

2004  
NATIONAL AWARDS FOR  
MUSEUM &  
LIBRARY SERVICE



INSTITUTE  
of MUSEUM  
and LIBRARY  
SERVICES

With their innovative **programs and partnerships,**  
this year's recipients **support the principles** that make our country strong and free.  
I salute these museums and libraries for **lighting the way**  
**to liberty and learning** for all Americans.

Laura Bush

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The awards celebrate the efforts  
of libraries and museums of all sizes  
to connect with their increasingly diverse communities  
and to serve as centers of lifelong learning.

Robert S. Martin

The awards are conferred annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and recognize the recipients for their outstanding public service. It is the nation's highest honor for excellence in public service provided by museums and libraries. Each organization also receives \$10,000.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

The National Awards for Museum and Library Service give national recognition to institutions that play an integral and essential part in our learning society. The awards celebrate the efforts of libraries and museums of all sizes to connect with their increasingly diverse communities and to serve as centers of lifelong learning. As the pace of social change continues to quicken, museums and libraries are responding with programs and partnerships that create true value for individuals, for families, and for communities across America.

This year's recipients embody extraordinary public service. They share a view of collaboration as *the strategy* for success and have expanded their outreach with strong, sustainable community partnerships. The recipients are not content to serve just their regular patrons, but reach out in exemplary ways to provide service to even the most marginalized in their communities.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, together with the National Museum and Library Services Board, is proud to congratulate the winners of the National Awards for Museum and Library Service.

**Robert S. Martin, Ph.D.**

*Director*

Institute of Museum and Library Service

1000 Lake Cook Road  
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# CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN



Annual budget: \$24 million

Full-time staff: 223

Part-time staff: 35

President and Chief Executive Officer: Barbara Whitney Carr

**Community Partners:** City of Chicago, Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Public Libraries, Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, Openlands Project; 63 other individual schools and community groups, such as Little Village Environmental Justice Organization and Will Feed Love Community Gardens; Blair Early Childhood Education Center and other special schools; a variety of advisory groups and committees.





Imagine 20 seventh, eighth, and ninth graders from Chicago's inner city clad in hip waders and collecting water invertebrates from a lake. You might not expect to find urban teenagers studying the environment, but the Chicago Botanic Garden is working to change that through several hands-on education programs that connect people to the natural world.

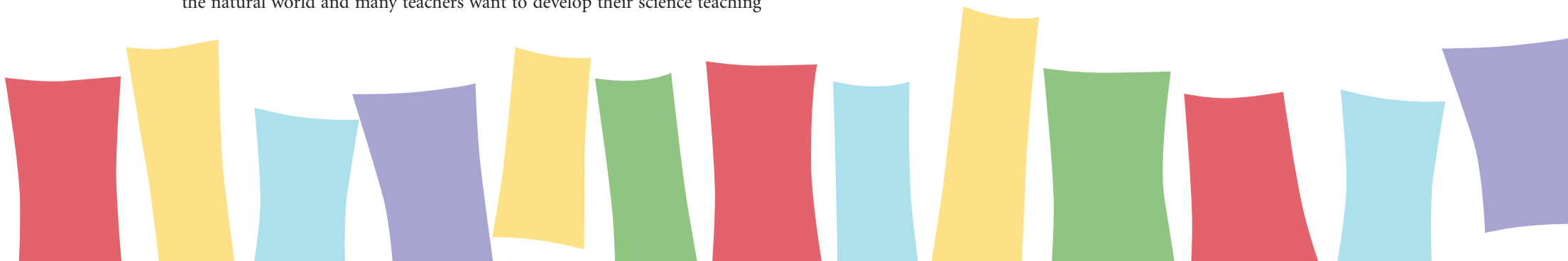
At only 32 years old, the Chicago Botanic Garden has become a premier botanic garden and research institution, with 385 acres housing a living collection of more than two million plants, 23 exhibition gardens, three native habitats, and 81 acres of lakes and waterways. The free public garden serves more than 800,000 visitors annually. It reaches another 200,000 per year through programs in Chicago's schools, neighborhoods, libraries, hospitals, and other community-based organizations.

The Chicago Botanic Garden knows that young students want to learn about the natural world and many teachers want to develop their science teaching

skills. This is one reason it has developed extensive programs for teachers, science education initiatives for youth, training and certificate programs in horticultural therapy, a burgeoning School of the Chicago Botanic Garden for adult learners, and a Web site with sample lesson plans and links to plant information listings. Through the teacher programs alone, the institution trains 1,000 teachers annually, ultimately benefiting roughly 25,000 students.

