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ULC Calls on Congress to Reject Proposed Defunding of the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The FY21 White House budget proposal would have a devastating impact on libraries, museums and the communities they enrich.

WASHINGTON – For the fourth consecutive year, the White House’s annual budget request has proposed eliminating funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – the federal agency charged with empowering libraries and museums to transform their communities. In response, Urban Libraries Council President & CEO Susan Benton has issued the following statement:

“Continuous learning is a requirement for success in the 21st century. Now more than ever, our communities need – and indeed *our nation* needs – educated citizens who have equitable and abundant access to knowledge resources. Libraries play an essential role in ensuring individuals from all backgrounds can reach their highest aspirations. The current administration is threatening to weaken our nation’s communities by eliminating IMLS and the fundamental support that it provides to libraries and museums. Our core democratic principles have no place on this chopping block. We urge members of Congress to prioritize education, digital inclusion and strong, healthy communities by rejecting the proposed budget cuts to IMLS.”

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About the Urban Libraries Council

The Urban Libraries Council is an innovation and impact tank of North America’s leading public library systems. ULC drives cutting-edge research and strategic partnerships to elevate the power of libraries as essential, transformative institutions for the 21st-century. More than 150 urban member libraries in the U.S. and Canada rely on ULC to identify significant challenges facing today’s communities and provide new tools and techniques to help libraries achieve stronger outcomes in education, digital inclusion, workforce and economic development, and race and social equity.