



PRESS RELEASE

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CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS GRANTS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

ATLANTA, January 2009 - For two consecutive years, the Center for Puppetry Arts has received special funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to preserve and maintain the nation's largest, publicly accessible, global puppetry collection.

In 2007, the IMLS generously awarded the Center a Conservation Project Support grant of \$17,250. This grant enabled the Center to conduct a detailed condition survey of 650 puppets and related performing objects from its Asian collection. This survey consisted of the item-by-item assessment and documentation of the condition of the objects in this collection and will enable the Center to prioritize and plan for future conservation treatment.

In 2008, the Center received its first-ever Museums for America grant from the IMLS, in the amount of \$19,780. Through this grant, the Center is currently conducting a comprehensive inventory of the nearly 2,000 puppets in its permanent collection. This inventory will enable the Center to reconcile records in its museum database, assess how to better utilize its museum storage and exhibition spaces, and develop plans for the future installation of two major exhibitions.

"Accountability and accessibility are paramount to the Center for Puppetry Arts Museum's mission. These generous grants from IMLS will help us preserve the future of our important collection and, ultimately, reach the Museum's goal of professional accreditation by the American Association of Museums," says Center for Puppetry Arts Curator of Exhibits, Jeremy Underwood.

While the projects funded through these grants are primarily "behind-the-scenes," they are ensuring that the Center can better preserve and care for its one-of-a-kind museum collection for the benefit of both current and future audiences.

Conservation Project Support (CPS) awards help museums identify conservation needs and priorities and perform activities to ensure the safekeeping of their collections. The grants are awarded through competitive peer review and require, at least, a 100 percent match by the applicant. These grants help museums develop a logical, institution-wide approach to caring for their collections. The program is an essential component of the Institute's goal of sustaining cultural heritage as a means of creating and sustaining a nation of learners. Applicants apply for the project that meets the institution's highest conservation needs.

"These museums lead the field in executing conservation activities such as surveys, training, treatment, and environmental improvements. By offering coverage of a wide range of eligible projects, the CPS program responds to institutions' on-the-ground needs," says Dr. Anne-Melda M. Radice, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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Museums for America is the IMLS' largest grant program for museums, providing more than \$17 million in grants to support the role of museums in American society to sustain cultural heritage, to support lifelong learning, and to be centers of community engagement. Museums for America grants strengthen a museum's ability to serve the public more effectively by supporting high-priority activities that advance the institution's mission and strategic goals.

Museums for America funding will support projects and activities, designed by the institution, that strengthen museums as active resources for lifelong learning and key players in the establishment of livable communities. Museums for America grants are designed to be flexible. They can be used for ongoing museum activities, research and other behind-the-scenes activities, planning activities, new programs or activities, purchase of equipment or services, or other activities that will support the efforts of museums to upgrade and integrate new technologies into their overall institutional effectiveness.

"As repositories of our nation's treasures and our nation's history, museums are positioned to play an integral role in the education of their communities. Museums for America grants support projects and ongoing activities that build museums' capacities and help these institutions serve their diverse constituencies to the best of their abilities," says Dr. Radice.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS

The Center for Puppetry Arts is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and is supported in part by contributions from corporations, foundations, government agencies, and individuals. Major funding is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council. Major support is provided by the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs. These programs are supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) through the appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly (GCA is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts). The Center is a participant in the New Generations Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American Theatre. The Center is a Member of TCG the Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts. The Center also serves as headquarters of UNIMA-USA, the American branch of Union Internationale de la Marionnette, the international puppetry organization. Visit www.puppet.org for more information.

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 122,000 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.

2008-09 Season supported in part by: City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, Fulton County Arts Council, Georgia Council for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts • **2008-09 Family Series sponsored in part by:** AT&T The Real Yellow Pages, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, WSB Family 2 Family Project • **2008-09 New Directions Series sponsored in part by:** Creative Loafing • **2008-09 Film Series sponsored in part by:** The Sunday Paper • **Puppets: The Power of Wonder exhibit sponsored by:** The Coca-Cola Foundation • **2008-09 Teen & Adult Education Series sponsored in part by:** The Coca-Cola Foundation • **Education Program also supported in part by:** Atlanta Foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation, Georgia Health Foundation, Georgia Power Foundation, Inc., The Imlay Foundation, Inc., The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc., Kraft Foods, Pittuloch Foundation, The Rich Foundation, Inc., TANDBERG, Target, Travelers Foundation, Wachovia Foundation • **2008-09 Official Partners:** Delta Air Lines, Regency Suites Hotel, Leapfrog Extraordinary IT Services, Carlyle's Catering

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