MEETING DATE: Thursday, July 23, 2015
AGENDA ITEM #: 12A
ITEM: IMLS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discussion on a letter for the Board of Supervisors regarding adding the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to the County legislative priority list.
To: Board of Supervisors

From: David Twa, County Administrator

Date: June 16, 2015

Subject: preserving funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

RATIFY the support letter from the Chair of the Board to preserve the federal funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill, as requested by the Library Commission.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact.

**BACKGROUND:**

For the second year in a row, the House Budget committee has proposed the elimination of funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

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**Action of Board On: 06/16/2015**

☑ APPROVE
☑ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR
☑ APPRECIATE AS RECOMMENDED
☐ OTHER
☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE
☐ OTHER

**VOTE OF SUPERVISORS**

**AYE:**
- John Gioia, District I Supervisor
- Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor
- Mary N. Piepho, District III Supervisor
- Karen Mischoff, District IV Supervisor

**ABSENT:** Federal D. Glover, District V Supervisor

**Contact:** L. DeLaney, 925-335-1097

**ATTESTED:** June 16, 2015
David J. Twa,

**BY:** June McHuen, Deputy
BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

IMLS funding includes the only federal grant program that is exclusively for libraries, supporting lifelong learning and innovative library programs throughout the nation. This past fiscal year, the Contra Costa County Library received nearly $120,000 in grants from IMLS. In the past, the County has received $72,000 for a youth literacy program, and $121,000 for a library at a juvenile hall.

Patronage of the Contra Costa County Library continues to grow each year (over 4 million visits last year). Services include providing homework assistance to students, helping with job searches and resume writing, and offering computer access for those who might otherwise lack what has become a basic need in today’s society.

With over 1.5 billion library visits a year nationally, it is essential that IMLS and its grant-making capabilities be preserved in the Labor-HHS-Education funding bills so that public libraries can continue to play a critical role in serving their local communities.

The Contra Costa County Library Commission requested a letter from the County to advocate for the preservation of the federal funding. As there is no adopted policy in the Federal Legislative Platform related to library funding, a letter was sent expressing support from the Chair of the Board. (See attachment.) Board policy requires that advocacy letters that express the position of the Chair of the Board be sent to the Board of Supervisors for action on the next available Board of Supervisors’ agenda.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The Board would not have a position on this funding.
June 4, 2015

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The United State House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-0511

RE: Preserve IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Service) in Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bills

Dear Representative DeSaulnier:

As Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, I write to request your assistance in preserving funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. For the second year in a row, the House Budget committee has proposed its elimination.

IMLS funding includes the only federal grant program that is exclusively for libraries, supporting lifelong learning and innovative library programs throughout the nation. This past fiscal year, the Contra Costa County Library received nearly $120,000 in grants from IMLS. In the past, the County has received $72,000 for a youth literacy program, and $121,000 for a library at a juvenile hall.

Patronage of the Contra Costa County Library continues to grow each year (over 4 million visits last year). Services include providing homework assistance to students, helping with job searches and resume writing, and offering computer access for those who might otherwise lack what has become a basic need in today’s society.

With over 1.5 billion library visits a year nationally, it is essential that IMLS and its grant-making capabilities be preserved in the Labor-HHS-Education funding bills so that public libraries can continue to play a critical role in serving their local communities.

Sincerely,

John Gioia
Chair, Board of Supervisors
cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
    Contra Costa County Legislative Delegation
    David Twa, County Administrator
    Contra Costa County Library Commissioners
    Paul Schlesinger, Alcalde and Fay