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ABSTRACT

This booklet outlines the activities of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal funding for libraries and museums. IMLS grants support all types of museums from art and history to science and zoos, and all types of libraries, from public and academic to research and school. IMLS enables libraries and museums to develop innovative methods of meeting community needs, to create engaging spaces for children and families to discover together, and to function as centers for inquiry, investigation, and scholarly research. The booklet delineates projects or activities at 33 different museums and libraries that have received IMLS funding support. (BT)

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Museums and Libraries: Gateways to Discovery.

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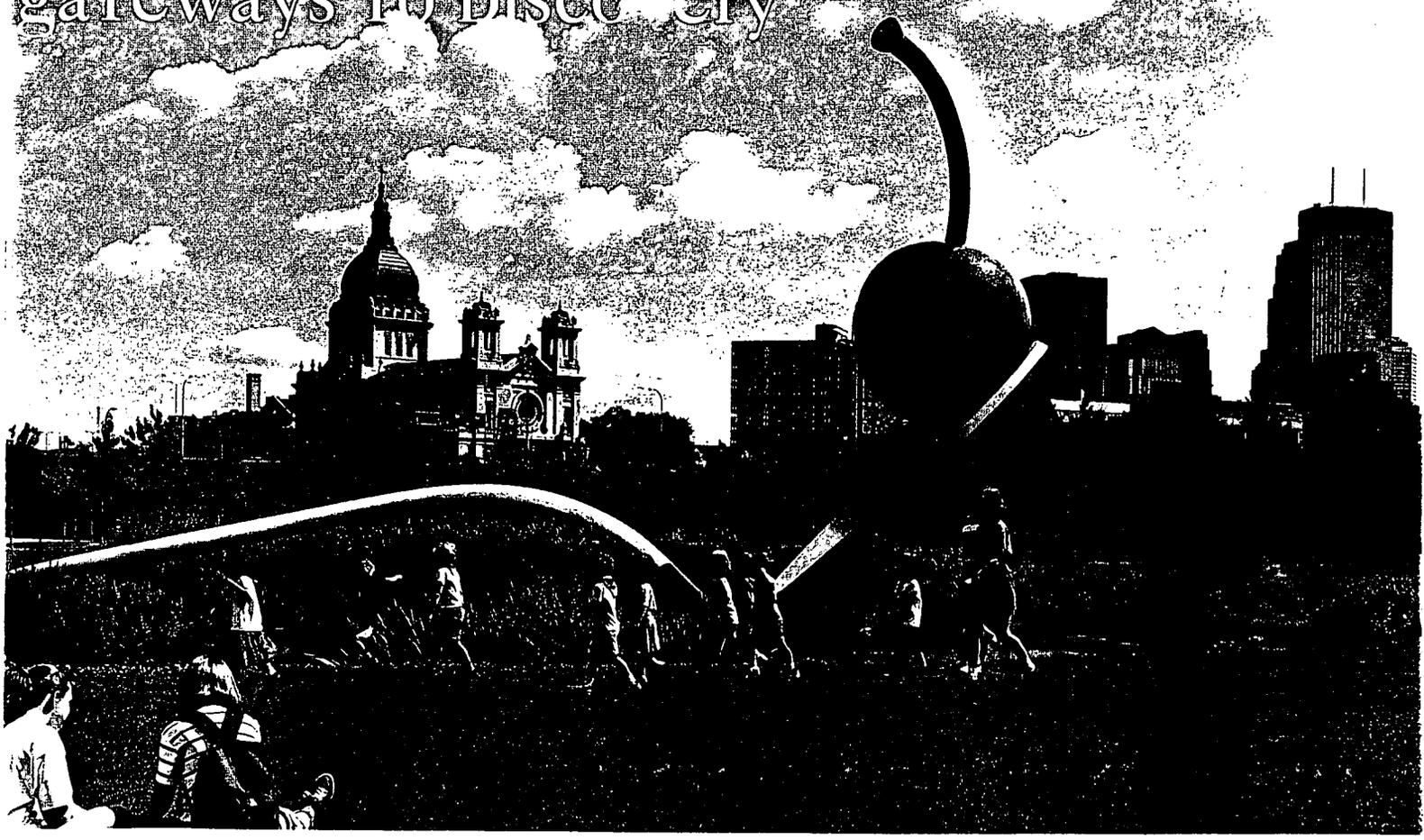
Institute of Museum and Library Services

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museums and LIBRARIES

gateways TO DISCOVERY



INSTITUTE OF museum and LIBRARY services

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we are a nation of learners



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4

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museums and libraries spark our imaginations,
affirm our humanity and refresh our spirits.

As a primary source of federal funding for libraries and museums, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) helps libraries and museums offer a lifetime of learning for people of all ages, in all walks of life. IMLS grants support all types of museums, from art and history to science and zoos, and all types of libraries and archives, from public and academic to research and school.



PROVIDING LEADERSHIP.

IMLS enables libraries and museums to develop innovative methods of meeting community needs and create engaging spaces for children and families to discover together. They are centers for inquiry, investigation, and scholarly research.

IMLS GRANTS HELP LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS:

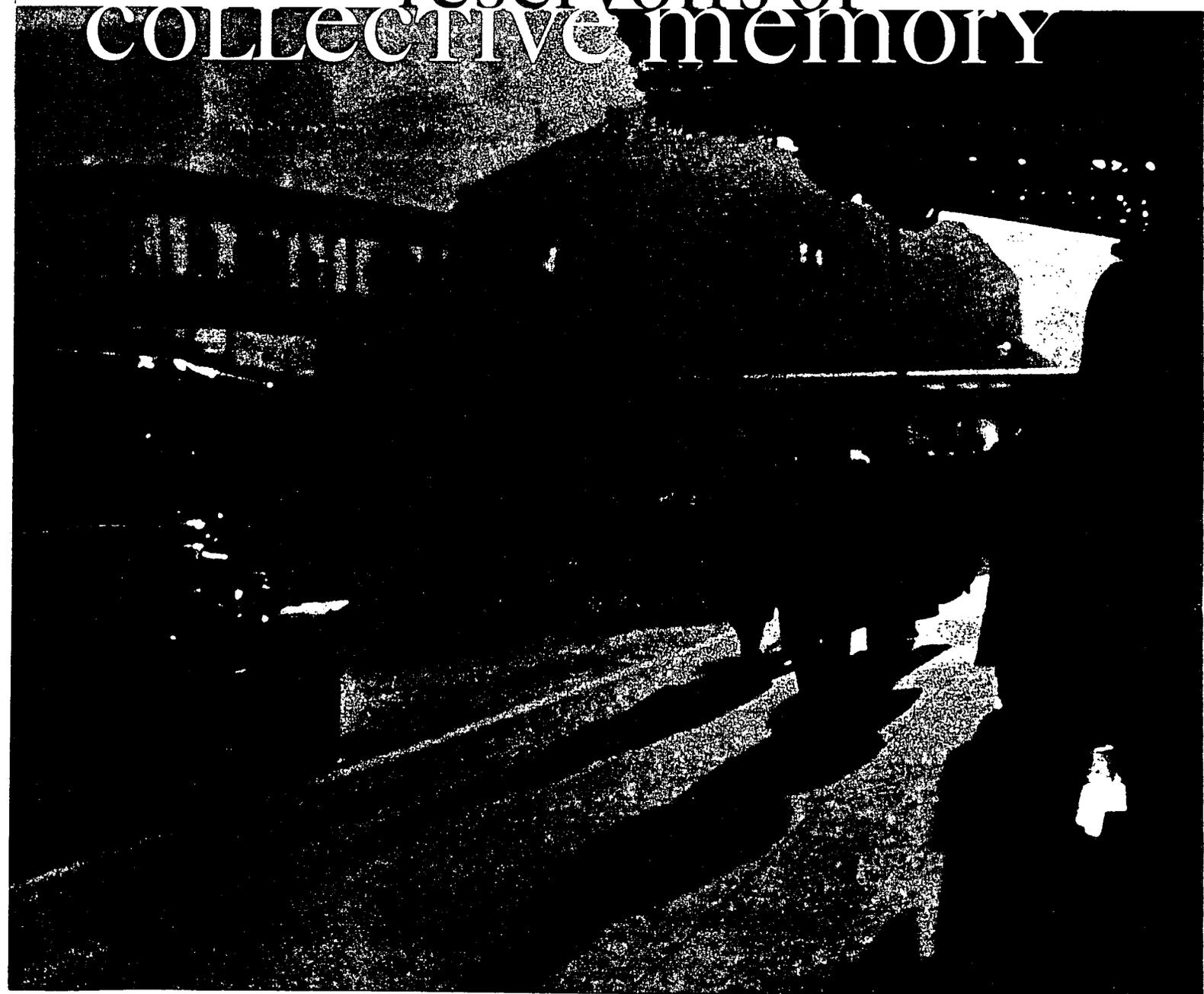
- ❖ Increase capacity to serve the public
- ❖ Care for and preserve collections
- ❖ Enhance planning
- ❖ Reach for high standards of operation
- ❖ Enter into innovative partnerships linking libraries and museums with schools and other community organizations
- ❖ Use technology to increase public access and improve efficiency
- ❖ Develop digital resources
- ❖ Expand opportunity for underserved communities
- ❖ Leverage support from other public and private sources
- ❖ Research and care for endangered species

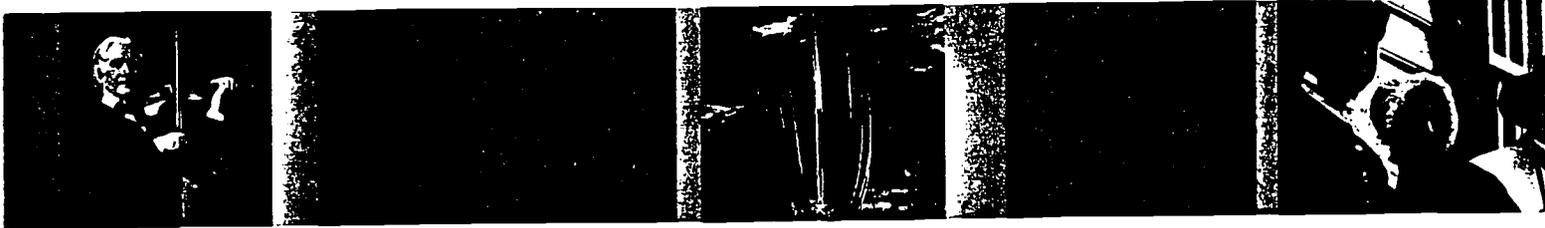


CONNECTING PEOPLE and IDEAS

7

reservoirs OF COLLECTIVE memory





CONSERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE.

Libraries and museums care for the artistic, historic, and scientific collections that are our cultural heritage and give context to today's experiences.

AMON CARTER MUSEUM ♦ FORT WORTH, TEXAS

The museum used IMLS support to enhance the long term preservation storage of its collection of high-risk photographic prints and negatives with the purchase of three refrigerators and two freezers. The grant assures that these rare images will continue to be studied by scholars and shared with thousands of visitors each year.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY ♦ ITHACA, NEW YORK

Cornell University, a pioneer in imaging projects over the last decade, is using IMLS funds to find an archiving solution for the more than 2.5 million digital images created by the University.

THE WYCK ASSOCIATION ♦ PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

This 18th-century house, home to nine generations of one family, preserves thousands of letters, family diaries, and even a rose garden still growing in its original plan. IMLS funding contributed to the Wyck's transformation from a struggling site to an award-winning leader in the historic house community of Philadelphia.

