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The  
**Archivists  
Round Table**  
of Metropolitan  
New York,  
Inc.

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P.O. Box 151  
New York  
NY  
10274-0154

November 18, 2016

Senator Chuck Schumer

322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer,

The Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (A.R.T.) urges you to support the Museum and Library Services Act of 2016, Senate bill S.3391. Founded in 1979, A.R.T. is a not-for-profit organization representing a diverse group of more than 650 archivists, librarians, and records managers in the metropolitan New York area.

As a worldwide center for museums, libraries, and archives, New York City has greatly benefited from the IMLS program. To date, New York City institutions have received funding for over 400 projects. This includes, major institutions, such as the New York Public Library, American Museum of Natural History, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Perhaps more importantly, a number smaller institutions use funding from IMLS grants to preserve their holdings and make their collections available to the public. These institutions are primarily focused on the history of New York's local communities as well as the arts, like the Jazz Museum in Harlem, the Weeksville Heritage Center, and the Staten Island Museum.

The Brooklyn Historical Society has received several IMLS grants over the years. Most recently, they received funding for Voices of Crown Heights, a multidimensional project that will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the August 1991 Crown Heights riot by exploring the history and future of Crown Heights. Grounded in the tradition of oral history, the project will focus on giving access to the unheard and overlooked narratives.

The Brooklyn-based Museum of Contemporary African Diasporian Arts (MoCADA), received IMLS funding to research, design, and implement a digital initiative. Digital MoCADA, is intended to increase access to black contemporary art, while providing a social and political contextual framework for interpreting the work. One of the major components of the project is the development of interpretive audio tools for people with disabilities, with an emphasis on blind visitors.

IMLS and its Office of Museum Services support a range of repositories and museums, this is why it is so important for you to cosponsor the Museum and Library Services Act of 2016, so that this agency can continue making impactful contributions to the museums that serve your constituents.

Sincerely,

*Kerri Anne Burke*

*President*

cc: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
Senator Cory Booker  
Senator Bob Menendez  
Senator Richard Blumenthal