



INSTITUTE of  
**Museum and Library**  
SERVICES



# 2016 NATIONAL MEDAL

*for Museum and Library Service*





# THE 2016 NATIONAL MEDAL

**IS THE NATION'S HIGHEST HONOR  
FOR LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS,**

*a true tribute to their ability to make a  
difference in the lives of children, families,  
and communities around the country.*

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**INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES**

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IMLS will provide an audio recording of this publication upon request.

Special thanks to the entire staff at the Institute of Museum and Library Services

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# CONTENTS

- 2 FROM THE IMLS DIRECTOR
- 3 FROM THE FIRST LADY
- 4 BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY, *Brooklyn, NY*
- 6 CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM, *Chicago, IL*
- 8 COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART, *Columbia, SC*
- 10 LYNN MEADOWS DISCOVERY CENTER, *Gulfport, MS*
- 12 MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY, *Madison, WI*
- 14 MID-AMERICA SCIENCE MUSEUM, *Hot Springs, AR*
- 16 NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, *Raleigh, NC*
- 18 OTIS LIBRARY, *Norwich, CT*
- 20 SANTA ANA PUBLIC LIBRARY, *Santa Ana, CA*
- 22 TOMAQUAG MUSEUM, *Exeter, RI*
- 24 NATIONAL MEDAL FINALISTS
- 25 NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE
- 25 NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

# *from the* **IMLS DIRECTOR**



## **I AM PLEASED TO PRESENT THE RECIPIENTS FOR THE 2016 NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE.**

The National Medal is the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums, and it celebrates institutions that are working hand-in-hand with their communities to problem-solve and create collective visions for the future.

Whether exhibiting breathtaking collections for patrons or providing programmatic experiences that promote learning among many ages and backgrounds throughout their communities, our recipients are true anchors for their publics.

Earlier this year, 30 museums and libraries were announced as finalists for the National Medal. We encouraged community members to share their stories on social media and tell us how these institutions had impacted them. The results were astounding and heart-warming. We heard from hundreds of citizens from coast to coast, recounting how these institutions had touched their lives.

"We're looking forward to watching our kids grow up through the various programs offered for different age groups," one person wrote.

Another family wrote that they had nicknamed their museum a "second home, given the amount of time we spend there."

And finally another wrote of their local library that "In a county where economic recovery has not even begun, (the library) is a refuge, an educator, a beacon of hope, and a very dear friend. Neighbors help neighbors there!

I am proud of the entire pool of nominated institutions, both the finalists and the winners. Each of them has shown a willingness and tenacity to deeply connect with their communities. And each of them has shown an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the people they serve.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services staff, together with the National Museum and Library Services Board, are proud to congratulate the 2016 winners of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

Sincerely,

*Kathryn K. Matthew*

Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew

Director

Institute of Museum and Library Services



*from the* **FIRST LADY**



**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
WASHINGTON

I am delighted to offer my congratulations to the recipients of the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Services.

Every year, the Institute of Museum and Library Services recognizes those who have gone above and beyond to ensure their communities are receiving the resources they need to thrive. From encouraging students to broaden their horizons to providing tools for individuals to create a brighter future for their families, these institutions embody the very ideals on which our Nation was founded. This award reminds us of the importance of museums and libraries in our country, and that's why today I'm so proud to honor these outstanding centers for learning and their efforts to better their communities.

Again, congratulations on this incredible achievement, and I wish you the very best.

*Michelle Obama*

# BROOKLYN

## *Public Library*

**“IF YOU HAVE THE INCLINATION AND CURIOSITY TO OPEN OUR DOORS, THE WORLD’S KNOWLEDGE IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS. IT DOESN’T MATTER WHERE YOU START. *At Brooklyn Public Library our motto is ‘Start Here,’ and the fact is you can just walk in, and wherever you are comfortable, we will begin with you...we will find something to improve your life.*”**

– LINDA E. JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

## BROOKLYN'S ANCHOR INSTITUTION

Brooklyn Public Library is an independent library system serving the borough's 2.6 million residents through public programs that reflect the diverse and dynamic spirit of the population. The library is the nation's fifth largest library system, with 928,740 patrons attending programs annually, 15.2 million books in circulation, and 8.7 million library visits a year. With its mission of being a vital center of knowledge for all, library resources are available in branches or online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, positioning itself as a cornerstone of the community.

