

**CONTACT: Kim Kenney, Executive Director, 330-455-7043**  
[director@mckinleymuseum.org](mailto:director@mckinleymuseum.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**McKinley Presidential Library & Museum Receives Communities for Immunity  
funding to advance vaccine confidence**

Canton, Ohio... The McKinley Presidential Library & Museum has received a Communities for Immunity grant to conduct an awareness campaign to increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence. A series of programs and events will take place between January and March 2022. Community partners for this initiative include Stark Library, Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio, Early Childhood Resource Center, Stark County Metro Housing Authority, and the Stark County Board of Health.

Supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Communities for Immunity provides funding awards and support to museums and libraries engaging their communities to boost COVID-19 vaccine confidence. As trusted community partners, museums and libraries play a critical role in building vaccine confidence and fighting the pandemic.

“Through this unprecedented partnership, Communities for Immunity is providing nearly 100 museums, libraries, and tribal organizations across the country with over \$1.6 million over two rounds of funding to help their community members make well-informed decisions about COVID-19 and vaccinations,” said Laura Lott, President and CEO of the American Alliance of Museums. “These organizations are linchpins in helping bring an end to the pandemic and leading their communities into a brighter, healthier future.”

“Battling a global pandemic necessarily requires organizational partnerships of this unprecedented scale and magnitude,” said American Library Association executive director Tracie D. Hall. “Together, libraries, museums, science and public health organizations can create a network to disrupt misinformation and provide their communities with the knowledge needed for disease containment and hopefully, prevention.”

Round Two awards will be provided to the following 50 museums, libraries, and tribal organizations serving urban, suburban, and rural populations across 33 states:

Alaska Library Network, Anchorage, AK  
Polynesian Association of Alaska, Anchorage, AK  
Scott Family Amazeum, Bentonville, AR  
Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley, CA  
Basalt Regional Library, Basalt, CO  
SHU Discovery Science Center and Planetarium, Bridgeport, CT  
Pensacola MESS Hall, Pensacola, FL

High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System, Augusta, GA  
Gwinnett County Public Library, Lawrenceville, GA  
Trickster Cultural Center, Schaumburg, IL  
The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Inc., Indianapolis, IN  
Pulaski County Public Library, Winamac, IN  
Northeast Kansas Library System, Lawrence, KS  
T.R.E.E. House Children's Museum, Alexandria, LA  
Springfield Museums Corporation, Springfield, MA  
The Peale, Baltimore, MD  
Takoma Park Maryland Library, Takoma Park, MD  
Dearborn Public Library, Dearborn, MI  
Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, MO  
The National Blues Museum, St. Louis, MO  
Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, Gulfport, MS  
Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, Health Department, Great Falls, MT  
ExplorationWorks, Helena, MT  
University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area, Missoula, MT  
Kidzu Children's Museum, Chapel Hill, NC  
Explora, Albuquerque, NM  
DISCOVERY Children's Museum, Las Vegas, NV  
Redhawk Native American Arts Council, Brooklyn, NY  
American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY  
McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, Canton, OH  
Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County, Mount Vernon, OH  
Healdton Community Library part of Southern Oklahoma Library System, Healdton, OK  
Science Museum Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK  
Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma, Quapaw, OK  
Jackson County Library Services, Medford, OR  
Western Oregon University, Monmouth, OR  
Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, PA  
Providence Children's Museum, Providence, RI  
Richland Library, Columbia, SC  
C Williams Rush Museum of African-American Arts & Culture, Kingstree, SC  
Discovery Center at Murfree Spring, Murfreesboro, TN  
Thinkery, Austin, TX  
The DoSeum, San Antonio, TX  
Witte Museum, San Antonio, TX  
Hyrum City Museum, Hyrum, UT  
Discovery Gateway Children's Museum, Salt Lake City, UT  
Virginia Nottoway Tribe Circle and Square Foundation, Capron, VA  
The Building for Kids Children's Museum, Appleton, WI  
Morgan County Public Library, Berkeley Springs, WV

“Credible, science-based research and information put forth by our trusted museums, including science and technology centers, libraries, and others in our cultural and educational universe is the

key to vanquishing the pandemic,” said IMLS Director Crosby Kemper. “We are happy to support this important partnership.”

Communities for Immunity is an initiative of the Association of Science and Technology Centers, Institute of Museum and Library Services, American Alliance of Museums, and the Network of the National Library of Medicine, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in collaboration with the American Library Association, the Association of African American Museums, the Association of Children’s Museums, the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums, and the Urban Libraries Council. Communities for Immunity builds on a number of earlier and ongoing efforts to activate engagement in vaccine confidence work, including REopening Archives, Libraries and Museums (REALM), a research partnership between OCLC, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and Battelle; Vaccines & US, led by the Smithsonian and in collaboration with a range of partner organizations and individuals; Vaccinate with Confidence from the CDC; We Can Do This from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and the It’s Up to You campaign led by the Ad Council and COVID Collaborative.

#### About the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum

The McKinley Presidential Library & Museum is located at 800 McKinley Monument Dr NW in Canton. The Keller Gallery is the Museum’s temporary exhibition space and features a variety of topics each year. The Museum also includes the McKinley National Memorial, McKinley Gallery, Street of Shops, The Stark County Story, Discover World, Ramsayer Research Library, and the Hoover-Price Planetarium. The Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Museum is closed Sunday and Monday.

#### About the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC)

Founded in 1973, ASTC is a network of nearly 700 science and technology centers and museums, and allied organizations, engaging more than 110 million people annually across North America and in almost 50 countries. With its members and partners, ASTC works towards a vision of increased understanding of—and engagement with—science and technology among all people. For more information, visit [www.astc.org](http://www.astc.org).

#### About the American Alliance of Museums (AAM)

The American Alliance of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge on issues of concern to the entire museum community. Representing more than 35,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions, and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance stands for the broad scope of the museum community. For more information, visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).

#### About the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums. IMLS advances, supports, and empowers America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. IMLS’s vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

#### About the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC works 24/7 protecting America's health, safety and security. Whether disease start at home or abroad, are curable or preventable, chronic or acute, or from human activity or deliberate attack, CDC responds to America's most pressing health threats. CDC is headquartered in Atlanta and has experts located throughout the United States and the world. For more information about CDC, visit Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)).

#### About the American Library Association (ALA)

Founded in 1876, ALA is the oldest and largest library association in the world and the foremost national organization providing resources to support library and information professionals in transforming their communities through essential services, programs, and outreach. For more than 140 years, ALA has been the trusted voice of libraries, communicating the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit American Library Association.

#### About the Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM)

The mission of the Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) is to advance the progress of medicine and improve the public's health by providing U.S. researchers, health professionals, public health workforce, educators, and the public with equal access to biomedical and health information resources and data. NNLM's main goals are to work through libraries and other members to support a highly trained workforce for biomedical and health information resources and data, improve health literacy, and advance health equity through information. NNLM engages meaningfully with current and future audiences to increase information access, with priority for Underrepresented Populations. NNLM members are the "field force" or trusted ambassadors for NLM products and services, providing information services, engagement, and instruction, or funding for projects to do the same, to the public, researchers, health professionals, and public health workforce.

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