proposals through a two-phase process.

Planning Grant Proposals: In the first phase, invited organizations may submit proposals for planning grants of **up to $100,000 each** that may be used **for up to a one-year period**. The organizations may use planning grants to engage in the following kinds of activities:

- Identifying approaches to religion and religious topics that are appropriate for the organization's mission, educational objectives and constituencies.
- Consulting with scholars and curators, as well as religious and civic leaders, to explore religious themes.
- Designing potential new exhibitions and programs and/or other activities to strengthen its capacities to incorporate religion into interpretive exhibitions and programs.
- Preparing proposals for grants to implement their plans.

Planning grant proposals are due to the Endowment by **Monday, November 9, 2026**. The Endowment anticipates announcing planning grant awards in December 2026.

Implementation Grant Proposals: In the second phase, organizations may submit proposals for implementation grants of **up to $2.5 million each** that may be used for **up to a five-year period** to execute the plans. Implementation proposals are due to the Endowment by **Monday, August 2, 2027**, for grant awards to be announced in December 2027.

Through this fifth invitational round of RCII, the Endowment anticipates awarding grants totaling **up to $48 million** to museums and cultural organizations to support compelling projects that demonstrate significant promise to strengthen their organizations' capacities to incorporate religion into their interpretive activities and public programs.

The Opportunity to Improve the Public Understanding of Religion

Many commentators have remarked that the United States is one of the most religious nations on the globe. Although this bold statement may be debated, it accurately recognizes the crucial role religion plays in shaping the lives of American individuals and families and in influencing public life. Grounded in foundational commitments to religious freedom and the separation of church and state, the United States has fostered the conditions needed for many different religious communities to flourish. One result is that religion touches nearly every aspect of American life. Although practiced in local faith communities and private homes, religious faith has often informed public debates and shaped civic life as well as inspired many of the social and political movements that have defined the American people.

The United States also is widely considered to be one of the most religiously plural nations today. Major changes in immigration policies in the 1960s opened immigration to new populations of individuals and families from around the world, especially Asia, Africa and Latin America, who brought their religious beliefs and practices with them. These populations have grown significantly, and most cities and towns in the United States are now home to members from a wider range of religious traditions ever before. Their landscapes are marked not only by churches and synagogues, but also by mosques, temples, gurdwaras and other religious gathering spaces. The presence of an increasing number of religious traditions also is reshaping other aspects of cultural life, ranging from religious practices that direct the food individuals consume to legal codes that guide civic life, from clothing and fashion preferences that reflect different religious traditions and cultures to the production of fine arts that draw on a broader spectrum of religious themes to portray some of the nation's deepest hopes and fears.

While the United States is becoming home to an increasing number of individuals and families from a wider range of religious traditions, knowledge about the history, beliefs and practices of religious communities has often not kept pace with this growth. This lack of understanding can lead too easily to the mischaracterization of the motives and practices of religious groups and generate suspicions that divide communities and hamper their ability to flourish. Thus, efforts to improve public understanding of religion are critical today.

Through RCII, the Endowment seeks to support projects that inform individuals and families about the different religious beliefs and practices of their neighbors and foster a better understanding about the religious dimensions of historic and contemporary events as well as how religion continues to influence culture and society.

The Endowment is especially interested in supporting portrayals of religious life that are:

- **Fair, accurate and balanced:** These portrayals include how religious faith has served as a source of wisdom and inspiration that enhances the lives of individuals and unites communities as well as how it has been used as an exclusionary force that divides individuals, communities and wider societies.
- **Nonproselytizing and multivocal:** These portrayals present the beliefs and practices of religious communities in ways that are nonproselytizing and recognize the multivocal character of religious traditions as well as the religiously plural context of American and global societies.
- **Authentic:** These portrayals exhibit the convictions of religious communities in ways that ring true to their own experiences and, when appropriate, enable religious communities to tell their own stories.

