

Media Contact

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**San Luis Obispo Museum of Art Awarded Two Grants By  
The Institute of Museum and Library Services**

*First IMLS awards in institution history*

**San Luis Obispo, CA:** The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is excited to announce that they have been awarded two transformative grants by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), totaling over \$250,000.

The first grant was awarded through IMLS' *Inspire! Grants for Small Museums* program. The *Inspire!* program is designed to support small museums of all disciplines in serving communities throughout the United States. SLOMA was one of only 78 small museums nationwide to be selected for this year's grant program. The award will support an upcoming exhibition at SLOMA by emerging California artist Deanna Barahona, as well as free community programming created in collaboration with community partners including Cal Poly and the Latino Outreach Council.

The second grant was awarded through IMLS' *Museums For America* program, their largest museum grant program supporting museums of all sizes and disciplines in strategic, project-based efforts to serve the public. SLOMA was one of only 115 institutions nationwide to be selected for the grant program. The award will support and expand SLOMA's community engagement and youth arts education initiatives over the next three years, including their popular *Second Saturdays* family art events and arts curriculum support for school teachers in the Lucia Mar Unified School District serving communities in south San Luis Obispo County.

"I am so proud of this recognition of SLOMA's good work," said Leann Standish, SLOMA's Executive Director. "Our amazing partner organizations from throughout SLO County continue to help us grow so that we can work together in making arts programming available to everyone."

"Small museums exist across a wide range of disciplines and geographies," said Acting IMLS Director Cyndee Landrum. "Many serve as the only cultural institution in their community. Federal investment in small museums is an investment in access to art, science, history, and the preservation of local culture and stories. IMLS's mission is to support small museums as the engines of vibrant, thriving communities."

**About the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art**

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is an innovative and accessible museum located on California's Central Coast. The museum presents an outstanding exhibitions program that features artists from California and around the world, as well as an ongoing series of dynamic events that engage visitors of all ages. SLOMA is located in downtown San Luis Obispo on the west end of Mission Plaza, at the heart of the city's cultural corridor. A destination for art lovers and those just beginning to experience art alike, the museum provides a welcoming space and offers free admission to all. More information

can be found at <https://sloma.org/>. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @SLOMuseumofArt. Free admission, open 11 AM–5 PM, Thu–Mon.

### About IMLS

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's approximately [120,000 libraries](#) and [35,000 museums](#) and related organizations. The agency's mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Its 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 [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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Image 1: School kids from Lucia Mar Unified School District after a tour and art lesson at SLOMA, 2022. Photo by Heraldo Creative Studio.



Image 2: Deanna Barahona, *pikachu party*. 48" x 48", hand-painted tiles, grout, found photograph, 2023. Courtesy of the artist.