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### **The Molly Brown House Museum Awarded \$17,000 Grant by Institute of Museum and Library Services**

**Denver**—Today, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded \$17,000 from their Museums for America grant to the Molly Brown House Museum. The museum will use the grant funds to further the longevity of a textile collection important to the Museum's historical themes and safe guard it for future generations.

The Molly Brown House Museum currently holds a fashions collection of 2,800 pieces. These items are from 1867-1932, the years of Mrs. Brown's life. This collection is an important tool in achieving the Museum's mission as it reflects the social, cultural and political trends of the time. Specific goals for the purposes of this grant to are: to deaccession fashion items outside the scope of the museum's collection policy; archivally re-house the fashions collection to stabilize items; move the collection to improved, off-site storage facilities; meet CAP and ReCAP recommendations; and to create a comprehensive digital inventory of the fashions collection.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services enlists hundreds of library and museum professionals throughout the United States to review grant applications and make recommendations on projects most worthy of funding," said IMLS Director Susan H. Hildreth. "Receiving a grant from IMLS is significant achievement, and we congratulate the Molly brown House Museum for being among the 2014 IMLS museum grantees."

IMLS museum grants support a wide variety of projects that create learning experiences, strengthen community communities, care for collections and provide broad public access.

"We are honored to receive this grant from IMLS. The Molly Brown House Museum is one of very few historic sites dedicated to the story of a woman, and in the Margaret Brown's era, women's fashions reflected the quickly evolving role of women as they sought suffrage and a greater role in the public sphere. These funds will allow us tell the story of these changing roles using a common language: clothing." – Andrea Malcomb, Molly Brown House Museum Director.

A complete list of museum recipients is available on the IMLS website at [www.imls.gov/2014MuseumList](http://www.imls.gov/2014MuseumList). For information about IMLS museum grant programs, see: [www.imls.gov/applicants/available\\_grants.aspx](http://www.imls.gov/applicants/available_grants.aspx).

#### **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.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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#### **GENERAL MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Margaret "Molly" Brown has been the subject of many books, movies and stage productions, and has become one of Denver's most intriguing legends. Margaret Brown's story is a classic American rags-to-riches tale. She moved to Leadville, Colorado when she was 19 years old in search of adventure and wealth. While in Leadville, she caught the eye of mining superintendent James Joseph (J.J.) Brown and they were married shortly after. The couple's ship finally came in when the mine J.J. was in charge of struck the largest vein of gold ever found in Colorado. The Browns were millionaires! After the gold strike, Margaret and her family purchased the exquisite Victorian home at 1340 Pennsylvania Street in Denver's plush Capitol Hill neighborhood. The Victorian home was incredibly modern for the time. It had electric lights, an indoor bathroom, hot and cold running water and a telephone. Margaret was an amazing and spirited woman and became active in the women's suffrage movement, labor reform efforts and the Modern Art Movement. Unfortunately, after her death in 1932 her Victorian home was sold and used for many different functions. By 1970 the house had fallen prey to deterioration, and was in danger of being demolished. A group of concerned citizens incorporated themselves as Historic Denver, Inc. and fought to save and restore the Brown home. Today, you can see the efforts of their work in the completely restored Victorian mansion. The Molly Brown House Museum, 1340 Pennsylvania Street, is a celebrated Denver landmark.

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