THE DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN ♦ PHOENIX, ARIZONA

IMLS grants support the Garden Seed Bank, a critical resource for arid-land conservation; it ensures genetic back-ups should plants become extinct in the wild. The majority of the Garden's 20,000 plants, limited to the desert biome, are displayed and cared for in a natural setting. Behind the scenes, ongoing research and preservation efforts safeguard the future of these unique botanical specimens.

THE NAH TAH WAHSH LIBRARY ♦ HANNAHVILLE INDIAN COMMUNITY WILSON, MICHIGAN

IMLS funding helps to preserve and share the culture of the Hannahville Indian Community, the Potawatomi tribe, and the Woodland Indians of Upper Michigan. Digital copies of documents, photographs, video and audio clips of interviews with tribal elders are made available via the Internet.



investing in families.

IMLS helps libraries and museums reach people of all ages, in all regions. From the school child just learning to read, to the senior citizen who still finds something new to learn each day, IMLS support helps create a continuum of invaluable resources to further growth through knowledge and self-discovery.

QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY ♦ QUEENS, NEW YORK

IMLS supports the Library's Family Literacy Librarian, a full time outreach position dedicated to helping families prepare their children for educational success. The Librarian brings the library to the community by meeting families at local fairs and community agencies. Parents are encouraged to read with children and take them to the library, museum, and other cultural events.

JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY ♦ JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

The library helps people who are new to the country learn the skills they seek to be confident members of American society. IMLS supports "Project Finish" in the largest, fastest-growing urban population center in Kansas. The project teaches basic literacy, life skills and employment opportunity instruction for adults.

THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART ♦ TOLEDO, OHIO

The Museum uses IMLS funds to create something for everyone. When "It's Friday" at the Toledo Museum of Art, the doors stay open until 10 p.m.

Young singles, working families and museum regulars stream in, admission free. The Community Learning Resource Center teaches through computer technology, handling objects, discovery boxes, and more. The Family Center continues the fun with hands-on learning. In the galleries, visitors learn from "Inform," an audio-guide to the collections.

THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM ♦ DOVER, DELAWARE

The Museum takes its "Yesterday Remember" program to nursing homes and senior centers. Families can use trunks packed with historic artifacts to encourage seniors to talk about their own memories.

CHICAGO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ♦ CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Chicago Children's Museum is a national model for its IMLS-supported Parent Networks that reach underserved families. Through its programs, the Museum is breaking down barriers that inhibit low-income families from seeking enriching educational opportunities and gaining access to them.



Safe Havens for Children gathering places FOR COMMUNITIES

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THE KEYS TO a universe OF information THAT KNOWS no BOUNDARIES



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expanding access.

With technology the barriers of time, space, and geography can disappear.

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS ♦ OURAY, COLORADO

In the small rural town of Ouray, opportunities for children to “see the world” are expanding at the school library. Through IMLS funding, students and their parents are now able to travel across continents, under the sea, and inside ancient structures through multi-media projectors and the Internet.

THE EXPLORATORIUM ♦ SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

IMLS funds helped the Exploratorium attract 2.5 million visitors online. The award-winning website is a lively interactive “science lab,” filled with experiments, brainteasers, mini exhibits, and science lessons for all ages. The Exploratorium also trains several thousand teachers each year in teaching “hands on” science and incorporating a wealth of science fun directly from the Internet.

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES ♦ RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

With IMLS funds the museum purchased an advanced editing system to create videos that include field footage such as museum naturalists

on bog turtle searches, museum educators teaching through distance learning, and children handling live animals during outreach programs. These videos will be part of “Using the Outdoors to Teach Experiential Science.”

SAILOR ♦ BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Maryland is one of a growing number of states to use IMLS support to provide residents with unlimited access to a virtual library from their schools, offices, homes, and libraries. A visit to the Sailor website provides access to thousands of periodicals, business titles, health pamphlets, newspapers, encyclopaedias, journals, and more.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY ♦ BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

The University is using IMLS funds to digitize materials from its Hoagy Carmichael jazz collection—including sound recordings, photographs, and textual materials—and to make them available via the Internet.

centers of community engagement.

The resources and services found in museums and libraries are tied to community interests and reflect what communities care about.

THE WING LUKE ASIAN MUSEUM ♦ SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

IMLS awards have recognized this museum as an innovator in defining the role of community-based museums. The museum brings community residents together across generational and ethnic lines to create highly personal exhibits to share their stories, turning the museum into a center of cultural pride in Seattle's historic Chinatown International District.

PIONEER LIBRARY SYSTEM ♦ NEW YORK

Patrons can find help writing resumes and cover letters and preparing for interviews at job information centers. IMLS support helps outfit the centers with extensive reference materials and public Internet access; the centers serve as models for partnerships between libraries and the Workforce Development System. The state is using libraries as part of its rapid response services for dislocated workers.

HAWAII MUSEUM ASSOCIATION ♦ HONOLULU, HAWAII

Museums play a role in the economic health of communities. Hawaii's museums produce more revenue than the state's export crops of bananas, macadamia nuts and coffee. A comprehensive economic impact study funded by IMLS made clear how important

investments in museums are to leverage funds: for every dollar of state funding, museums generated \$14.50 in other revenue and attracted \$4.30 in new monies from out-of-state sources.

OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE ♦ STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

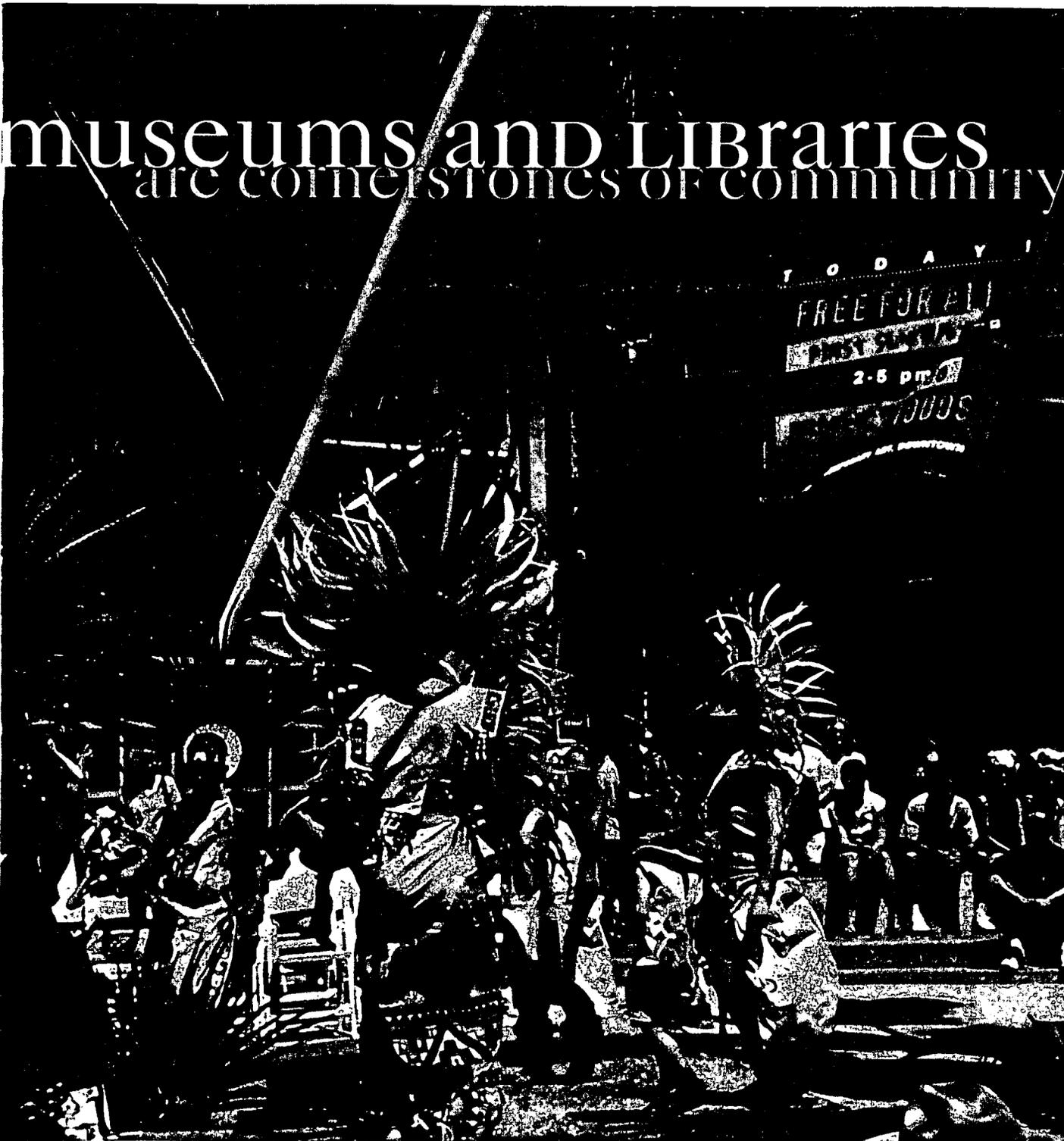
Old Sturbridge Village wants the entire community to feel welcome. The Village used IMLS funds to improve unpaved roads to accommodate wheelchairs, add ramps to more than half the historic buildings, incorporate sign language and tactile objects, and create lively pamphlets to illustrate sites where access remains limited.

MERIDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY ♦ MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

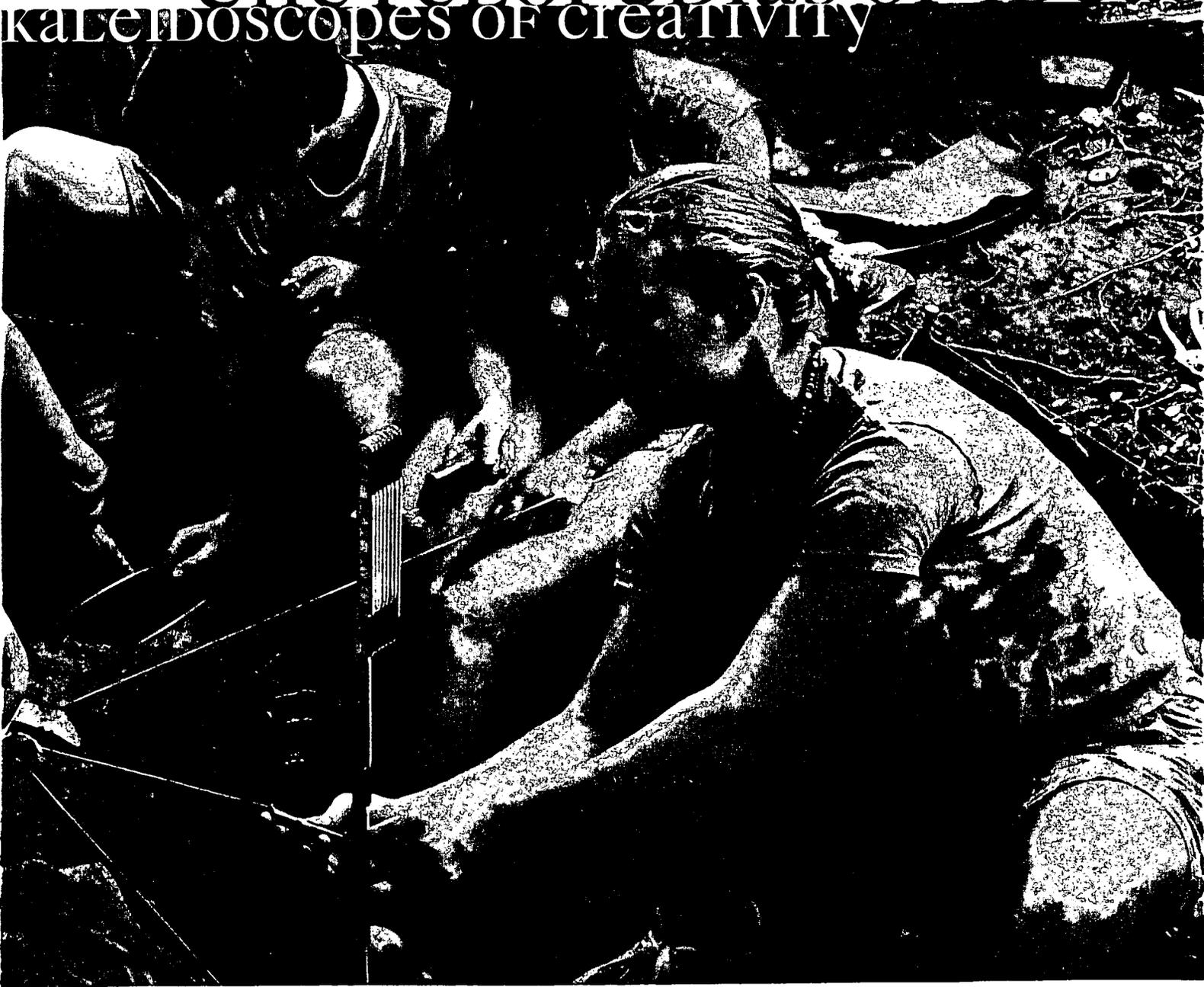
The Children's First Initiative began when the Meriden Public Library collaborated with city community service organizations to focus on the needs of the city's at-risk children, birth to age 11. As a result an outreach coordinator was hired to bring the Library's bookmobile to targeted neighborhoods, parks, daycare centers, camps, and schools. The project serves 10,000 children and their parents.

