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A Ray of Hope for Museums Agency

By Ruth Dean

Until last week, when a House subcommittee cast a sympathetic vote on its way, the future seemed doomed for the Institute of Museum Services, which has done a creditable job in its fledgling role of helping maintain the nation's 17,500 museums.

With the incoming Reagan administration in January came a "termination" notice for the year-old IMS. Not long after, during the days of Plum Book praising of Carter appointees, the IMS's first and only director, Lee Kinscher, got her own "termination" notice.

In the Carter administration, the agency seemed to lead a charmed life. That was principally because Kinscher knew her way in and out of the corridors of Democratic power that created the agency under the aegis of Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., former Rep. John Brademas, D-Ind., and former Federal Council on the Arts honorary chairperson John Mandel, who served on the IMS's first board.

But even before the change of administrations, the IMS's first and only appointees, the IMS's first and only agency had seemed to lead a charmed life. That was principally because Kinscher knew her way in and out of the corridors of Democratic power that created the agency under the aegis of Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., former Rep. John Brademas, D-Ind., and former Federal Council on the Arts honorary chairperson John Mandel, who served on the IMS's first board.

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