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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULIA W. BLAND RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT TO NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

Louisiana Children's Museum Executive Director receives highest honors and is sole representative of Louisiana on national advisory body

New Orleans, LA, May 27, 2008 – President Bush recently appointed Julia W. Bland, Executive Director of the Louisiana Children's Museum, to serve a five year term on the National Museum and Library Services Board. The board advises the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), an independent federal agency that is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 17,500 museums and 122,000 libraries.

IMLS's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local institutions and organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development.

The National Museum and Library Services Board is a twenty-four member advisory body that includes the director and deputy directors of the Institute, the chair of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and twenty presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed members of the general public who have demonstrated expertise in, or commitment to, library or museum services.

Representatives from twelve states currently serve on the Board and Bland is the sole representative from Louisiana. She is one of ten members who represent the full range of museums including art, history, science and technology, children's and natural history museums. Also included are historic houses, nature centers, botanical gardens and zoos.

"It is an enormous honor for me to be invited to serve on the IMLS board. We have seen the important community role that museums have played following Hurricane Katrina, when all of our museums have served as gathering places for our citizens and have worked diligently to sustain our unique cultural heritage,"



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said Bland. "First Lady Laura Bush has provided unparalleled leadership in promoting the local, state and national value of our libraries and museums, and I am especially honored to serve our country at this time.

Julia W. Bland, Executive Director of the Louisiana Children's Museum

Julia W. Bland has been the Executive Director of the Louisiana Children's Museum since 1997. Nationally, she has presided over the museum collaborative MC2 and is a founding member of Quality Management to a Higher Level (Qm2)'s New Orleans Roundtable. She also serves on the international board of the Association of Children's Museums as the association's Secretary. Locally, she has chaired the boards of organizations such as Trinity Episcopal School, the Tulane Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health's Advisory Board, and America's Promise Alliance New Orleans Kids Partnership. Ms. Bland serves on various state-wide advisory boards promoting child well-being and early childhood development. In 2004, she co-chaired the Association of Children's Museum annual conference and served on the national program committee for the American Association of Museums' annual conference. In 2001 and 2006 she was selected as a City Business Woman of the Year, and was a Young Leadership Council Role Model for 2007. She received her bachelor of arts in art history from Tulane University.

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Info on the work of the Institute of Museum and Library Services
<http://www.ims.gov/>

Info on the National Library and Museum Services Board
<http://www.ims.gov/about/board.shtm>