museums and LIBRARIES

are cornerstones of community LIFE



encyclopedias OF IDEAS kaleidoscopes OF creativity





EDUCATIONAL INNOVATIONS.

Museums and libraries help schools meet curriculum goals, provide centers for reading and homework support, and create new educational resources. Museums and libraries encourage new insights and critical thought.

HENRY FORD MUSEUM AND GREENFIELD VILLAGE ♦ DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

The Museum's Youth Mentorship Program was honored with the IMLS National Award for Museum Service in 1998. At-risk students and their families receive a combination of job training, community service, and mentoring. Results are impressive—student attendance has drastically increased and grade point averages have improved by 70%.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF DES MOINES ♦
DES MOINES, IOWA

Six homework centers at branch libraries make finding answers to homework assignments easier and more fun. Working collaboratively, teachers advise librarians on upcoming work. After school and at night, students flock to the computers where they find software and other resources geared to their assignments.

MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY ♦
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

"Exploring the Hood" is an innovative program made possible through IMLS support. By researching their own neighborhoods and taking part in a simulation about building a new neighborhood, fifth graders discover how decisions made over time

impact their communities. At the end of the program the children present their findings in a formal meeting with city officials.

JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK AND MUSEUM ♦
ST. LEONARD, MARYLAND

An IMLS grant helps maintain a popular sixth grade program, "Discovering Archaeology," which links environmental stewardship with the importance of protecting cultural resources and heritage. Summertime "digs," open to the public, continue to scrutinize the soil for signs of the past, building connections to Maryland's colonial history.

RAMAPO CATSKILL LIBRARY SYSTEM ♦
RAMAPO, NEW YORK

The Library System successfully designed and implemented "kidsClick!," a searchable webguide for children maintained by librarians that includes nearly 5,000 resources. The site, <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick/>, is used by 5,000 to 7,000 visitors a day from local area, and from schools and public libraries around the nation and the world.



TELLING OUR STORIES.

Museums and libraries are bridges to understanding. They advance our appreciation of the diverse and rich traditions of our country and the world.

PROSSER PUBLIC LIBRARY ♦ BLOOMFIELD, CONNECTICUT

In honor of Black History Month, the Bloomfield public libraries used IMLS funds to add significantly to their collections of materials relevant to the African-American experience, and they promoted their new holdings through a lecture series on the Amistad incident. The program increased the library's average monthly circulation by nearly 50% and the new materials had a circulation rate of four times the general collection.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM ♦ VERGENNES, VERMONT

