

FORT WORTH MUSEUM

SCIENCE AND HISTORY

For Release: Immediate

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NEWS RELEASE

June 29, 2009

Fort Worth Museum of Science and History Receives Conservation Bookshelf Award

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – Treasured objects and artifacts held by the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History will be preserved for future generations with help from the *IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of conservation books and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). IMLS has now awarded almost 3,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf, in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

“This award is so important to the future of the Museum of Science and History,” said Museum President Van A. Romans. “This set of resource books and online resources is the authoritative source for our collections staff – the primary resource to providing the best care for our collections.

“Because the Museum’s 175,000-item collection is so diverse, the Connecting to Collections Bookshelf will enable staff members to research the respective parts of the collection and have the necessary information for its care readily available,” Romans added.

“When IMLS launched this initiative to improve the dire state of our nation’s collections, we understood that the materials gathered for the Bookshelf would serve as important tools for museums, libraries, and archives nationwide,” said Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of IMLS. “We were both pleased and encouraged by the overwhelming interest of institutions prepared to answer the call to action, and we know that with their dedication, artifacts from our shared history will be preserved for future generations.”

Fort Worth Museum of Science and History will receive this essential set of resources based on an application describing the needs and plans for the care of its collections. The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens, and nature centers.

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It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

The IMLS Bookshelf is a crucial component of *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, a conservation initiative that the Institute launched in 2006. IMLS began the initiative in response to a 2005 study it released in partnership with Heritage Preservation, *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections*. The multi-faceted, multi-year initiative shines a nationwide spotlight on the needs of America's collections, especially those held by smaller institutions, which often lack the human and financial resources necessary to adequately care for their collections. Visit <http://www.imls.gov/collections/> for more information on the *Connecting to Collections* initiative.

About The Museum

Dedicated to life-long learning and anchored by its rich collections, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History engages its diverse community through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the history of Texas and the Southwest. Since the mid-1980s, the Museum has annually welcomed nearly a million visitors, making it one of the most popular cultural attractions in North Texas.

The Museum is currently in the process of building a new facility in the heart of Fort Worth's Cultural District. The world-class facility, designed by internationally renowned architects, Legorreta + Legorreta, will open in late 2009 and will feature a collection of new exhibits and programs developed by the Museum's staff and a team of nationally recognized designers.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.