



American
Alliance of
Museums



AASLH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORIES



American
Public Gardens
Association



ASSOCIATION OF
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUMS



Association of Science
and Technology Centers



ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Schumer, McCarthy, and McConnell:

As leaders of museums from across the United States, we write to you today to thank you for your support for our institutions, especially over the past year, and to ask for your continued partnership as you craft infrastructure legislation.

Our museums are key partners with cities, states, and the federal government as we all work together to build a more sustainable and equitable future. Transforming our existing and often historic buildings into leading-edge, energy and water efficient structures that are prepared for climate impacts in the coming decades is a common priority for many of our institutions. We ask you today to help us rise to this challenge by ensuring museums are eligible for funding in upcoming infrastructure legislation.

As key economic drivers in our communities, federal investments in the infrastructure of cultural institutions would greatly benefit economies in our regions. Investing in museums will create jobs, serve diverse communities, and strengthen the economic and environmental health of our communities for future generations. These investments will address longstanding priorities while stimulating economic activity in cities and towns throughout the country.

Our institutions have common infrastructure needs that align with the goals in the emerging Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework. We urge the House and Senate to ensure museums, as defined by the Museum and Library Services Act (20 USC 9172), are eligible to receive funding for projects that address the following needs:

Infrastructure

- Buildings –
 - New construction and upgrades to existing and historic structures including for energy efficiency, clean energy generation research and demonstration projects, retrofitting and retro-commissioning, and improvement funding.
- Climate Resilience –

- To prepare for increasingly frequent extreme weather including coastal erosion, sea level rise, flooding, and fires.
- Water and Electricity –
 - Ensure all museums have access to safe and clean water infrastructure as well as a modernized electric grid.
- Broadband –
 - Designate museums as hubs for high-speed internet in low-income and rural areas.

Transportation

- Electric Vehicles –
 - Provide funding to support conversion to electric vehicle fleets, installation of electric vehicle charging stations (including for school buses), and allow for integration with city planning to ensure equitable distribution of new routes and stops for municipal electric bus fleets.
- Roads and Bridges –
 - Repair roads and bridges that link to our institutions.

Thank you for your continued support for our museums. We encourage Congress to advance this critical effort to rebuild a stronger and more resilient country, and we look forward to working with you as this process unfolds.

Sincerely,

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