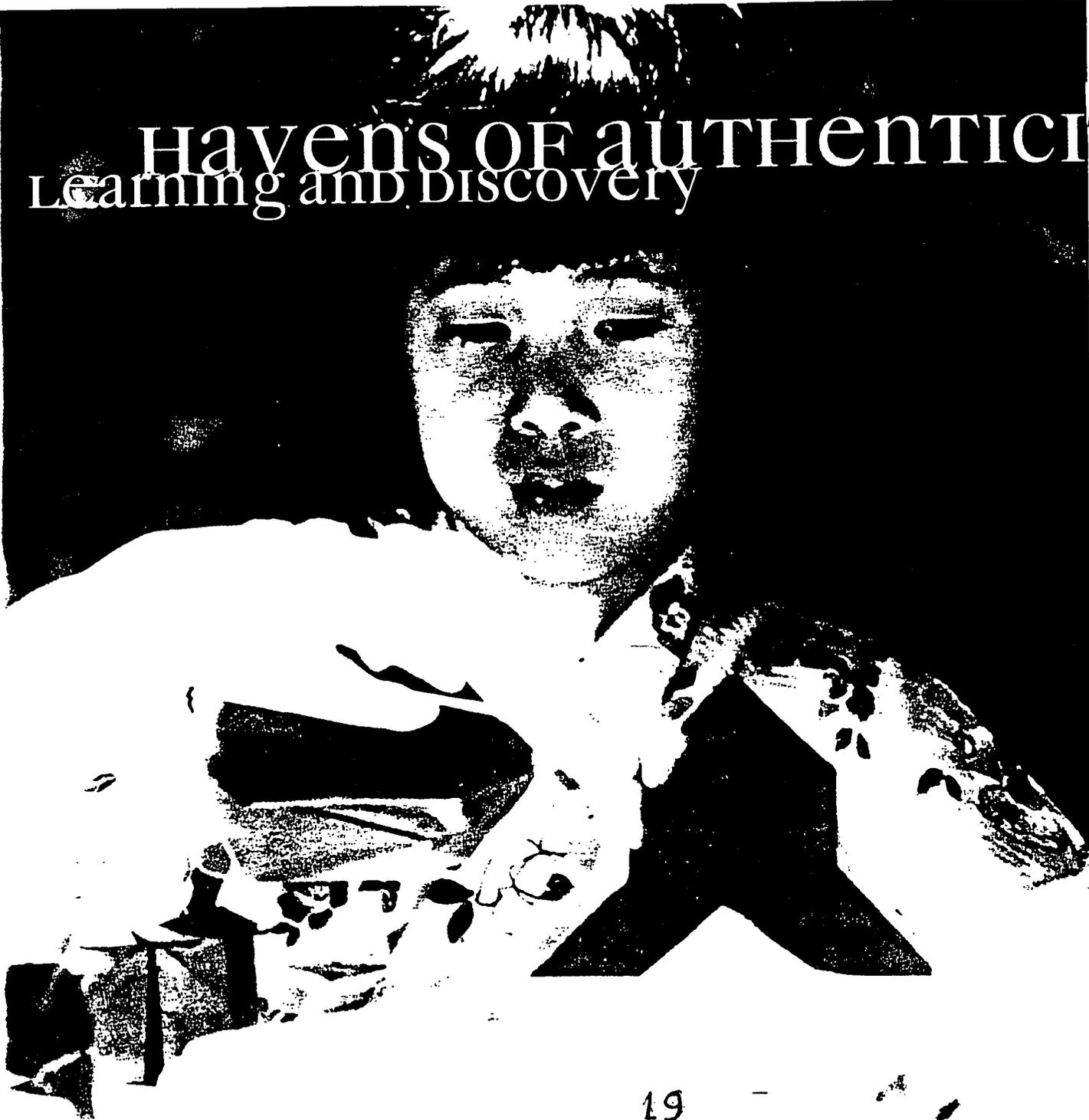
With IMLS funds, the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is mapping the mysteries of a long-submerged past that reside at the bottom of the lake. The nautical archaeology program documents such newly discovered shipwrecks as the missing gunboat from Benedict Arnold's Revolutionary War fleet. An ambitious educational program includes kayak-building, boat-building, and maritime skills, reaching thousands of students of all ages.

LOUISVILLE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS ♦ LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

"Islands Indonesian Village," an exhibit illustrating the rich diversity of life in Pacific Rim Islands, became the first in the world to utilize multi-species rotation. This intricate system enables keepers to move Sumatran Tiger, Orangutan, Siamang, Tapir, and Babirus through four different habitats at any given time of day. IMLS funding trained staff and volunteers to manage the 38% increase in Zoo attendance stimulated by this new approach.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CHARLOTTE AND MECKLENBERG COUNTY ♦ CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

The library in partnership with the Mint Museum is creating "Weaving a Craft." The public can learn about North Carolina history and art through an innovative program that unites computer technology, the arts, humanities, and educational resources.



