This past August the Georgia Historical Society was thrilled to receive word that we had been awarded not one but three major federal grants, two from the National Endowment for the Humanities and one from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. These grants are for projects exceeding a total in federal and private matching funds of $500,000. This support could not have come at a more propitious time. With continued cuts in state funding and many consistent sponsors unable to contribute as previously (especially in the corporate world), we needed this additional revenue.

But these grants represent more than just financial support. They are also recognition on the national level of the extraordinary quality of the programming, services, staff, and archival collections of the Georgia Historical Society. The process for receiving these prestigious awards is highly competitive. Applications for funding are peer reviewed and awarded to only a small number of institutions.

For example, of the 453 applications received nation-wide this year for an IMLS “Museums of America” grant, less than two in five received funding, and GHS was one of only a handful whose request was fully funded. Indeed, one reviewer commented that the GHS application was "highly exceptional.”

The process for receiving these prestigious awards is highly competitive. Applications for funding are peer reviewed and awarded to only a small number of institutions. Over the past eight years GHS has been awarded over $2.2 million in federal support for training teachers, making our collections more accessible, and building our endowment. Most of these grants came with a stiff challenge to raise private matching dollars. In fact, we were required to raise over $3.3 million from individuals and institutions.

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