

WINTERTHUR AWARDED \$282,010 FROM INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Funds From National Grant Program Will Enhance Winterthur's Study of Asian Lacquer and Enable Digitization of Museum's Fine and Decorative Arts Tools

Winterthur, DE—Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library announced today that it was awarded two grants totaling \$282,010 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Granted through the nationally competitive Museums for America program, the funds will be used to deepen Winterthur's understanding of the treatment and analysis of Chinese export lacquer objects and to catalogue and digitize its collection of fine and decorative arts tools.

Winterthur's projects were among the 244 selected nationally, representing nearly \$30 million in funding. Awardees were selected from 707 applications through the highly competitive Museums for America and National Leadership Grants for Museums. Institutions receiving the awards are matching them with \$35,243,683 in nonfederal funds.

"Winterthur is committed to the responsible stewardship of our collections. We are proud to have received IMLS funding for these two important projects. They will enhance our capacity to preserve our collections at the highest level and enable us to share this information for the benefit of the entire cultural community," said Dr. David Roselle, Winterthur Director.

Dr. Roselle will attend the September 18 workshop and ceremony in Washington, D.C., that is designed for administrators at institutions whose proposals were funded.

"IMLS recognizes three valuable roles museums have in their communities: putting the learner at the center, serving as community anchors, and serving as stewards of cultural and scientific collections," said IMLS Director Susan Hildreth. "It is exciting to see the many ways our newly announced grants further these important museum roles. I congratulate the slate of 2013 museum grant recipients for planning projects that advance innovation in museum practice, lifelong learning, and community engagement."

Of the two grants received, one totaling \$133,810 will enable Winterthur to deepen its understanding of the treatment and analysis of Chinese export lacquer objects. A multidisciplinary team composed of Winterthur's conservators, scientists, and curators will work in conjunction with a lacquer conservator hired for the project in order to learn more about the process involved. Using Winterthur's collection and relevant examples from the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Peabody Essex Museum, the Winterthur Museum laboratory will undertake a major analytical project to characterize Chinese export lacquer to better inform treatment decisions and preventive care. Winterthur staff will use this acquired knowledge to continue analysis and stabilization techniques on more objects in its highly prized collection. They will ultimately share their insights with Winterthur/University of Delaware Art Conservation students, who, as graduates, will carry the deeper understanding to other institutions, helping to increase U.S. capacity and expertise in the treatment of Asian lacquer.

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Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic garden, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house, as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children's garden. \$18 adults; \$16 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11. Tickets are valid for two consecutive days.

Museum hours

10 am–5 pm, Tuesday–Sunday

Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907, or visit winterthur.org.

The second grant, totaling \$148,200, will catalogue and digitize a portion of Winterthur's collection of 10,800 fine and decorative arts tools, used for making furniture, clocks, silver, glass, textiles, and ceramics. The museum will share this information with students in its graduate programs, visiting scholars and guests, and with worldwide audiences through Winterthur's website. Longer range stewardship includes developing publications, interpretation, and exhibits to share more complete understandings of these tools and implements within their contexts and historic craft practices, with the hope of ultimately serving as a model for museums and cultural organizations with similar tool collections.

The Museums for America grants support projects that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to address its key needs or challenges for better service to its community. The National Leadership Grants for Museums support projects that address critical needs of the museum field and that have the potential to advance practice in the profession so that museums can improve services for the American public.

Additional projects supported through IMLS grants this year include:

- a neighborhood learning initiative by a children's museum developed in partnership with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) that will include a preschool, school fieldtrips, afterschool learning opportunities, college scholarships, and workforce development opportunities;
- a project to digitize and preserve a university museum's video recordings of 282 Holocaust survivors;
- a history museum project that enables individuals to tell the history of their communities by adding content to a statewide digital museum; and
- a multimedia project called Story Hub that makes it possible for young visitors to children's museums to record a video "story" of their visits, helping them understand their experiences.

Visit imls.gov to view the complete list of museums with funded projects and their contacts by state and city.

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. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit imls.gov and follow IMLS on Facebook and Twitter.

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