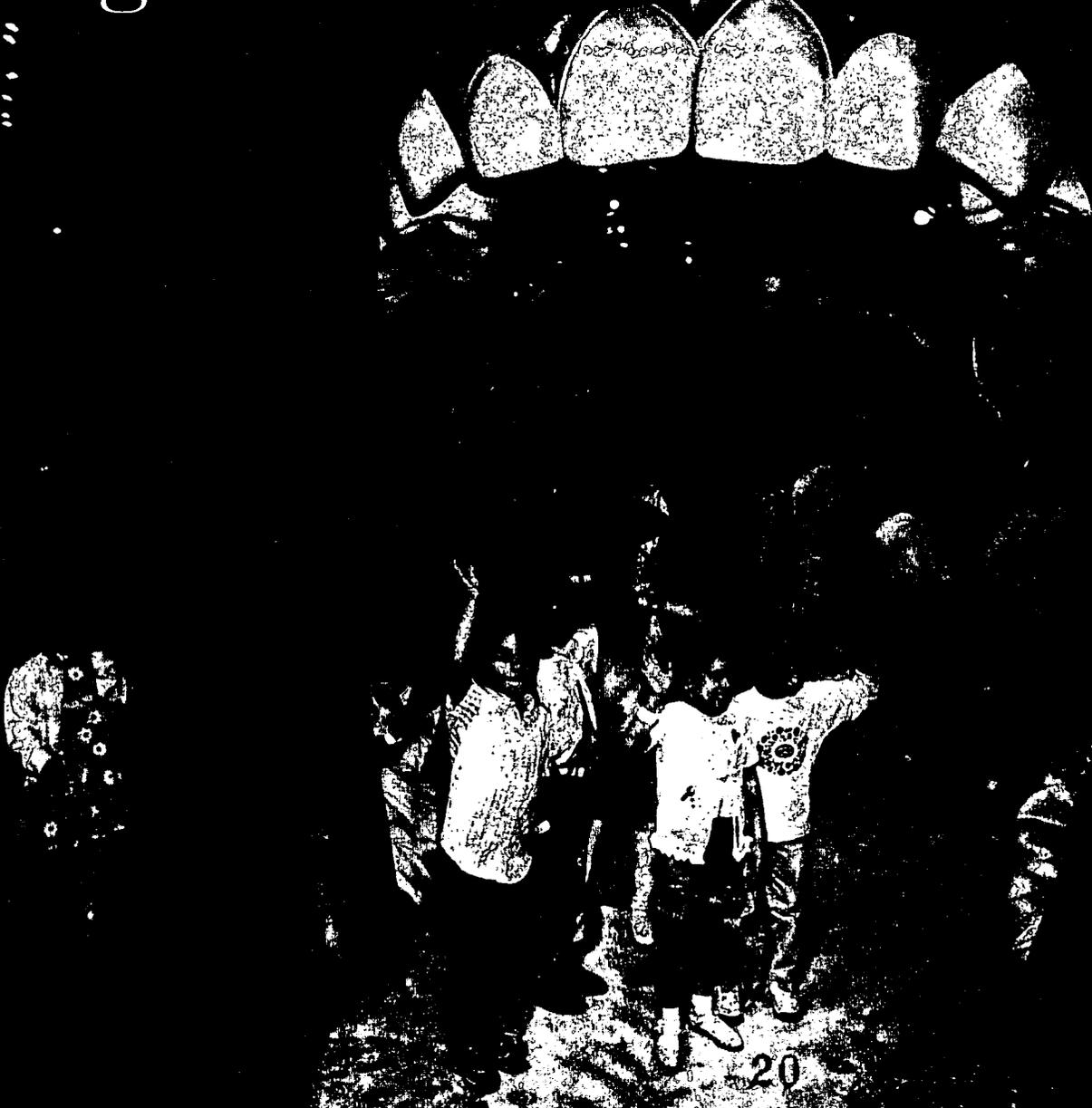
HAVENS OF AUTHENTICITY

Learning and Discovery

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THEY educate, inform enlighten and entertain



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community as campus.

Today libraries and museums all over the country are working together to expand the impact of their wealth of enriched learning resources.

THE BROOKLYN EXPEDITION ♦ NEW YORK, NEW YORK

In 1997, the Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn Museum of Art, and the Brooklyn Public Library began collaboration on a technology initiative to attract young people to their locations. With IMLS support, they are expanding a website that links all three institutions. Visitors can imagine themselves on an expedition exploring local history in Brooklyn. An online journal will allow visitors to record their journey, save information and text, and resume where they left off, regardless of whether their traveling has been done from the museums, library, or home.

STATE LIBRARY OF COLORADO ♦ COLORADO
The Colorado Digitization Project is a collaborative initiative to unite Colorado's archives, historical societies, libraries, and museums on-line. The Project will create a digital library-museum that will provide a unique research tool to study Colorado's rich historical and cultural resources.

LIBRARY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD ♦ HOUSTON, TEXAS

Responding to recent studies emphasizing the importance of brain development in the first three years of life, the Children's Museum of Houston and the Houston Public Library have created the Library for Early Childhood. This partnership creates a synergy that incorporates up-to-the-minute information on child development and provides access to learning in an environment that is both highly captivating for youngsters and comfortable for parents.

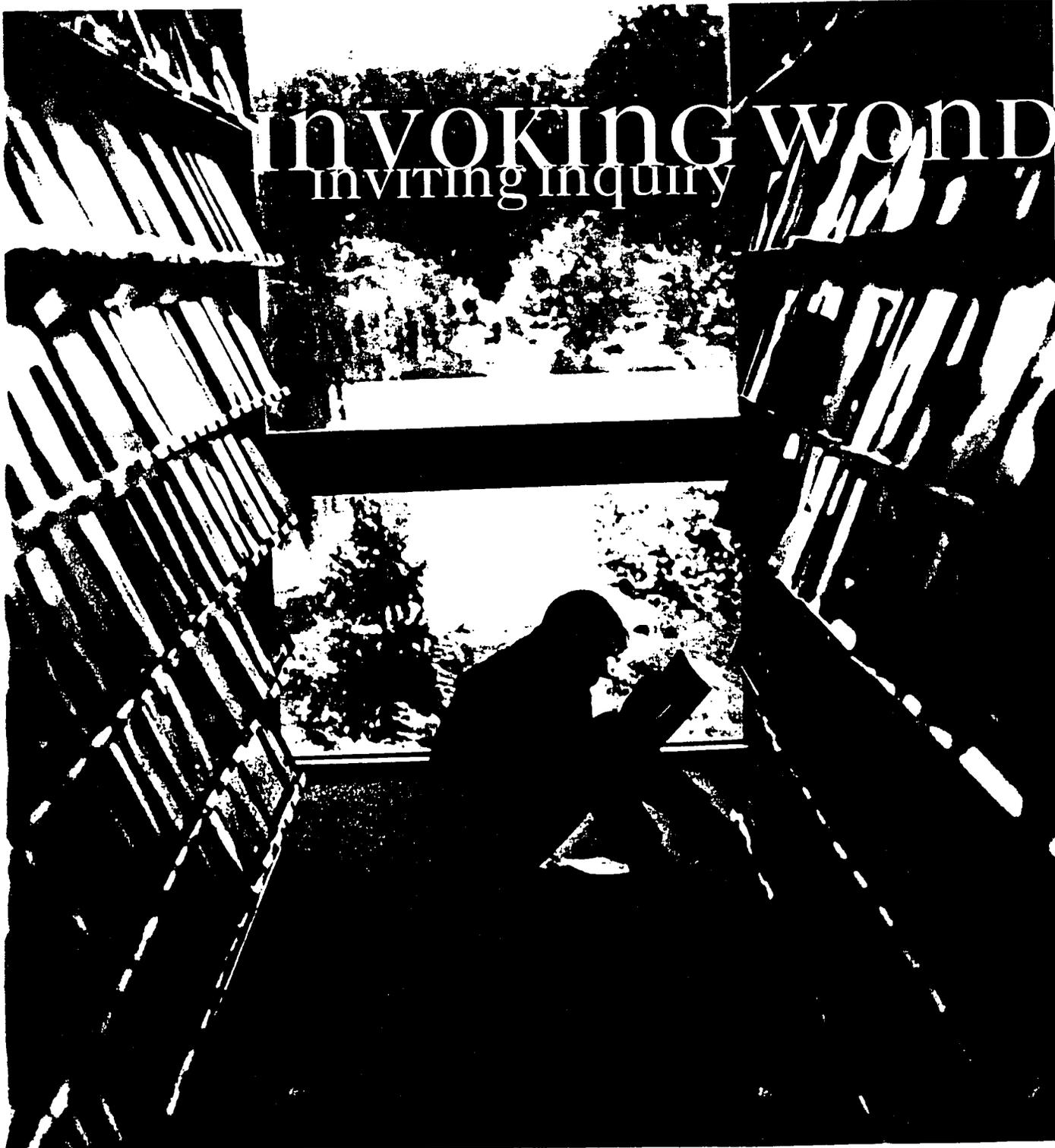
MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND INDUSTRY ♦ SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The Museum and the Seattle Public Library are working together to reach multi-generational audiences with the "Nearby History" program. The program brings museum historians into area libraries to explore great historical issues and events through the recollections and family histories of individual community members.