## SERVING THE DIVERSE BROOKLYN POPULATION

Today, 46 percent of Brooklynites over age five speak a language other than English. To best serve the changing community, the library has focused on transitional programs targeted at these populations. Materials about citizenship are available in all 60 branches, as well as services to aid with test preparation for citizenship courses. Collections can be found in over 126 languages, as well as formal and informal English as a Second Language (ESL) classes that serve 650 students annually. Branches in areas with larger immigrant populations supplement ESL classes with programming that honors the immigrants' home cultures. With literacy series, bilingual storytime sessions, international film series, and more, the library reflects Brooklyn's rich, cultural diversity.

## OUR STREETS, OUR STORIES: AN ORAL HISTORY OF BROOKLYN

With the Our Streets, Our Stories initiative, the library records and presents narratives of old Brooklyn, a Brooklyn that today's residents may not know. Launched in 2014, the oral history and training project teaches older adults to use digital recording equipment to conduct interviews that focus on memories of Brooklyn neighborhoods. The library prides itself on the two-pronged program that provides education in digital literacy for older adults and diverse populations, and preserves the vast culture of the Brooklyn they remember.



Brooklyn Public Library aims to reach all transitioning populations, including incarcerated youth. The library's outreach services team worked with the City of New York Department of Corrections to establish 21 small reading rooms for male adolescent detainees on Rikers Island. Library outreach employees make weekly visits to refresh reading material and facilitate one-on-one discussions with the men about their reading and programming needs. In 2016, the library will introduce the American Library Association's Great Stories Club to youth at Rikers Island to offer focused humanities readings and discussions throughout the year.



BKLYNLIBRARY.org

### BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Address: 10 Grand Army Plaza,  
Brooklyn, New York, 11238-5619  
Phone: 718-230-2168  
Linda E. Johnson, President & CEO



# CHICAGO

## *History Museum*

**“THE BIGGEST LESSON WE’VE LEARNED AS AN ORGANIZATION IS THAT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHOULD NEVER BE THOUGHT OF AS A ONE-AND-DONE PROJECT. *It isn’t a case of, ‘if we offer an exhibit they will come.’ The exhibit has to represent something or someone that resonates with our community and becomes part of who we are.”***

– GARY JOHNSON, PRESIDENT



## THE CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM: A PLACE WHERE SHARING OCCURS

The Chicago History Museum was established to curate Chicago's story, providing an outlet where visitors can see themselves and their communities reflected within the city's larger urban history. Founded in 1856 as the Chicago Historical Society, the museum is the city's oldest cultural institution, priding itself as the teller of Chicago's stories, honing its ability to mine the depth and breadth of the city's history. The museum provides a variety of touch points for visitors, including exhibitions, educational programs, public tours, extensive collections, research center, publications, and innovative digital access.

## LEVERAGING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO TELL COMMUNITY STORIES

Placing importance on partnerships with like-minded organizations allows the museum to deepen its commitment to robust storytelling of different communities, such as the Chinese-American population. Through collaboration with the Chinese American Museum of Chicago, the museum hosted "My Chinatown," presenting oral histories from the city's Chinese residents and recent immigrants. This exhibit provides an insider view of the culture that surrounds Chinese food, medicine, family, business, and the celebration of the Chinese New Year. "My Chinatown" pays tribute to the people who keep the neighborhood and culture of Chinatown alive today.

## HIGHLIGHTING HISTORY THROUGH CHICAGO'S RESIDENTS

The 2015 "Chicago Authored" exhibit resulted from a unique community engagement initiative. When the museum asked the city what new exhibition they should create, they received 572 ideas which were winnowed down through a series of public online voting sessions with the museum serving only as the vote counter. The winning topic was "Chicago Writers." The resulting exhibit, about writers who have shaped the popular view of Chicago, came to life as a multi-media experience containing interactive components that encourage the "Chicago Author" in every visitor, using their own words to share their story.



As the Chicago History Museum continues as a curator of the city's stories, its hope is to expand school visits to the institution, instilling the importance of history and storytelling in even the youngest of children. The museum's ultimate goal is to encourage each classroom to install their own "Chicago History Museum" in a corner of the room, reminding students that their story is important to Chicago, and important to tell.



