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MEDIA ALERT **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **AUGUST 1, 2009**
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R&L CONSULTING CLIENTS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS FEDERAL GRANTS

FOUR MUSEUMS EACH RECEIVE \$150,000

**GREENSBORO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
HICKORY MUSEUM OF ART
IMAGINATION STATION SCIENCE MUSEUM
LONG ISLAND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

R&L Consulting is proud to announce that four of its clients were awarded grants this year from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** *Museums for America* program. *Museums for America* is the nation's largest federal funding program for museums.

In the last six years, R&L Consulting has written ten successful IMLS proposals that received maximum funding of \$150,000. Reviewed by panels of professional peers, these grants are highly competitive.

Imagination Station Science Museum (Wilson, NC) was awarded \$150,000 to develop a new exhibitions master plan and complete the first phase of exhibition fabrication. This project will redefine the Museum by transforming the nature of its educational services and visitor experiences. It is the first IMLS award received by Imagination Station.

"This is amazing! **This award was what we needed to get our Museum back on the right footing. The expertise of R&L Consulting had everything to do with that,**" said Jonathan Brooks, Executive Director of Imagination Station Science Museum. "Thank you a thousand times over! I look forward to working with you more in the future!"

The Long Island Children's Museum (Garden City, NY) will use its \$150,000 award to implement the second phase of a new program to support children and families served by Nassau County social service agencies. The program, *Be Together, Learn Together*, has been developed in partnership with the Nassau County Department of Health and Human Services, Nassau County Family Court, and a national advisory committee.

"We are absolutely thrilled to receive this grant from IMLS," said Suzanne LeBlanc, Executive Director of the Long Island Children's Museum. "**R&L Consulting has helped us secure two IMLS grants in a row to support this major initiative and I couldn't be more pleased with their work.**"

The Hickory Museum of Art (Hickory, NC) will use its \$150,000 award to develop a new long-term exhibition entitled, *Homegrown and Handmade: Southern Contemporary Folk Art at the Hickory Museum of Art*, featuring the Museum's folk art collection.

"This new exhibition is the centerpiece of a Museum-wide initiative to expand and enhance the Museum's Southern Folk Art program," said Lisë Swensson, Executive Director of the Hickory Museum of Art. **"Our exhibition plans can now move forward as fully envisioned thanks to the help we received from Alan & A.J.!"**

The Greensboro Children's Museum (Greensboro, NC) received its first \$150,000 IMLS grant for a new series of programs and exhibitions, *Step by Step: An Initiative to Promote Healthy Families*. The project will include the development of new outdoor educational spaces, an indoor exhibition about physical activity and substantial, complementary programming.

"The Museum is very proud to have received this award, which will help us continue to leverage the support we need to complete the Edible Schoolyard for the children and families of our community," said Betsy Grant, Chief Executive Officer. "Working with A.J. and Alan was a pleasure."

R&L Consulting is a consulting firm that specializes in working with museums. Its principals have over 45 years of combined experience working with museums and non-profit organizations.

R&L Consulting has a successful track record of securing funding for its clients from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, state arts and humanities councils, and many other government, corporate and private foundation sources.

Other recent awards include:

- 2008 – Long Island Children's Museum (Garden City, NY), received a **Promising Practice Award** from the Association of Children's Museums and MetLife Foundation.
- 2007 – C.M. Russell Museum (Great Falls, MT), received a **\$375,000 grant award from the National Endowment for the Humanities** for development and installation of a new permanent exhibition, *The Bison: American Icon, Heart of Plains Indian Culture*.

With a roster of **nationally acclaimed** clients, R&L Consulting provides specialized services in grantwriting, research of potential funding sources, program & exhibition development and evaluation.

For more information about R&L Consulting and services offered, visit www.randlconsulting.com. To arrange a **free consultation** contact Alan Lipsky at 828-684-3366 or alan@randlconsulting.com.

For more information about the IMLS *Museums for America* 2009 awards, visit: <http://www.imls.gov/news/2009/073009b.shtm>.

Who We Are:

Alan J. Lipsky is a museum and fundraising professional with over 25 years of experience. He holds a B.A. Cum Laude, in American History from Brooklyn College. Previously, he was the Development Director at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana, the Director of Development at the Lied Discovery Children's Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Grants Officer at the Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust and Executive Director of the Wyckoff House Museum, both in New York City. He also has served as Director of Development for Aid for AIDS of Nevada, and worked as a consultant to several New York, Las Vegas and Montana cultural and nonprofit organizations.

A.J. Rhodes has worked with museums for 22 years and was most recently the Director of Education and Public Programs at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana. Previously she served as the Director of Education at both the Lied Discovery Children's Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Albuquerque Children's Museum in New Mexico. A.J. has also worked at the Delaware Art Museum, New Castle Historical Society, and the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, among others. Ms. Rhodes holds a B.A. with Honors in Art History from Swarthmore College and a M.A. in Art History and Museum Studies from the University of Delaware.