With the aim of strengthening science literacy in youth, especially among the city's large African-American and Hispanic populations, the Chicago Botanic Garden has a number of successful on- and off-site programs. College First is a summer apprenticeship program that since 1994 has immersed 70 inner-city youth in a professional work environment and introduced them to area universities over a three-year period. Science First engages upper elementary students who are curious about nature with a combination of classroom instruction, field experiences, journal writing, games, and final student projects. The institution found a local community partner for *Primero la Ciencia*, which began this summer as a camp for 40 youth from Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. And in partnership with public schools, nonprofit housing organizations, and the city, the Chicago Botanic Garden maintains programs to help residents establish their own gardens. Since 1997, nearly 100 new gardens have replaced asphalt-covered schoolyards, enabled neighborhoods to grow fresh vegetables, and taught students about sustainable gardening and business enterprise.

Through its growing programs, the Chicago Botanic Garden is cultivating the next generation of plant scientists and environmental stewards.



Every day the Flint Public Library pulsates with programs and services that are meaningful to the 125,000 residents of Flint, Michigan. The birthplace of General Motors, Flint is home to a diverse population, the majority of whom are African-American. The Flint Public Library regularly draws high attendance for a host of innovative programs that serve families and help unify this diverse community.

The Flint Public Library is often at the center of important community events. The library has become known as the place to be in Flint to celebrate the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. For the past 19 years, the library has honored the civil rights leader by keeping its doors open and inviting people in for music, a dramatic presentation of the “I Have a Dream” speech, and other speeches and activities. More than 500 people from all walks of life left this year’s program inspired by the life of Dr. King.

## 06

In partnership with a teen parenting and pregnancy prevention organization, the library created an award-winning program to help young people take charge of their lives. The library hosted a national exhibition of photographs and audio stories about teen pregnancy by photographer Michael Nye. Five hundred copies of the book *Like Sisters on the Homefront* by Rita Williams-Garcia were purchased, and the library created a curriculum guide for teachers. Hundreds of teens came to the library to discuss the book with the author, tour the exhibit, and share their views on this challenging social issue.



For eight years, the Flint Public Library has participated in a countywide essay contest designed to let middle-school girls meet and learn from successful women. For the essay topic “Women of Science and Medicine,” students met Dr. Alexa Canaday, Chief Neurosurgeon of the Children’s Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. For the theme “You Are the First Woman President—Let’s Hear Your Inaugural Speech,” they met State Representative Lynn Rodriguez.

In thousands of community interactions, large and small, the Flint Public Library serves as a vital catalyst for civic engagement and enrichment.





# FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual budget: \$5.3 million

Full-time staff: 61

Part-time staff: 14

Interim Director: Jo Anne G. Mondowney

**Community Partners:** Genesee Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention; Head Start and Early Head Start; Gamma Delta Kudos; the Flint Area Chapter of the Links, Inc.; the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; the Community Foundation of Greater Flint; Flint Area Citizens to End Racism (FACTER); the Flint Community Schools; the University of Michigan at Flint; the Flint Cultural Center Corporation.

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787-831-1595  
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# MAYAGÜEZ CHILDREN'S LIBRARY, INC.



2003 budget: \$35,000

Full-time staff: 5

Part-time staff: 3

Director: Juan Carlos Gastón

**Community Partners:** Partners include principal sponsor Westernbank; Corporation for National and Community Service—Puerto Rico state office; AmeriCorps\*VISTA; the city of Mayagüez; Head Start; ICPR Junior College and the Department of Juvenile Justice; the Family Services Department; the Retired Senior Volunteer Program; radio station WKJB; and the University of Puerto Rico—Mayagüez.