CHICAGO HISTORY .org

**CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM**  
Address: 1601 N Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois, 60614-6083  
Phone: 312-642-4600  
Gary T. Johnson, President



# COLUMBIA

## *Museum of Art*

**“WE PRIDE OURSELVES IN BEING  
CONNECTED TO OUR COMMUNITY, IN  
TUNE TO THEIR CHANGING NEEDS...”**

*From education, to business, non-profit to  
social service, to young adults and their  
dreams and vision, we are connected.”*

**– KAREN BROSIUS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## SOUTH CAROLINA'S CULTURAL HUB

Throughout its history, the Columbia Museum of Art's mission has been to celebrate outstanding artistic creativity through its collections, exhibitions, and programs, interacting in ways that engage the mind and enrich the spirit. Established in 1950, the museum has become Columbia's premiere cultural institution. Situated in the heart of South Carolina in Richland County, the museum serves as the state's cultural anchor, providing art and educational opportunities to a community of over 400,000 individuals in the county with the mission of encouraging lifelong learning. Currently, the museum serves over 150,000 patrons each year, including 28,000 children. Through partnerships with groups that target at-risk, underserved individuals

and provide alternative afterschool options, the museum continues linking their most vulnerable populations to quality arts education.

## SERVING THE UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES OF COLUMBIA

Literacy partnerships are a cornerstone of the museum's programming. Coordination with like-minded organizations allows the museum to embed themselves into the community, advocating for the educational benefits of the arts. Partnerships such as one the museum created with St. Lawrence Place, a transitional housing community for homeless families, allows the staff to facilitate weekly afterschool arts program for children ages four- to twelve-years-old, alternating locations between the museum and St. Lawrence Place. While at the museum, children participate in tours and special

exhibitions, and have the opportunity to complete hands-on studio art projects.

## CREATIVITY CLUB: ADDRESSING CHILDHOOD LITERACY THROUGH ART

Recently, the museum instituted the CMA Creativity Club, helping to increase literacy for preschoolers and their adult companions in the rural, high-minority areas of Fairfield County. The program partners with county libraries, engaging participants with stories read by librarians. Following storytime, the museum's staff and volunteers lead a hands-on art experiment that relates to the literacy theme presented during the program. Inspired by the museum's commitment to communities in need, the Creativity Club addresses the area's achievement gap by connecting the power and importance of art to other literacy activities.



Recognizing the healing power of arts with children on the Autism spectrum, the museum developed a pilot outreach program "Arts and Autism." The program provides these children opportunities to explore the museum in a nurturing environment. Children are prepared to visit the museum on their own, as the program builds confidence in their ability to participate in the museum's age-appropriate programs.

### COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART

Address: 1515 Main Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-2807  
Phone: 803-799-2810  
Karen Brosius, Executive Director

# LYNN MEADOWS

## *Discovery Center*

**“WHEN KIDS GRADUATE FROM OUR WINGS PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM AND GO OFF TO COLLEGE, they leave here knowing they have become better citizens and learners, due, in part, to the program. Being part of WINGS sets kids apart from others, as they become well-rounded learners and young adults.”**

– CINDY DEFRANCES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## CELEBRATING CHILDHOOD DISCOVERY

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center provides its communities, families, and children with a trove of knowledge and opportunities for discovery, ensuring children develop the skills to help them grow into well-rounded, life-long learners. Founded in 1998 as Mississippi's first children's museum, the center provides interactive, hands-on learning experiences to 140,000 children and adults annually.

## MOBILIZING PERFORMING ARTS TO CREATE WELL-ROUNDED STUDENTS

Mississippi is the state consistently ranked last in educational performance, and arts education, a proven method to increase student engagement and educational

success, is constantly in danger of being cut from shrinking school budgets. Through the WINGS Performing Arts Program, the museum provides the student enrollees comprehensive arts, community service, and leadership opportunities. The program offers students from pre-K to high school the chance to participate in all aspects of theatrical productions. WINGS works to keep every child engaged throughout childhood and adolescence, nurturing their educational growth and emotional well-being. The program is so popular that most participants stay with the program through high school and go on to receive scholarships and attend large universities.