- **Appreciative:** These portrayals show appreciation for religion and approach religious traditions and topics with respect and, while being fair and balanced, do not seek to promote sensationalistic or cynical portraits of the religious beliefs, rituals and practices of individuals, families and religious communities.

The Endowment believes that fair, accurate, balanced and appreciative portrayals of religious faith—including how religion both unites and divides people—will foster better appreciation of the religious and ethical dimensions of historic and contemporary events. They also will help to counter simplistic and self-serving interpretations of religious life that often mislead the public, breed fear and suspicion among groups and advance narrow agendas. By improving public understanding of religion, the Endowment hopes these projects will foster greater respect among people from different religious traditions, help to preserve religious freedom for all religious communities, and serve to enrich the lives of individuals, families, communities and the wider society.

Building on Previous Endowment-supported Projects

During the last several years, the Endowment has awarded grants to 90 museums and cultural organizations located across the United States to design and implement projects to incorporate religion more fully into their interpretive activities. (See the appendix for a list of Endowment-funded organizations.) Most of these grants were awarded through four previous rounds of RCII. The grants are based on the recognition that museums and cultural organizations are highly trusted public institutions and play increasingly important roles in informing visitors about the world around them.

When museum and cultural organizations in the initiative's previous rounds of funding received the Endowment's invitation to consider participating in the initiative, many acknowledged that they had been reluctant or cautious about mounting exhibitions featuring religion. Yet most responded positively and enthusiastically. In their responses, many noted that they had been watching the growth of religious communities from a broad spectrum of religious traditions in their local communities and recognized the importance of attending more closely to the influences of religious beliefs and practices on their audiences and constituencies. Many museum directors remarked that they found a new openness among their supporters and visitors, as well as their staffs, to pay greater attention to religion and were eager to explore ways to incorporate religion into their exhibitions and educational programs. As they considered the invitation, they rediscovered the breadth and depth of religious artifacts and objects already present in their collections and began exploring how they could present religious practices, traditions and themes to their constituencies in ways that aligned with their educational missions.

The 90 museums and cultural organizations that have received Endowment grants have used a variety of methods and taken different approaches to mounting exhibitions and conducting educational programs that present religion in ways that are fair, accurate, balanced, non-proselytizing, multivocal, authentic and appreciative. These approaches include projects that 1) explore the beliefs, practices and artistic expressions of particular religious traditions, 2) portray religious life in specific historical periods, 3) feature the wide variety of religious traditions and communities in geographic regions (usually where the organization is located), 4) focus on religious topics, themes or practices from different religious traditions, or 5) foster dialogue and understanding among visitors from different religious traditions, among others.

Collectively, the organizations have launched promising projects to display and interpret the rich tapestry of religious life in the United States and around the globe. These endeavors have demonstrated ways that major museums and cultural organizations can provide fair, accurate and balanced portrayals of the role of religion in American life as well as in other nations and cultures.

This fifth invitational round of RCII is intended to expand these efforts and assist additional museums and cultural organizations in designing and implementing similar projects to expand the number and reach of these important efforts.

Proposal Considerations

Eligibility

Invited museums and cultural organizations in the United States with Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) and public charity status are eligible to apply for a grant under this initiative.

Possible Types of Projects

The Endowment seeks to support museums and cultural organizations that demonstrate a readiness and commitment to mount exhibitions and conduct educational programs on religion, as well as engage in other capacity building activities, that portray the role religion has played and continues to play in the United States and across the globe. As noted above, the Endowment is especially interested in funding the planning, development and implementation of projects that present the beliefs and practices of a wide variety of religious traditions, as well as the influence of religion in different historic periods and cultures, in ways that are: 1) fair, accurate and balanced; 2) nonproselytizing and multivocal; 3) authentic; and 4) appreciative. Furthermore, the Endowment encourages organizations to submit proposals that are aligned with their institutional and educational missions and appropriate for their visitors and constituencies.

