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THE WILD CENTER WINS OVER $500,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDING

Tupper Lake, NY – For the fifth time since opening, The Wild Center has won over half a million dollars in prestigious federal grants to fund two iconic programs. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced today that the Tupper Lake museum was successful in two of its grant applications; $393,646 for a National Leadership Grant for Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) in Science and $150,000 for a Museums for America Grant for the exhibits on Wild Walk.

“IMLS continues to validate the programs and ideas that we work so hard to develop,” said Stephanie Ratcliffe, Executive Director of The Wild Center. “These highly competitive grants are judged by our peers, others in the museum field, who recognize that a program like VTS can be replicated throughout the country and in their words ‘improve services for the American public’. This leadership role in the museum field is quite an honor for an institution that is not even 10 years old. Receiving funding for Wild Walk, as well, reinforces the significance of that project and the state funding it has received through the competitive North Country Regional Economic Development Council program.”

The VTS grant will work with other organizations, including Tupper Lake’s LP Quinn Elementary School, to create a model and toolkit for other museums and science centers to use improving students’ ability to observe, think, listen and communicate, while learning. This builds upon a 2012 IMLS grant where the curriculum and evaluation techniques were developed. Sharing these tools with museums and science centers around the country can allow their connections with local schools to grow and fill a vital need for education that is interdisciplinary, integrated, and focused on skills such as critical thinking, creativity, effective communication, and adaptability.

The Museums for America Grant acknowledges the role Wild Walk will have in the community as an active resource for lifelong learning and central part of The Wild Center campus. Nature is not always a place people know well. Wild Walk is designed to inspire visitors to step into the woods and from that point of view better understand and appreciate their place in nature.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, life-long learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grantmaking, 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 and follow IMLS on Facebook and Twitter.

For more information, please contact The Wild Center at 518 359-7800 or visit us online at www.wildcenter.org.