



ESMoA Receives “Sparks! Ignition Grant for Museums” In Support of “ESMoA Academy” Internship Program for Young Adults with Developmental Delays

Art laboratory in El Segundo, CA, is one of only seven recipients of prestigious award in 2016; grant follows funding from L.A. County Board of Supervisors for “Arts Education Partnership Program”

August 3, 2016 (El Segundo, California) - **ESMoA**, the art laboratory located on Main Street in El Segundo, California, has been honored as one of only seven recipients of the prestigious **2016 Sparks! Ignition Grants for Museums**. The \$25,000 grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**, an agency of the Federal government, was awarded in support of “**Spreading the Spark of Creativity: ESMoA Academy,**” which

expands upon ESMoA's ongoing Mychal's/ESMoA Internship Program for young adults with developmental delays.

Sparks! Ignition Grants encourage museums to innovate in operations and services by supporting projects that not only offer valuable information to the field, but also have the potential to improve the ways museums serve their communities.

ESMoA has committed to providing matching funds to fully support the ESMoA Academy and is appealing to donors for assistance. **Those inspired to contribute to this important project, benefitting both young adults with developmental delays and the international museum community, please donate.**"

Now entering its fourth year, the Mychal's/ESMoA Internship is a seven-month program offering a rich educational opportunity to students enrolled in the "Path to Independence" adult day program of Mychal's Learning Place, a Culver City-based nonprofit serving developmentally disabled children and adults. Interns from Mychal's assist ESMoA Education Specialists in providing instruction to visiting school groups from Los Angeles schools. Skills honed by the program include: greeting visiting classes; organizing and maintaining the studio and studio materials; interacting with co-workers and visitors; and co-facilitating gallery talks with Education Specialists.

With help from the Sparks! Ignition Grant, ESMoA will use its new "Spreading the Spark of Creativity: ESMoA Academy" project to document and disseminate what has been learned by program participants and the success that has been achieved through its Mychal's/ESMoA Internships.

ESMoA Academy is an online learning platform that provides free and accessible instruction for museum educators to increase their comfort and expertise in creating educational internship experiences for young adults, ages 18-30, with developmental delays. The platform consists of instructional videos, lesson plans, worksheets, questionnaires, case histories, and supplementary reading materials. Institutions can use these tools to design and implement programs that provide real-world challenges to this unique constituency. Interns build independence and self-esteem while learning skills that increase employability.

The Sparks! Ignition Grant is the second of two grants recently received by ESMoA. Earlier in July, the art laboratory was awarded \$9,125 for its “Arts Education Partnership Program” from the 4th District of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.



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 35,000 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 www.ims.gov and follow **IMLS** on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

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For more information on ESMoA's Sparks! Grant and ESMoA, please contact Andrea Schnoor Communications at aschnoor@andreaschnoor.com or [310.878.4812](tel:310.878.4812)

Further information:

[Description of Grant](#)

[Description of winning projects, including ESMoA's](#)

[Description of Mychal's Internship](#)

[About Mychal's](#)

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