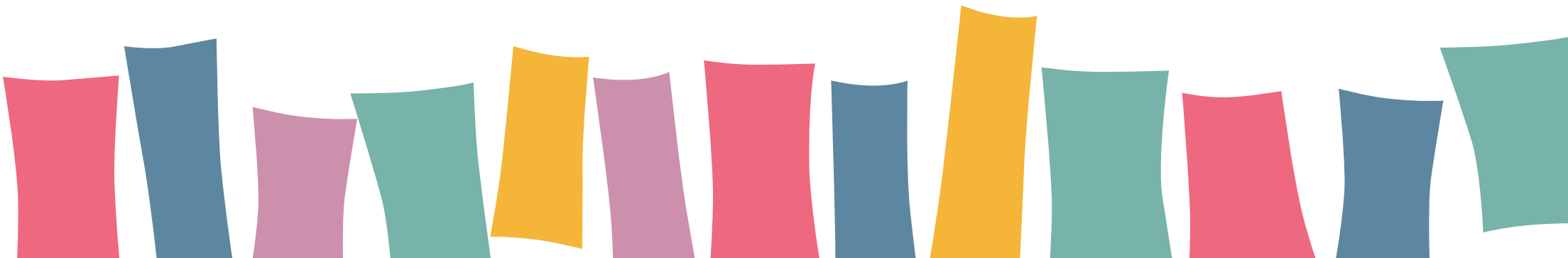
Located on the westernmost tip of Puerto Rico, the Mayagüez Children's Library opened in 1991 as the only nonprofit, bilingual, independent public community library for the young people of Mayagüez. It is also the first children's library in the Caribbean to provide a Special Needs Center for visually impaired and physically handicapped children. In a city where more than half the population of 98,434 lives below the poverty level, the library strives to improve the community's quality of life through services, programming, and resources geared for young readers and students.

According to the Puerto Rico Department of Education, roughly 45,000 of the 100,000 children who enter first grade in the island's public schools drop out before high school. The Mayagüez Children's Library seeks to stem the tide of dropouts by serving students from 58 public and 13 private schools, as well as families in the 10 different public housing communities of Mayagüez.

Relying on its primary sponsor, Westernbank, and partnerships with the local university, AmeriCorps\*VISTA, and hundreds of local community volunteers, the Mayagüez Children's Library addresses the educational needs of its community with a range of programs and services. During 2002–2003, a total of 56 first-, second-, and third-graders participated in daily reading and writing tutoring sessions; 76 percent of them improved their literacy skills. Eighteen school groups received instruction in library use, 160 students attended daily computer classes, 76 children attended storytelling activities in low-income housing areas, and 64 children participated in reading, drama, and arts and crafts activities.

Mayagüez Children's Library's activities for at-risk youth include a partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice. In 2002–2003, 662 children attended six storytelling-hour activities in Cabo Rojo, the local youth correctional facility. The library donated 125 books to Cabo Rojo, and it hosted a special mentoring program for 22 youth as part of the Minors' Diversion Program. Upon completion of the one-year mentoring program, the youth volunteered in the library's summer reading camps and had their criminal records expunged.

The library backs its commitment to the community through effective and innovative programming, unique Spanish and English collections, and an active cadre of volunteers and community sponsors.



The Regional Academic Health Center Medical Library serves four counties of South Texas located along the Mexican border known as the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The population of the community is largely Hispanic and, according to the 2000 Census, has grown by 40 percent since 1990. It is an area that struggles with poverty, where one-third of the residents live below the poverty level. The counties here are among the most underserved areas in the country with regard to medical care. Many residents lack transportation to medical facilities and face language and cultural barriers.

Opened in 2001, the Regional Academic Health Center Medical Library serves not only the academic needs of faculty, staff, and students of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, but also the general health information needs of the public. Two recent contracts with the National Library of Medicine enable staff to pilot health literacy projects that empower residents to learn about their own health issues and use technology to gain access to high-quality health information.

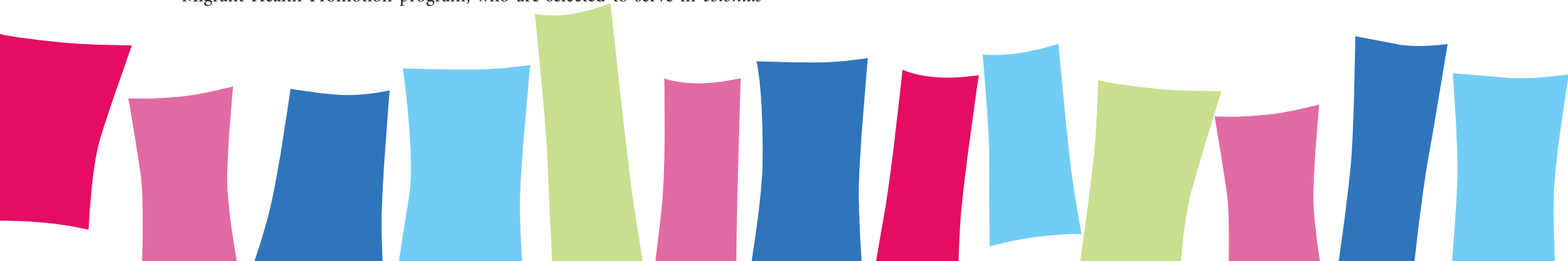
A project with “Med High,” the South Texas High School for the Health Professions, has helped train more than 2,000 people to use the Internet to find health information. Since 2001, the medical library has trained 18 peer tutors at Med High to use *MedlinePlus en español* and other Internet sources. The tutors then taught other students, their families, and people attending shopping mall health fairs. They also reached thousands at a Hispanic science conference. In 2003, the effort garnered the Texas Library Association’s Project of the Year award.

