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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

July 20, 2022

The Honorable Shelly C. Lowe
Chair
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Chair Lowe,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Museum Association of New York (MANY) for funding from Public Humanities Projects Grant Program administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This funding will be used to create a humanities discussion series that will take place in 12 museums across New York State.

The Museum Association of New York is a nonprofit organization that supports New York's museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens, and aquariums by providing virtual and in-person training, grant opportunities, grant-writing workshops, and opportunities for collaboration. Through MANY's training programs, museums of all budget sizes have been able to increase their technological capacities and use these skills to enhance engagement with their audiences. In short, MANY's work strengthens the capabilities of museums across New York.

The requested funding will be used to support a series of humanities programs titled "A New Agora for New York: Museums as Spaces for Democracy." These programs that will occur in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street Traveling Exhibition "Voices and Votes: Democracy in America" in 12 museums across New York. As part of this project, this funding will support planning and training for museum staff, training for local teachers, 12 oral history projects, 36 public programs, and the installation of the 12 local exhibitions. These programs will allow New York's museums increase their engagement with communities, with over 50,000 people estimated to attend these programs and visit these exhibitions.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Ryan Kambich, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator