

February 19, 2020

Memo in Support A.9695 (Fahy)/S.6819 (Serrano)

Museum Education Act

The Museum Association of New York and our 650 members located in every region of the state, of every budget size, and discipline as well as museum professionals in New York's 1700 historical societies, art museums, wildlife centers, state historic sites, botanic gardens, and aquaria wholeheartedly support the Museum Education Act A.9695(Fahy)/S.6819 (Serrano).

The Museum Education Act will establish a competitive grant program to distribute support to cultural organizations who steward and share our state's history, art, heritage, and culture through remarkable learning opportunities that benefit all New Yorkers. It will advance equity in our education system and increase access to our cultural institutions with programs that serve high-need, low-resource communities. The New York State Board of Regents and Interim Commissioner of Education Shannon Tahoe have designated this bill a 2020 Legislative Priority with Budgetary Implications.

The Museum Education Act could fund:

- Transportation for students to visit museums, zoos, aquaria, botanic gardens, historic sites, and arts institutions for on-site, experiential learning directly linked to NYSED standards.
- Research, development, and publication of digital curriculum and teacher resources.
- Civics and citizenship classes for New Americans that use museum collections and resources.
- Teacher training through the Continuing Teacher and Leader Education program of the Office of Teaching Initiatives, NYSED who certified museums as trainers.
- Salary support for museum staff to share resources through classroom visits.
- Research, planning, and production of exhibitions to improve student learning in history, science, languages, and the arts.

Our internationally recognized and award-winning museums work with millions of teachers, students, and adults enrolled in continuing education programs, but receive no direct state support to initiate, expand, and enhance educational services through access to museum collections that help tell the shared stories of New York's history, arts, and culture. Students living in low-income communities, whether in an urban, suburban, or rural setting especially benefit from these programs.

**The Museum Association of New York respectfully requests that the Assembly Members and New York State Senators sign on and support the Museum Education Act and include \$3.5M in their respective one house bills.**

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