Other projects involve *promotoras*, or lay women outreach workers, of the Migrant Health Promotion program, who are selected to serve in *colonias*



where they live. *Colonias* (Spanish for “neighborhoods”) are substandard housing developments along the Mexican border that often lack running water and electricity. A bilingual librarian of the library trained *promotoras* to use laptop computers with wireless Internet access by familiarizing them with basic computer skills that they can teach to family and friends. The medical library also is helping *promotoras* plan their own projects, including the formation of a weekly women’s group to discuss nutrition and ideas for healthy meals. With diabetes prevalent in the *colonias*, almost all families face meal-planning issues. Another *colonia* has a group of teenagers meeting to discuss abstinence issues, and yet another has a project for elders who may not be able to read in either English or Spanish.

Through their extensive outreach, the staff of the Regional Academic Health Center Medical Library have learned that building and maintaining relationships is the key to project success.



# THE REGIONAL ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER MEDICAL LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER, SAN ANTONIO

7703 Floyd Curl Drive, MSC 7940  
San Antonio, TX 78229-3900

[www.library.uthscsa.edu](http://www.library.uthscsa.edu)

210-567-2400

210-567-2490 fax

Annual budget: \$4.5 million

Full-time staff: 60

UTHSCSA Director of Libraries: Mary Moore, Ph.D.

RAHC Library Director: Debra Warner

**Community Partners:** Long-standing partnerships with hospitals and clinics of the Lower Rio Grande Valley through the *Circuit Librarian* program; South Texas High School for the Health Professions and other schools; Willacy County Health Action Group; the Texas A&M University Center for Housing and Urban Development, which sponsors the *Colonias* Program; *promotoras* of the Migrant Health Promotion; partnerships with public librarians, agency directors, parish nurses.



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Elko, NV 89801

[www.westernfolklife.org](http://www.westernfolklife.org)

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fax 775-738-2900

# WESTERN FOLKLIFE CENTER, INC.



**Annual budget:** \$2.5 million

**Full-time staff:** 15

**Part-time staff:** 2

**Executive Director/CEO:** Charlie Seemann

**Community Partners:** Representatives of local groups, such as Basques, Mexican-Americans, Native Americans, ranchers and cowboys, Belizeans, Tongans, and East Indians work with staff on programs. Other partners include the Northeastern Nevada Museum, Great Basin College, Elko County Economic Development Agency, Elko Convention and Visitors' Authority, city and county of Elko, state arts and humanities organizations, National Council for the Traditional Arts, the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution.





About one-fifth of the U.S. population lives in rural areas, which support diverse populations with rich artistic traditions. The Western Folklife Center is one of relatively few museums focused on rural life. Headquartered in Elko, Nevada, the center serves its widely dispersed local audience with world-class programming and exhibits, most notably with its annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the event, which has brought fame to the center and tourist dollars to the

community. In addition to poetry readings and musical performances by cowboys, the 2004 National Cowboy Poetry Gathering featured exhibitions, including *The Lingo of Our Calling*, which explored the history of cowboy poetry and how it reflects sense of place and evolving culture in the West; workshops on blacksmithing and other long-standing rural traditions; and

much more. Through its media programs, the Western Folklife Center reaches broader audiences by producing dozens of radio features that are broadcast on National Public Radio and Public Radio International. The programs range in subject from a Mexican-American *curandera* (herbalist) and a folk artist in a migrant community in Oregon to features on garage ingenuity and car art at the Bonneville Salt Flats, and mirror the population of the West.