Museums and cultural organizations are encouraged to use a variety of strategies to incorporate religion into their interpretive activities. Although the Endowment does not have specific strategies in mind, we anticipate that many museums and cultural institutions may develop projects to implement one or more of the following types of activities:

- Incorporating religion into existing exhibitions and educational programs.
- Designing and mounting new temporary (and/or traveling) exhibitions and accompanying programs on religious traditions or themes.
- Designing and mounting new or renovating current permanent exhibitions and accompanying programs on religious traditions or themes.
- Acquiring new religious objects for their collections and/or making more accessible religious objects already in their collections.
- Creating and/or updating religious storylines in their interpretive plans.
- Creating new and/or enhancing current positions for staff with expertise on religion, such as curators, education or outreach specialists or fellowships for students or early career curators.
- Training staff, docents and/or volunteers about religious traditions, beliefs and practices featured in their exhibitions and programs.

- Strengthening outreach and/or relationships with local religious communities, religious leaders and religious scholars.
- Supporting capital improvements to enhance physical structures to present and interpret religion and religious topics.
- Creating endowments for staffing, programming and/or community relations with a primary focus on religion.

This list is for illustrative purposes only. Organizations may present ideas for projects that include additional activities not listed above.

Amount of Funding Requests

Museums and cultural organizations are encouraged to submit requests for implementation grants that would provide them with funds to design and mount high-quality projects. There is no formula to guide an organization to request a specific amount of funding. Each organization, however, should ensure it has the capacity to execute and, if relevant, sustain the project it proposes. Although not required, some organizations may wish to submit proposals for larger projects that would require for implementation funding from sources in addition to an implementation grant it may be awarded through this initiative. In these cases, the organizations should identify the sources of these additional funds in the project budget and budget narrative. Other organizations may wish to submit proposals for smaller projects (such as $500,000, $1 million or $1.5 million) that are appropriate for their organizational capacities and would require smaller grants to execute. There is no minimum amount for grants.

Selection Criteria

The Endowment will consider the following criteria, among others, in reviewing proposals and determining grant awards:

- The creativity and promise of the proposed project for advancing the initiative's aim.
- The thoughtfulness of the organization's approach to religion and whether it presents religion in ways that are fair, accurate and balanced, non-proselytizing and multivocal, authentic and appreciative.
- The quality of the project's design and the feasibility of its execution.
- The potential reach of the project and its impact(s) on visitors and constituents.
- The commitment and capacity of the organization to execute a compelling and distinctive project, and, if relevant, sustain it into the future.

This initiative is by invitation only. Although the Endowment hopes that all invited organizations submit compelling proposals and receive grants, eligible organizations that apply are not guaranteed funding. Funding is at the complete discretion of the Endowment.

Planning Grant Proposals

Invited museum and cultural organizations may submit proposals for planning grants of **up to $100,000** each that may be used for **up to a one-year period**. Planning grant proposals are due to the Endowment by **Monday, November 9, 2026**. The Endowment anticipates announcing planning grant awards in December 2026.

Planning grant funds may be used to:

- Identify approaches to religion and religious topics that are appropriate for the organization's mission, educational objectives and constituencies.
- Consult with scholars and curators, as well as religious and civic leaders, to explore religious themes.
- Develop plans to mount potential new exhibitions and educational programs and/or to engage in other activities to strengthen its capacities to incorporate religion more fully into its temporary or permanent exhibitions and programs.
- Prepare proposals for implementation grants to execute the organization's plans.

Planning grant activities may include conducting research, visiting other museums and cultural organizations, convening key stakeholders, engaging religious scholars, religious and community leaders or other consultants and performing other planning activities.

Mid-planning Period Report and Check-in

Museums and cultural organizations that receive planning grants are required to prepare a brief mid-planning period report on the progress of planning activities and to schedule a one-hour check-in meeting (usually via Zoom) with Endowment staff. The intent of the mid-planning period report and check-in is to provide an opportunity for the Endowment to share feedback on progress that organizations are making during their planning, discuss an appropriate level of funding that organizations intend to request to develop activities and implement their projects, and respond to any questions organizations may have regarding the preparation of their implementation grant proposals.