## INCLUSIVE ACCESS FOR ALL MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN

The museum works to ensure that no child is ever turned away because of their inability to pay for special educational opportunities provided by the museum. With most of the schools in the area designated as Title I schools, the center offers grants to fund fieldtrips, scholarship opportunities for summer camp programs, and participates with Museums for All, a program of the Association of Children's Museums and the Institute of Museum and Library Services that provides families with EBT cards deeply discounted admission so that "every child and family has access to a high-quality children's museum experience."



Keeping in mind the significant high school dropout rate in Mississippi, the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center's WINGS Performing Arts Program reaches beyond the center and into the schools. The staff works with families to draw up contracts that work to ensure the students' commitment to education. The contract's goal is to prioritize school work through the WINGS Performing Art Program. If grades drop or problems at school arise, the child must take a temporary break from the program but is welcomed back as soon as the problem is resolved.



**LYNN MEADOWS DISCOVERY CENTER**  
Address: 246 Dolan Avenue  
Gulfport, Mississippi, 39507-1310  
Phone: 228-897-6039  
Cindy DeFrances, Executive Director

**LMDC.org**

# MADISON

## *Public Library*



**“OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPROACH ENABLES US TO STAND OUT AMONG OUR COLLEAGUES. *We have partnered with an enormous variety of organizations that reach out to the library after hearing about the amazing things we’ve done, and our flexibility allows us to work with just about any organization that wants to work with us.*”**

– GREGORY MICKELLS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

## A VISION TO LEARN, SHARE AND CREATE

Founded in 1875, Madison Public Library is a system consisting of a Central Library and eight neighborhood libraries. The library's mission is to provide free and equitable access to cultural and educational experiences in the neighborhoods it serves. In 2012, with new leadership, the library revitalized the Central Library, which gave birth to their prized Bubbler program. Since 2012, the library has prioritized initiatives that focus on building community partnerships, connecting library visitors to services such as summer reading clubs, engaging with public health nurses, and social services outreach.

## THE BUBBLER PROGRAM

To achieve goals prioritized in their 2012 renaissance, the library created the Bubbler program that encourages participatory learning through hands-on, pop-up workshops. The experience encourages the community to join the maker movement through varied opportunities from the basics of animation, to beer brewing, to 3-D printing. Currently funded through an Institute for Museum and Library Services grant in partnership with the University of Madison, the Bubbler program has become a model of the library's new vision: "your place to learn, share and create."

With the success of the Bubbler program, the library introduced Making Justice, a derivative of the Bubbler that works with

teens in juvenile detention facilities. The project unleashes creative artistic expression through activities such as writing rap music and creating different types of art projects.

## ENCOURAGING EARLY LITERACY THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

With the program Parents as First Teachers, the library provides early literacy training to public health nurses who participate in programs that serve low-income expectant mothers. These programs promote healthy pregnancies, improved child health and development, and self-sufficiency for families. Parents as Teachers First facilitates a trusted connection between nurse and mother, where the mother (and later her child) learn about the importance of early literacy and become aware of library services.



Madison Public Library addresses the achievement gap that plagues Madison by targeting 80 percent of their teen programming toward low-income, racially-diverse students. In a joint effort with the Madison Metropolitan School District, the library strives to issue every student a library card through the school registration process. In 2014, the library registered 1,100 students. Evidence of success includes a 116 percent increase in teen programs over three years and a 155 percent increase in summer reading participation over the last decade.



### MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Address: 201 W. Mifflin Street  
Madison, Wisconsin, 53703-2511  
Phone: 608-266-6300  
Gregory Mickells, Library Director



# MID-AMERICA *Science Museum*

**“FAMILIES CAN COME TO THE MUSEUM AND EXPERIENCE THINGS TOGETHER, INTERACTING WITH EACH OTHER**

**AND LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER.** *Part of what makes learning fun is expressing what you see, demonstrating an understanding of what you have seen, and then telling someone else about it. The museum provides a platform for that.”*

– DIANE LAFOLLETTE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## PIONEERING HANDS-ON MUSEUM EXPERIENCES

As the first interactive, informal learning environment in Arkansas, the Mid-America Museum, established in 1979 continues its mission of stimulating interest in science, promoting public understanding of the sciences, and encouraging lifelong science education through interactive exhibits and programs. The museum community is made up of four distinct patron types, all with unique needs that drive programming adaptation year-to-year. Located in an area of the country that is plagued by high poverty, low achievement scores, and dwindling resources, 70 percent of the museum's student visitors are statistically impoverished, underserved and underperforming. Multi-generational visitor groups are prevalent, as are older learners who have retired in Hot Spring, and the

museum has long-standing partnerships with local organizations that work with special needs individuals. No matter the patron, the museum demonstrates value in education and self-expression through its many exhibits and programs.

