

Memorandum



DATE April 4, 2025

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Potential Impact of Institute of Museum and Library Services on Dallas Public Library**

The purpose of this memorandum is to explain the potential impact of the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Background

On March 14, a presidential [executive order](#) was issued that calls for the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. On Monday, March 31, 2025, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission was notified that all IMLS staff had been placed on administrative leave indefinitely. The IMLS distributes funds to state libraries that support statewide programs and fund pass through grants. These federal funds in the amount of \$12.5 million constitute 33% of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission budget (TSLAC).

The Dallas Public Library has developed nationally recognized programs leveraging TSLAC grants of \$10,000 to upwards of \$75,000 to implement the GED Testing Center, the Homeless Engagement Initiative, Applied English Language Learning Instruction, Music Equity Program and Instrument Lending. This funding helped establish staff positions and supplies that could be supported by general-funded staff long-term. For example, the Homeless Engagement Initiative helped establish a program that dedicated staff to connect unhoused patrons with local service providers and improve staff relationships with the population. Grants have also supported collection development and preservation projects including the Memory Care Backpacks and the digitization of the Juanita Craft Collection. In addition to supporting special projects, the IMLS funding supports statewide initiatives like the interlibrary loan system and TexShare digital resource databases.

The Library currently is the recipient of a Texas Treasures Grant for \$35,674 to digitize artifacts from the Juanita Craft Collection. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission suspended further expenditures on any state grants on March 31, 2025. Whether the grant will be reactivated prior to the end of the state fiscal year is still unknown.

On Friday, March 28th, the Interim Library Director, Heather Lowe, met with the State Librarian Gloria Meraz and other Texas Library Directors to discuss the potential impacts. The Dallas Public Library currently awaits further direction from TSLAC and will update

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City Council, the City Manager's Office and the Municipal Library Board as impacts of the executive order are known.

For further information, please contact Interim Library Director, Heather Lowe (heather.lowe@dallas.gov).

Service First, Now!



M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira
Assistant City Manager

c:	Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, City Manager Tammy Palomino, City Attorney Mark Swann, City Auditor Biliera Johnson, City Secretary Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager	Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer Elizabeth Saab, Chief of Strategy, Engagement, and Alignment (I) Directors and Assistant Directors
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