The mid-planning period report should include: a brief description of the planning activities through the date of submission of the report; a list of advisors, scholars and consultants who are involved in the planning activities; and an update on the potential design of the organization's project(s) to be included in the implementation proposal. The report is due **Monday, March 29, 2027**. Endowment staff will schedule a one-hour discussion with the organization during the month of **April 2027**. The organization's chief executive officer should participate in the discussion. If desired, additional representatives involved in the project's development also may participate.

Planning Grant Proposal Guidelines

A complete planning grant proposal must include the elements described below:

Official Request Letter: This letter, **which should not exceed five pages**, must be signed by the organization's president or chief executive officer. The letter should address the following:

- Describe briefly the organization's mission, history, size of its collections, major programs and annual operating budget. Include information about the organization's primary constituencies and number

of annual visitors. The profile also should include information about the organization's accreditations from agencies and memberships in associations, where applicable.

- Describe the organization's rationale for participating in the Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative. Why is the organization interested in exploring how it can incorporate religion more fully into its interpretive and educational activities? How will this effort align with the organization's values and the aim of the initiative? What are the organization's hopes for increasing understanding of religion among its constituencies?
- Describe the organization's initial thoughts about its strategy for incorporating religion into its exhibitions and programs. (Note: The Endowment recognizes that this might change as the applicant undertakes planning activities.) What are some of the potential or anticipated outcomes for the potential project?
- Describe the planning activities. What specific planning steps will the organization undertake during the planning grant period? Who might serve as potential advisors, consultants or scholars during the planning process? How might local, regional and/or national religious leaders and communities play a role in the planning process?

Information Form: This form, which is provided on the Endowment's website, requests key information about the planning grant proposal and identifies information about the individuals responsible for the proposed project.

Planning Grant Budget and Budget Narrative: The Planning Grant Budget should specify how grant funds will be used for the activities described in the Official Request Letter. The Budget Narrative should provide a short narrative detail for each line item included in the Planning Grant Budget. Use the attached instructions. Please note that budget categories in the instructions are for illustrative purposes.

Copy of Organization's Annual Audited Financial Statements: The annual audited financial statements should be for the organization's most recently completed fiscal year. The financial statements should include a balance sheet, income and expense statement, and any footnotes that provide an accurate assessment of the financial condition of the organization. If the organization does not have audited financial statements, it may submit with its proposal reviewed financial statements conducted by a certified public accounting firm.

Exempt Status and Charity/Foundation Status Information Form: This form is used to verify the organization's tax status as a qualified recipient of grants from private foundations such as Lilly Endowment. The organization must check a box in Section 3 of the form to reflect the organization's status. The organization's status may be located on an Internal Revenue Service exempt status determination letter, as indicated in Section 2 of the form and as described below.

Copy of Internal Revenue Service Exempt Status Determination Letter: Most public charities that are qualified recipients for grants from private foundations will have received a tax-exempt status determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This letter provides verification of the organization's status as a 501(c)(3) organization and indicates the part of the tax code under which the organization's public charity status has been established. No grants will be awarded until the proper tax status is confirmed.

Planning Grant Application Submission Instructions and Checklist

Planning Grant proposals must be submitted **by Monday, November 9, 2026**, through the RCII Round V Planning Grant Proposal Submission Form on the initiative's webpage. Proposal materials must be combined into a single PDF and organized in the order listed below. The Endowment anticipates announcing grants in December 2026.

Complete proposals must include the following elements:

- ☐ Official Request Letter
- ☐ Information Form
- ☐ Planning Grant Budget and Budget Narrative (see guidelines)
- ☐ Copy of Organization's Annual Audited Financial Statements
- ☐ Exempt Status and Charity/Foundation Status Information Form
- ☐ Copy of Internal Revenue Service Exempt Status Determination Letter

Please email any questions to Jessicah Duckworth at **religionandmuseums@lei.org**.