## ENCOURAGING SELF DISCOVERY THROUGH SCIENCE MATTERS

The museum employees work to provide better educational materials and experiences for teachers and students in the low-achieving schools of the Arkansas Delta. A successful new initiative, Science Matters, has become a cornerstone of that outreach. The multi-faceted program combines hands-on, inquiry-based science activities with one-on-one professional development training for teachers. Aimed at students in fourth grade, the program builds on innate curiosity and

encourages the strengthening of language skills for self-expression through in-depth science experiments.

## ARKANSAS'S OWN TINKERING FESTIVAL

Capitalizing on its pioneering nature, the museum instituted the Tinkering Studio, a place for open-ended, material-rich exploration where participants use real tools coupled with imagination to ignite curiosity. Studio visitors generate questions and use participatory learning to explore the universe of possible answers. An offshoot of the studio is TinkerFest, the museum's family-friendly, hands-on science and art education festival. The festival addresses the need to provide educational activities for families that lead them to the intersection of science and art.



MIDAMERICAMUSEUM.org



The Mid-America Science Museum continues to be ahead of its time, featuring exhibits that encourage hands-on interaction and participatory learning. The museum's new Bob Wheeler Science Skywalk spans 280 feet behind the museum into the forest canopy. Being 40 feet off the ground and over a stream, this outdoor exhibit invites visitors to experience nature while enjoying an intriguing array of bridges, a tree house, and interactive exhibits.

**MID-AMERICA SCIENCE MUSEUM**  
Address: 500 Mid America Boulevard  
Hot Springs, Arkansas, 71913-8412  
Phone: 501-767-3461  
Diane LaFollette, Executive Director

# NORTH CAROLINA

## *State University Libraries*

**"WE HAVE TEAMS OF AMAZING PEOPLE WHO COME UP WITH GREAT IDEAS, AND THE MINDSET HAS BECOME CONTAGIOUS. *We all try to think the same way; not in how we do things, but wanting to always seek the vision, always be at the top of our game.*"**

**– SUSAN NUTTER, VICE PROVOST AND DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES**

## A LEAP FROGGING LIBRARY IN NORTH CAROLINA

Located in Raleigh, North Carolina State University Libraries aims to be a gateway to knowledge for the North Carolina State University community and its partners. Nearly 30 years ago, the library began rigorously rethinking its role in the context of the university as well as its national ranking as an academic library. Instead of attempting to compete with the print environment of that time, the library came to embrace digital services and collections that “leap frogged” them into the digital age. Today, the library maintains over 4.9 million volumes and approximately 69,000 print and electronic serial titles, 710 bibliographic databases, with 12.9 million total uses of the collection annually.

## KEEPING A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE IN THE RESEARCH TRIANGLE

The library continually disrupts the way academic libraries conduct business. Located in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina, the library competes with intellectual giants such as UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University. Knowing they must keep their competitive edge and, in turn, provide that edge to their faculty and students, library employees reimagined the fellows program in response to their “creative recruitment” mindset. The new Fellows Program hires future librarians with the emotional intelligence, creativity, and enthusiasm to thrive in the library. Fellows work on the library’s highest priority initiatives, participating in game-changing programs that increase their own competitive advantage in the field.

## OPERATING A TRUE STUDENT LIBRARY

The strategy for the library’s progressive approach comes, in part, from crowdsourcing ideas from students through committees. These crowdsourcing committees build trust between library and student, library and faculty, and library and university. These internal partnerships have led to stronger applicant and acceptance pools, higher retention rates, and higher on-schedule graduation among the student population, bolstering the university’s standing within the state and nationally.



In the spirit of providing students and faculty with a competitive edge, librarians at North Carolina State University Libraries are not offered tenure by design. The feeling is that tenure tends to keep people in the same place, which is a breeding ground for stale ideas. Instead, a non-tenured staff provides the library flexibility to hire people with advanced degrees in other fields, allowing them to re-envision spaces and how the library operates.



