

2014 National Medal 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, working toward achieving a Democratic society where communities and individuals thrive with broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning. Two thousand fourteen marks the 20th anniversary of the National Medal Program. Since 1994, IMLS has honored 142 institutions for remarkable community programming and resources, including those recognized this year. We congratulate the winners of the 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Services.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a green sanctuary in the heart of a densely populated community of more than 2.5 million residents. It inspires the next generation of environmental stewards and leaders through educational programs in the garden, hands-on lessons with local schools to help students meet national, state, and city science standards, and its partnership with the Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a critical entry point where the community can gain a deeper understanding about the importance of plants and the environment.

The Chicago Public Library serves a city of 2.7 million residents and offers dynamic hands-on programs to promote lifelong learning and skills development for all ages. Its maker lab is designed to promote critical thinking and offers patrons an introduction to the latest technology. The library's Summer Learning Challenge goes beyond books to encouraging early learners, teens, and even parents to advance their creativity through art, engineering, and interactive experiences.

Step through the doors of the Children's Museum of Indianapolis and you'll quickly realize what 1.2 million visitors already know. It is an extraordinary place for

intergenerational learning and fun. With five floors of premier exhibits, a planetarium, and a professional children's theater, it is the world's largest children's museum. Here, children and family members of all ages can discover immersive hands-on learning in the sciences, arts, and humanities, while exploring each new culture and new worlds with the help of professional actor interpreters who bring each of the museum's galleries to life.

The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District is committed to helping people come together to pursue their individual and group aspirations. A web-based community assessment tool, Community Connect, allows the library to target neighborhoods in need and tailor services to promote literacy and remove barriers to education. The library's Teen Tech Art Studios Program introduces fun digital technology to use in workshops and inspires new career pathways.

Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest public library system in the state of Missouri and serves a diverse mix of communities, spanning three counties and neighborhoods, both urban and rural. The library focuses on providing access to all through digital delivery systems and its summer reading program stimulates young imaginations while preparing them to read at grade level. Adults take part in learning, too. In 2012, they hosted a year-long reading challenge called Six and Twelve that encouraged adults to read six books in twelve months.

Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut is home to one of the nation's largest outdoor beluga whale habitats and maintains a diverse collection of more than 4,000 aquatic animals. The aquarium aims to inspire its 700,000 annual visitors to care for and protect the ocean planet. Community-based youth initiatives at Mystic Aquarium offer hands-on and technology-rich STEM learning and training to meet workforce demands. Live Internet feeds of exhibits provide access to virtual visitors from all over the world.

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences is the state's most visited museum and the largest institution of its type in the southeastern region of the U.S. Visitors can observe real scientists at work through floor-to-ceiling glass walls and take part in an extensive range of exciting programs. Each year more than 35,000 visitors attend the museum's Bug Fest, the nation's largest family-friendly event exploring the world of insects and other arthropods.

The Octavia Fellin Public Library in Gallup, New Mexico is a bastion for free access in its region. The library provides services to meet the unique needs of its community, which is 75% Native American. It provides strong education and cultural programs, including art exhibits and speakers on Native American history for preschoolers, school children, teens, and adults. The library also provides the tools necessary to empower visitors through computer access and training and workforce skills development programs.

The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History offers learning experiences that inspire visitors to better understand the world. Its exhibits reflect the biological, cultural, paleontological, and geological history of Oklahoma. Programs such as Explorology partner students with scientists to experience real science in the field, while Native American language programs aid in the preservation and education of indigenous languages.

The Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts rescues, translates, and disseminates Yiddish books and broadens understanding of modern Jewish literature and culture. The Center has saved more than one million Yiddish volumes, often recovered at the last minute from homes, demolition sites, and dumpsters, and it has made its collection available online at no cost. This valuable resource, together with innovative educational programs for students of all ages, is helping to introduce this once endangered literature and culture to new generations.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is proud to honor the outstanding winners of the 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. This presentation was created for the Institute of Museum and Library Services by History.