Implementation Grant Proposals

After engaging in a planning process, invited museums and cultural organizations may submit proposals for implementation grants of up to $2.5 million each that may be used for up to a five-year period to execute their plans. Implementation proposals are due to the Endowment by **Monday, August 2, 2027**, for grant awards to be announced in December 2027.

Implementation Grant Proposal Guidelines

A complete implementation grant proposal must include the elements described below:

Official Request Letter: This **one-page** letter requesting a grant must be signed by the organization's president or chief executive officer. The letter should specify the amount requested from the Endowment for this purpose.

Information Form: This form, which is provided on the Endowment's website, requests key information about the proposal and the individuals responsible for the proposed project. Though this form was required with a planning grant application, it should be resubmitted with the implementation grant proposal to account for any changes to the previously submitted information.

Executive Summary: This summary, **which should not to exceed one page**, describes the organization, its mission and constituencies, the purpose of the proposed project, highlights of key activities for the project and anticipated outcomes. *This summary is not included in 12-page limit for the Proposal Narrative.*

Proposal Narrative: This narrative, **which should not to exceed 12 pages** (excluding the Budget and other supporting materials), must address the following topics and questions:

- **Planning Activities:**
  - What insights emerged during the planning process?
  - How was the organization's approach to religion and the initiative's values (fair, accurate, balanced, etc.) confirmed or altered through the planning process? How have these insights informed the design of the proposed project(s)?
- **Purpose and Rationale:**
  - Why is it important for the organization to undertake the project?
  - Who are the project's primary constituencies, and why is it important to engage them in religion and religious topics?
- **Project Design:**
  - What are the proposed project's key activities?
  - Who are the key advisors for the project (e.g., scholars of religion, local religious leaders, and other knowledgeable experts)?
  - What existing and new resources are needed to implement the proposed project? If the project will require funding from other sources, the potential sources and amounts of such funding should be identified where possible.

- Who are the key leaders who will be responsible for implementing activities?
- Will the project involve other organizations? If a proposed project(s) involves cooperation with other organizations, evidence must be submitted in the form of letters of support from the leaders of the partner organizations.

- **Outcomes, Performance Indicators and Evaluation Plan:**

  Outcomes: What are the outcomes the organization hopes to active through its project? For visitors? For the organization's staff? For the organization's board? For the organization's relationships with local religious communities and other stakeholders? For the organization's donors?

  Performance Indicators: What specific performance indicators will be used to measure the project's progress towards the outcomes stated above? Please include the intervals for achieving these indicators in the timetable described below.

  Note: Organizations may want to establish a baseline for an outcome in the first year and indicate expected increases in subsequent years. For example, a project outcome may be that by the end of the proposed project 90 percent of participants in public programs on world religions self-report in post-visit surveys an increased understanding of the beliefs and practices of a religious tradition that is not their own. An accompanying performance indicator may be that 75 percent of participants demonstrate, through pre- and post-event surveys, an increased understanding of another religious tradition during the program's initial year and that this percentage rises to at least 85 percent by the end of the second year. A second example of a project outcome may be that by the end of the proposed project, 75 percent of staff and volunteers participate in training that increases knowledge about religious traditions and religious objects in the organization's collections. A performance indicator may be that by the end of the first-year, 40 percent of staff have participated in training about the religious traditions and religious objects in the organization's collection and by the end of the third-year, 80 percent participated in training. A third example of a project outcome may be strengthened relationships with religious and civic organizations. An accompanying performance indicator may be tracking a 20 percent increase each year in the number of local religious leaders who participate in the organization's exhibitions and program's each year.

  Evaluation Plan: What is the organization's plan to evaluate the proposed project? How will the organization track the project's performance indicators? What qualitative and quantitative methods will the organization use in the evaluation process (e.g., interviews, focus groups, surveys)? Who is responsible for evaluation?

- **Sustainability (for activities that will be continued beyond the grant period):**
  - How will new sources of funding be cultivated to replace Endowment grant dollars?
  - How will other institutional and intellectual resources be secured to sustain the project?
  - Who will be in charge of long-term development and fundraising?
  - How will development and fundraising activities be staffed and funded?