catalysts FOR LEADERSHIP.

IMLS takes an active role in championing the role libraries and museums play in our society. IMLS does this by supporting research, convening forums and conferences. IMLS places a priority on evaluating results and disseminating promising practices.



invoking wonder

inviting inquiry

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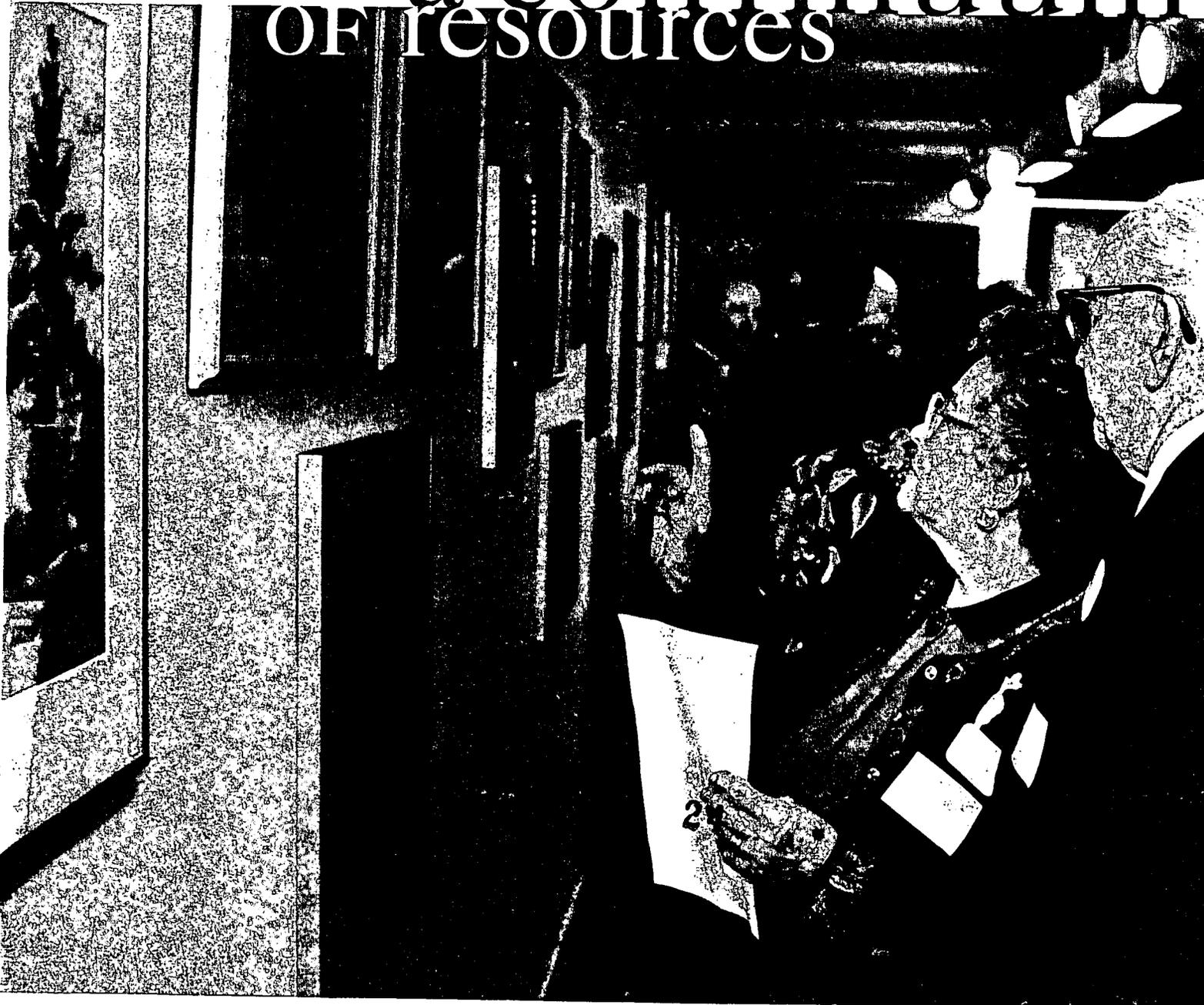
Institute of Museum and Library Services

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a continuum of resources





a SHORT HISTORY OF IMLS

People depend on libraries and museums as focal points in their community's cultural landscape. Through imaginative programs and partnerships with schools and civic organizations, museums and libraries are unmatched in the variety and breadth of knowledge they make available to everyone.

In 1996, the Institute of Museum and Library Services was created when Congress passed the Museum and Library Services Act, drawing together federal support for these centers of learning and community engagement. IMLS administers library programs authorized by the Library Services and Technology Act and museum programs under the Museum Services Act.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services promotes leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning. For more information, call IMLS at 202-606-8536 or visit the website at www.imls.gov.

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