LIB.NCSU.edu

### NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Address: 2 Broughton Drive, Campus Box 7111

Raleigh, North Carolina, 27695-7111

Phone: 919-515-7188

Susan Nutter, Vice Provost and  
Director of Libraries

# OTIS *Library*

**“WE ALWAYS WANT TO BE PURSUING COMMUNITY NEEDS AND MAKING SURE WE ARE ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY ON A REGULAR BASIS TO ADDRESS WHAT THEY WANT FROM A LIBRARY. *That summarizes why Otis is successful. We are not a passive organization, but an extremely proactive, dynamic one. That is what we pride ourselves on the most.*”**

**– BOB FARWELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## PIONEERING HANDS-ON MUSEUM EXPERIENCES

Otis Library, located in Norwich, Connecticut, opened its doors 166 years ago in 1850. The library expands programming based on community listening, retaining its mission of providing free and open access to information, ideas, and services that anticipate the community's personal, educational, and professional needs. According to its leadership, the key to the library's success is its commitment to remain an engaged partner that realizes a healthy, literate community goes beyond books. Today, the library is a cornerstone of Norwich, preserving its history and supporting its economic and cultural development.

## ERASING THE STIGMA OF MENTAL ILLNESS

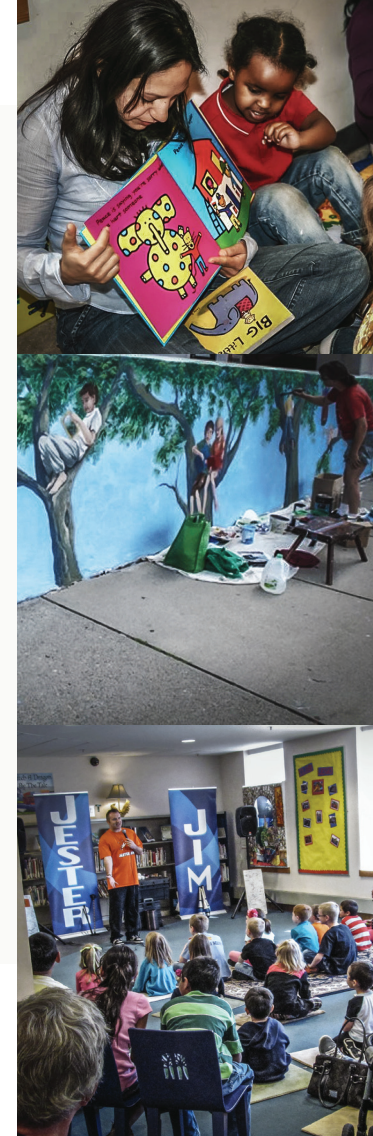
The library serves Norwich's large special needs community, including those with mental illness. Through partnerships with local and state mental health organizations, the library works to break down the stigma of mental illness. The library works to inform and change community perceptions with programming such as Mental Health in the Movies, a local film festival that highlight movies that specifically address mental health issues, or Changing Minds Book Club, which provides meaningful discussions about mental illness. Last year, the library hosted a Recovery Banner, inviting individuals who are recovering from a variety of forms of mental illness to write a message on the banner that resonated with their personal stories.

## HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR NEW AMERICANS

Norwich is a vibrant community in transition with a growing number of new Americans from Latin America, Haiti, and China. In response to this growing population, the library hosts programs specifically aimed at providing a safe space to acclimate. The welcoming environment helps patrons navigate their new day-to-day life, through robust programming such as citizenship and immigration workshops, bilingual storytime, one-on-one bilingual instruction, and multiple collections in foreign languages. The library has recently become a passport application center, allowing it to become an even more trusted home for new Americans.



Otis Library does not shy away from the evolution of the library's stance in a community. In fact, the library staff encourages it. Through weekly columns in the newspaper and a monthly column in Norwich Magazine, the library continues to advocate for libraries, shedding light on the services offered for different areas of a person's life, no matter what their need may be.