- **Anticipated Obstacles:**
  - What challenges does the organization anticipate facing as the proposed grant-funded activities are launched?
  - What are key strategies for addressing these challenges?
  - What initial or ongoing technical assistance will be needed to address anticipated challenges?

Project Timeline: This one-page timeline should include the project's activities. This may be submitted in a chart format or narrative description. In the timeline, the organization should identify key activities and milestones for implementation. *The timeline is not included in the 12-page limit for the Proposal Narrative.*

Letter of Support (where applicable): If the proposed project involves other collaborating organizations, letters of support from the leaders of the other organizations or agencies must be submitted with the proposal.

Budget: The budget must include a Line-Item Budget, Summary Budget and Budget Narrative for the activities described in the Proposal Narrative. The priorities of the project as described in the narrative section of the proposal should be reflected in the budget. *Budget documents are not included in the 12-page limit for the Proposal Narrative.*

Line-Item Budget: The detailed budget must include anticipated income and expenses during the requested grant period (up to five years). Please follow the Guide for Budget Preparation to prepare the budget. Note that the budget categories are for illustrative purposes only. The Endowment recommends that the organization works closely with those responsible for accounting procedures and financial policies in the organization.

Summary Budget: This **one-page** summary must include only income and expenses for the request grant period years and condense the Line-Item Budget into larger categories according to the guidelines.

Budget Narrative: This narrative must include written explanations (a sentence or two for each line item) for the calculations for each budget line.

Copy of Organization's Annual Audited Financial Statements: The annual audited financial statements should be for the organization's most recently completed fiscal year. The financial statements should include a balance sheet, income and expense statement, and any footnotes that provide an accurate assessment of the financial condition of the organization. If the organization does not have audited financial statements, it may submit with its proposal reviewed financial statements conducted by a certified public accounting firm.

Implementation Grant Application Submission Instructions and Checklist

Grant proposals must be submitted by **Monday, August 2, 2027**, through the RCII Round 5 Implementation Grant Proposal Submission Form on the initiative's webpage. Proposal materials must be combined into a single PDF and organized in the order listed below. The Endowment anticipates announcing grants in December 2027.

Complete proposals must include the following elements:

- ☐ Official Request Letter (one page)
- ☐ Information Form (available on the initiative's webpage)

- ☐ Executive Summary (not to exceed one page)
- ☐ Proposal Narrative (not to exceed 12 pages)
- ☐ Project Timetable (one page)
- ☐ Letter(s) of Support from any collaborating organizations
- ☐ Line-Item Budget
- ☐ Summary Budget (not to exceed one page)
- ☐ Budget Narrative
- ☐ Copy of Organization's Annual Audited Financial Statements

To schedule a meeting to review your ideas and ask any related questions, please contact: Jessicah Duckworth, Program Director, at **religionandmuseums@lei.org**.

Appendix

List of Museums and Cultural Organizations

The primary aim of the Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative (RCII) is to encourage and support major museums and cultural institutions to strengthen their capacities to interpret the role religion has played and continues to play in shaping American life.

RCII seeks to advance one of Lilly Endowment's key objectives in religion grantmaking, which is to improve public understanding of religion. The Endowment seeks to support projects that provide fair, accurate and balanced portrayals of religious faith – including how religion both unites and divides people – to foster better appreciation of the religious and ethical dimensions of historic and contemporary events. These portrayals seek to counter simplistic and self-serving interpretations of religious life that often mislead the public, breed fear and suspicion among diverse groups of people, and advance narrow agendas. By improving public understanding about the ways that religion has and continues to influence the lives of individuals and shape community life, RCII aims to promote greater knowledge about and respect among people of diverse faith traditions.

During the last several years, the Endowment has awarded grants to 90 museums and cultural organizations located across the United States to design and implement projects to incorporate religion more fully into their interpretive activities. Most of these grants were awarded through four previous rounds of the Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative.

