

2013 National Medals for Museum and Library Service

Speaker: Narrator

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>> NARRATOR: The Institute of Museum and Library Services honors ten of the nation's museums and libraries for their extraordinary contributions to the communities they serve. IMLS is the nation's primary source of federal support for museums and libraries. IMLS looks to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. We congratulate the winners of the 2013 National Medal for Museum and Library Services.

Boston Children's Museum connects children and families to transformational experiences and ideas in science, health, arts, humanities, and global cultures. For 100 years, the museum has promoted the enduring value of play and its link to the mental, physical, and emotional health of children. Since the launch of its school readiness programs, the museum has served tens of thousands of children on site and thousands more in their own neighborhoods. The museum's Countdown to Kindergarten Initiative has grown from a one-day event to year-round programs and exhibits. It is a national model for early learning.

The Columbus Museum of Art in Ohio is defining the art museum of the 21st century. The museum's Center for Creativity helps the community keep up with the present and become innovators in the future. Preschoolers use the collection as a catalyst for discussion and play. Artful Reading, a program for elementary age children, fosters critical thinking through classroom and museum visits and studio projects. A special program for medical students develops observation, communication, and empathy. And older adults with dementia are paired with specially trained volunteers to foster imaginative experiences.

The Mississippi Delta is the birthplace of the blues. The Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale helps the local community and world travelers to connect with the history and culture of this unique American art form. The museum unites diverse residents with education and community pride while also teaching blues

history and performance skills. The museum partners with local blues festivals that bring 15,000 visitors from around the world to the town of fewer than 18,000 people. The museum hosts performances and reaches outside their walls with a traveling trunk show, a popular newsletter, and interactive programs on Delta musicians.

Since 1998, Discovery Science Center of Orange County, California has been captivating visitors through hands-on exhibits, signature community events, and science education outreach to students and teachers. The center works with public agencies to create unique environmental education programs that align with the California State science curriculum. Their water education programs reach 110,000 students annually to significantly reduce water consumption. The center's exhibits also use immersive environments and engaging competitions to teach families the importance of eco-friendly shopping, keeping hazardous materials out of landfills, and how recycling can preserve and protect natural resources.

Marshalltown Public Library in rural Iowa is a leader in serving a diverse community. With a population of 27,500, Marshalltown is home to families who speak more than 30 languages. The library helps all community members, from long-time residents to the newest immigrants. Its tools and services empower residents to find jobs, gain literacy, succeed in school, and share cultures. The library's annual Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros Festival invites all community children to celebrate reading and books in collaboration with many other community volunteers and partners.

The June 2008 Iowa flood was the fifth largest disaster in U.S. history, inflicting \$6 billion in damages to Cedar Rapids and \$11 million in damage to the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. While dealing with its own recovery, the museum led revitalization efforts for the surrounding devastated ethnic neighborhood and became stronger than before. The museum offered a gathering spot, developed exhibits about the flood, and led efforts to obtain government disaster relief and raise private funds. Through its leadership, a Main Street District was established, resulting in new businesses and jobs. By the time the museum reopened in July 2012, it had relocated, expanded its building and endowment, and brought hope and inspiration to the city.

Pierce County Library System in Tacoma, Washington actively researches the community to best serve their needs. Their

ground-breaking work with the University of Washington provided solid evidence that training childcare providers leads to literacy gains for children. Together with the United Way, the Children's Museum, and the state and county's Workforce Development Program, the library offers services ranging from early learning to job skills and small business support. Website and job classes for military families support the large and mobile population at joint base Lewis McChord.

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio is one of the oldest, largest, and busiest libraries in America serving 49 jurisdictions. While offering a wealth of programs for all ages, the library's early learning programs are key to addressing Cincinnati's high incidence of childhood poverty, one of the highest in the nation. Two early childhood programs use a shared reading method to develop kindergarten readiness. The library also works with schools to reduce truancy and its summer reading and brain camps address summer learning loss. The library aims to help all children read at level by third grade.

The Rancho Cucamonga Public Library serves a fast-growing southern California community. With an innovative focus on early learning, the library offers an after school tutoring program, robotics workshops, and Star Wars Day. Family-friendly programs include cultural arts nights, school family night out, and healthy programs for mind, body, and earth. The library also created Play and Learn Islands. They are interactive exhibits for children and their families that foster imaginative play, cross generational learning, and problem-solving. These immensely popular Play and Learn Islands have now been sold to a dozen libraries and loaned to more than 30 others.

The Waukegan Public Library battles low literacy and high unemployment with programs that form a path to literacy and learning. More than half the population is Latino and many have limited English speaking skills. The library's Promotoras Ambassadors are volunteers trained to go into the community, assess needs, and promote relevant library services for the whole family. For children, the library's Early Learning Center is a museum that offers bilingual activities. Adults can attend free classes and citizenship preparation, conversational English, and GED classes in Spanish. Thanks to its outreach, the library has more than 1,000 new Latino patrons this year.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is proud to honor the outstanding winners of the 2013 National Medal for

Museum and Library Service. This presentation was created for the Institute and Museum and Library Services by History.