OTISLIBRARYNORWICH.org

### OTIS LIBRARY

Address: 261 Main Street  
Norwich, Connecticut, 06360-5834  
Phone: 860-889-2365  
Robert D. Farwell, Executive Director

# SANTA ANA

## *Public Library*



**“WHEN PEOPLE ASK WHAT I CALL THIS LIBRARY, I SAY, LA BIBLIOTECA MILAGROSA, WHICH MEANS THE MIRACLE MAKING LIBRARY. We customize the little resources we do have to fit our needs, and, more importantly, the needs of the community where we are ingrained.”**

– GERARDO MOUET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SANTA ANA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

## LA BIBLIOTECA MILAGROSA— THE MIRACLE MAKING LIBRARY

Stepping inside the Santa Ana Public Library, a visitor is encompassed by what director Gerardo Mouet calls the miracle making library. Throughout its 125 years of existence, the library has transformed its traditional library services to meet the needs of Santa Ana's large immigrant and youth populations. Today, Santa Ana is home to 335,264 residents, most hailing from Spanish-speaking countries (78.5 percent) or from Asian countries (10.4 percent) with 47.8 percent of their children enrolled in Santa Ana schools as first-generation English learners. Through programming that touches all age groups and demographics, the library's goal is to improve their community's collective life and the lives of those who ask for support.

## CIRCLE OF MENTORING APPROACH TO YOUNG ADULT SERVICES

The youth of Santa Ana face tremendous challenges such as language and cultural isolation from their peers, pressure to leave school and support their family, poverty, and a sense of powerlessness. In response to these generalized feelings, the library approaches their youth population through a Circle of Mentoring model, where mentorship from community peers and adults provides healthy and sustainable relationships. The Circle of Mentoring program is just one of the many youth programs taking place within the library. The 35-40 weekly teen programs address specific needs of Santa Ana teens, from fighting obesity to GED completion, and intervention of at-risk youth.

## NARROWING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Efforts to shrink the digital divide include a variety of library programs that increase digital literacy, such as hosting Digitizing Yourself into the Internet Community workshops, where participants are able to learn the basics of the Microsoft platform. Additionally, the library began two pilot programs, providing the community with more access to e-content by issuing preprogrammed Nooks and Wi-Fi hotspots for checkout.



To reach the large youth demographic in Santa Ana, the Santa Ana Public Library employs young staff as pages and works with the teens to mentor and grow their careers as librarians. To date, three of four principal librarians grew up in Santa Ana, and thirteen bilingual young people from the Santa Ana or neighboring communities are enrolled or recently graduated from Master of Library and Information Science programs.



[SANTA-ANA.org/library/](http://SANTA-ANA.org/library/)

**SANTA ANA PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Address: 26 Civic Center Plaza  
Santa Ana, California, 92603-4010  
Phone: 714-647-5250

Gerardo Mouet, Director, Santa Ana Department  
of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

# TOMAQUAG

## *Museum*

**“THE ABILITY TO TELL STORIES IS ONE OF OUR BEST GIFTS.** *We are not just repeating historical facts; we are telling stories and talking about history and culture through a first-person lens, and that makes it real and relatable to just about any audience.”*

– LOREN SPEARS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## A BRIDGE TO UNDERSTANDING INDIGENOUS CULTURE

The Tomaquag Museum is Rhode Island's only museum dedicated to telling the story of the state's Indigenous people. Founded in 1958, the museum's mission includes educating the public and promoting thoughtful dialogue about Indigenous history, culture, and arts, engaging the population of Southern Rhode Island and the state's 8,000 Indigenous residents.

Every year, artists, researchers, students, and travelers from around the world visit the museum's exhibits which are also a popular resource for Rhode Island and Southern New England communities. The museum engages, educates, and provides authentic experiences for visitors and partners by incorporating Indigenous elders, storytellers,

art educators, and Native artists into exhibits as well as partner programs and festivals. The museum's efforts have impacted the Indigenous community, raising self-esteem, increasing cultural knowledge, providing a venue to explore Indigenous history, and serving as a voice for Rhode Island's Indigenous people.

## ENCOURAGING STORYTELLING THROUGH ARTS AND WELLNESS

The museum hosts an arts and wellness series with the goal of empowering and engaging Indigenous communities. Series segments focus on topics relevant to the community, such as mental health and wellness, exploration of food resources, environmental impact, and historical trauma. The discussions are followed by group art projects that connect the discussion

themes with artistic expression. Once a year, projects are put on display at the museum for the public consumption.

## PODCASTS: NEW SPIN ON ORAL HISTORY

The museum understands that the Indigenous people they represent do not always realize that they have a story to tell. Through the "Indigenous Lifeways" podcast, the museum explores these stories and amplifies the Indigenous voice. Podcasts reached over 9,000 downloads as of January 2016, demonstrating the museum's achievements in encouraging Indigenous people to document their stories.