- American Writers Museum, Chicago, IL
- Angel Mounds State Historic Site, Evansville, IN (Indiana State Museum Foundation)
- Arch Street Meeting House, Philadelphia, PA (Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust)
- Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Baylor University Libraries, Waco, TX (Baylor University)
- Boston Children's Museum, Boston MA
- Bridwell Library, Dallas, TX (Southern Methodist University)
- Canterbury Shaker Village, Canterbury, NH
- Chicago Architecture Center, Chicago, IL
- Chicago History Museum, Chicago, IL
- Children's Museum Houston, Houston, TX
- Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN
- Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, VA
- Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN (Conner Prairie Museum)
- Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE
- Delaware Historical Society, Wilmington, DE (Historical Society of Delaware)
- Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

- Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis, IN
- Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL
- Fowler Museum at University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Malibu, CA (Pepperdine University)
- George Washington's Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, VA (Mount Vernon Ladies Association)
- Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee, WI (Marquette University)
- Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, MA
- Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ
- Historic New Harmony, New Harmony, IN (University of Southern Indiana)
- Historic St. George's United Methodist Church, Philadelphia, PA
- International African American Museum, Charleston, SC
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA
- James Madison's Montpelier, Orange, VA (The Montpelier Foundation)
- Jamestown Settlement and American History Museum of Yorktown, Jamestown and Yorktown, VA (Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc.)
- Jewish Museum, New York City, NY
- Kiewit Luminarium, Omaha, NE (Omaha Discovery Trust)
- King's Chapel, Boston, Boston, MA
- Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- Lilly Library at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (Indiana University Foundation)
- Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore, MD
- MFA Boston, Boston, MA (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)
- Museum at Eldridge Street, New York City, NY
- Museum of African American History, Boston, MA
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX
- Museum of Science, Boston, MA
- National Building Museum, Washington, D.C.
- National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, TN
- National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA
- National Juneteenth Museum, Fort Worth, TX
- National Museum of African American Music, Nashville, TN
- National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, IL
- National Park Foundation, Washington, D.C. (Effigy Mounds historic site)

- National Park Foundation, Washington, D.C. (Julius Rosenwald historic site)
- National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, OH
- National Women's History Museum, Washington, D.C.
- National World War II Memorial, Washington, D.C. (Friends of the National World War II Memorial)
- National World War II Museum, New Orleans, LA
- National WWI Museum and Memorial, Kansas City, MO (Liberty Memorial Association)
- Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO
- New Orleans African American Museum of Art, Culture and History, New Orleans, LA
- New York Historical Society, New York City, NY
- New York Public Library, New York City, NY (New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, Tilden Foundations)
- North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC (North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.)
- Plimoth Patuxet Museums, Plymouth, MA
- Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA (Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) a Corp.)
- Raclin Murphy Museum of Art at Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN (University of Notre Dame)
- San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum, San Antonio, TX
- Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Hill, KY
- Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT
- Sing Sing Prison Museum, Ossining, NY
- Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL
- Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, IL (The University of Chicago)
- Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.
- Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Washington, D.C.
- Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C.
- Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C.
- Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C.
- Smithsonian National Museum of American Indian, Washington, D.C.
- Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art, Washington, D.C.
- Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino, Washington, D.C.
- Tenement Museum, New York City, NY (Lower East Side Tenement Museum)
- The Clemente, New York City, NY (Clemente Soto Velez Cultural & Educational Center)
- The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
- The King Center, Atlanta, GA (Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change, Inc.)
- The Legacy Museum, Montgomery, AL (Equal Justice Initiative)

- The Met, New York City, NY (Metropolitan Museum of Art)
- The Morgan Library and Museum, New York City, NY (Pierpont Morgan Library)
- The Newberry, Chicago, IL (The Newberry Library)
- The Statue of Liberty – Ellis Island Foundation, New York City, NY
- The Two Museums (Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum), Jackson, MS (Foundation for Mississippi History)
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.
- Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia, PA
- Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, MA