



**Museum of the City of New York receives \$158,274 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums for America to increase public access to and enhance stewardship of the Museum's theatrical design renderings**

(New York, NY | September 2018) The Museum of the City of New York is honored to announce that a \$158,274 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums for America in the category of Collections Stewardship. With this generous support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the museum will process, digitally capture, and comprehensively catalog approximately 8,000 original costume and set renderings from over 410 New York City theatrical productions. The collection will be accessible to the public through the Museum's online Collections Portal at [collections.mcny.org](https://collections.mcny.org).

Representing the work of over 125 different artists, the theatrical design renderings document the distinct visual information found in an ephemeral theatrical event. With large collections by costume designers Alvin Colt and Miles White, the renderings capture the visual vocabulary of important American musicals such as *On the Town* (1944) and *Oklahoma!* (1943) and provide essential evidence in discussion of these productions' historical significance and reconstruction. Other works include Lucinda Ballard's costumes for the original production of Tennessee Williams's seminal play *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947); Donald Oneslager's set renderings for the 1936 George S. Kaufman comedy *You Can't Take It With You*, a perennial favorite of high schools across the United States; and, costume and set renderings by Robert Edmond Jones, who adapted emerging European styles of stagecraft to his work with playwright Eugene O'Neill in New York. There are also over 200 costume renderings from 1920s musical revues depicting fantastically dressed showgirls with ensembles that challenge the laws of physics. The Museum's design renderings date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to 21<sup>st</sup> century Broadway productions and include costume and set designs for plays, musicals, revues, and opera.

As an institution dedicated to celebrating and illuminating the past, present, and future of the country's most iconic city, the Museum measures its success by the impact on its audiences and its ability to reach the public through exhibitions, programming, and online tools such as the Collections Portal. The addition of this material to the Portal creates educational opportunities for scholars and students, curators both within the Museum and from other institutions, and theater enthusiasts around the world. Regional and community theater companies will have access to previously unknown material, potentially shaping the work

they perform in their communities. It will also serve as a free resource for theater educators working in elementary, middle, and high schools, with the possibility of informing performing arts curriculum at the grade-school level. Upon its completion, this incomparably rich visual resource will be a meaningful and substantive contribution to performing arts scholarship.

### **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 libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit <http://www.ims.gov> and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **About the Museum of the City of New York**

The Museum celebrates and fosters understanding of the world's most influential metropolis. Through a unique array of content-rich special exhibitions, public and education programs, and publications, the Museum engages visitors by documenting and interpreting the city's past, present, and future. For more information visit: [www.mcny.org](http://www.mcny.org).

The Museum serves the people of New York and visitors from around the world through exhibitions, school and public programs, publications, and collections spanning fashion, art, music, theater, culture, activism, and history. Three floors of exhibitions and a prodigious collection of 750,000 objects, art, and artifacts chronicle New York City's people, places, and events.

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