Many of the Tomaquag Museum offsite community outreach programs include museum staff providing lectures to educational or like-minded institutions. One of the most popular lecture series, I'm Not Your Mascot, details the struggles of Indigenous populations with sports teams using figures from their history for sports mascots. The I'm Not Your Mascot program encourages Indigenous people to retell their history through involvement with museum activities, exhibits, and lectures.



TOMAQUAGMUSEUM.org

### TOMAQUAG MUSEUM

Address: 390 A Summit Road,  
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# NATIONAL MEDAL

## *finalists*

This year, 30 institutions were named finalists for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Diverse institutions including a small remote public library, a Tribal museum, a university library system, a science center, a specialized library, among many others, from Hawaii to Rhode Island, Alaska to Louisiana, were among the honorees. From those 30 finalists, this year's 10 winners were selected. Through the online Share Your Story initiative, thousands of community members highlighted ways these finalist institutions have impacted and changed their lives for the better.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2016 NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE FINALISTS.

## LIBRARIES

**BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY** (*Brooklyn, NY*)

**DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY** (*Dallas, TX*)

**HAINES BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY** (*Haines, AK*)

**ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE LIBRARY** (*Champaign, IL*)

**JAMES E. BROOKS LIBRARY AT CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY** (*Ellensburg, WA*)

**JUNEAU PUBLIC LIBRARIES** (*Juneau, AK*)

**KITSAP REGIONAL LIBRARY** (*Bremerton, WA*)

**LONGMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY** (*Longmont, CO*)

**MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY** (*Madison, WI*)

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES** (*Raleigh, NC*)

**OTIS LIBRARY** (*Norwich, CT*)

**RICHLAND LIBRARY** (*Columbia, SC*)

**SAN MATEO COUNTY LIBRARIES (SMCL)** (*San Mateo, CA*)

**SANTA ANA PUBLIC LIBRARY** (*Santa Ana, CA*)

**TERREBONNE PARISH LIBRARY SYSTEM** (*Houma, LA*)

## MUSEUMS

**CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM** (*Chicago, IL*)

**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM TUCSON** (*Tucson, AZ*)\*

**COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART** (*Columbia, SC*)

**DALLAS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM** (*Dallas, TX*)

**THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM OF PICTURE BOOK ART** (*Amherst, MA*)

**FITCHBURG ART MUSEUM** (*Fitchburg, MA*)

**HONOLULU MUSEUM OF ART** (*Honolulu, HI*)

**IMAGINATION STATION, TOLEDO'S SCIENCE CENTER** (*Toledo, OH*)\*

**LEIGH YAWKEY WOODSON ART MUSEUM** (*Wausau, WI*)\*

**LYNN MEADOWS DISCOVERY CENTER FOR CHILDREN** (*Gulfport, MS*)\*

**MID-AMERICA SCIENCE MUSEUM** (*Hot Springs, AR*)

**SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY** (*Santa Cruz, CA*)

**NANTUCKET HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION** (*Nantucket, MA*)

**TOMAUQUAG MUSEUM** (*Exeter, RI*)

**WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART** (*New York, NY*)

\*Let's Move! Museums & Gardens participant. Visit [imls.gov/letsmove](http://imls.gov/letsmove) to learn more about this initiative.

## About the

# NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE

Since 1994, the National Medal for Museum and Library Service has honored 162 outstanding institutions that have made significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Selected institutions demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service, exceeding the expected levels of community outreach. The winners are selected by the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services in consultation with the National Museum and Library Services Board.

Beginning with the 2009 awardees, personal stories demonstrating the ongoing impact of these award-winning institutions are being documented through a cooperative agreement between IMLS and StoryCorps, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of Americans from all backgrounds and beliefs. These stories are preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

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).

## About the

# NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

The National Museum and Library Services Board advises the Institute's director on selections for the National Medals. This Board is an advisory body that includes presidentially appointed individuals with expertise in, or commitment to, library, museum, and information services. Informed by its collectively vast experience and knowledge, the board also advises the Institute's director on general policy, practices, and coordination with other federal agencies and offices.

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Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew, Director, IMLS\*

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