With its 23-year history of fieldwork, unique archival collections, annual Gathering event, and collaborations with the Library of Congress's American Folklife Center and other national partners, the center's regional and local impact may be easy to overlook. The center's educational programs reach approximately 5,000 Elko County schoolchildren annually with programs that include writing workshops and cowboy poetry presentations in the schools, hands-on activities at the center, and tours of exhibits. Through TumbleWords, the center brings two distinguished writers into the Elko community each year for free writing workshops and a free public reading. Its annual Voices of Youth program enables teenagers in a western community to explore concepts of regional culture and personal identity through photography and recorded interviews with the help of a professional photographer and radio producer. Whether for national, regional, or local audiences, the programs of the Western Folklife Center help people explore and celebrate the rich culture of the American West.



More than five million people visit the world-renowned San Diego Zoo and its Wild Animal Park annually. With over 7,000 rare and endangered animals, including giant pandas, koalas, and California condors, and 6,500 species of rare plants, the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park offer visitors an opportunity to enjoy one of the most spectacular and diverse animal and botanical collections in the world. In addition to combining education and fun for millions of visitors, the Zoological Society of San Diego is involved in conservation projects that span the globe, and it engages individuals in interactive education and mentorship programs, meaningful volunteer opportunities, unique outreach programs, and innovative research projects.

The Zoological Society serves its local community through more than 80 formal, in-depth educational programs delivered on site, in schools, and through other community services. The Zoological Society's free and discount-rate programs ensure that children of all socioeconomic levels can enjoy the resources of the Zoo and Wild Animal Park. Each year all 40,000 second-graders in San Diego County are offered a free visit with a bus tour of the Zoo, and all 50,000 third-graders are invited on a railway tour of the Wild Animal Park. The Zoo and Wild Animal Park are also free on Founder's Day, and the Zoo is free to children under 12 throughout the month of October.

The Zoological Society's outreach programs and assemblies benefit schools throughout San Diego County, serving 57,257 children in grades pre-K through 12 in 2003. Assemblies include learning about animals' senses, animals' diets, and wildlife careers. Last year, the Zoological Society also targeted 41 underserved schools in San Diego's South Bay area, delivering free 50-minute assemblies that included interactive activities, a live animal presentation, curriculum materials for teachers, handouts, and free Zoo passes.



The Zoological Society's mentorship programs for middle school, high school, and college students focus on conservation and career opportunities. As part of the InternQuest Program, pre-collegiate candidates can explore careers in a wide variety of science disciplines, including genetics, pathology, and animal behavior.

The combined efforts of staff and community partners have resulted in quality programs for diverse audiences. Children of low-income families are invited to participate in the Summer Safari Scholarship Program to enjoy a week of animal adventures. The popular free Night Owls program buses children from underrepresented schools to the Wild Animal Park for an evening of animal encounters, crafts, meals and snacks, and a unique overnight camping experience. Further examples of outreach include presentations to children in hospitals, therapy programs for seniors in nursing homes, and an applied animal nutrition program of value to researchers in universities around the world.



# ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

Annual budget: \$164 million in revenue

Full-time staff: 1,269

Part-time staff: 618

Executive Director: Douglas G. Myers

**Community Partners:** Eight volunteer advisory committees of local citizens provide monthly input to the Board of Trustees. Other partners include San Diego County school districts, individual schools, community centers, Scout groups, after-school programs, universities, and conservation organizations.

P.O. Box 120551  
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# PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES NATIONAL AWARDS FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE

16

## 2003

Bozeman Public Library, *Bozeman, Montana*  
Carnegie Science Center, *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*  
Free Library of Philadelphia, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*  
Pocahontas County Free Libraries, *Marlinton, West Virginia*  
San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, *San Angelo, Texas*  
USS Constitution Museum, *Boston, Massachusetts*

## 2002

Boundary County District Library, *Bonnars Ferry, Idaho*  
Hartford Public Library, *Hartford, Connecticut*  
Please Touch Museum, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*  
Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, *Loretto, Pennsylvania*  
Southwest Georgia Regional Public Library System, *Bainbridge, Georgia*  
Wildlife Conservation Society/Bronx Zoo, *Bronx, New York*

## 2001

Alaska Resources Library and Information Services (ARLIS), *Anchorage, Alaska*  
Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, *San Jose, California*  
Hancock County Library System, *Bay St. Louis, Mississippi*  
Miami Museum of Science, *Miami, Florida*  
New England Aquarium, *Boston, Massachusetts*  
Providence Public Library, *Providence, Rhode Island*

## 2000 (2000 was the first year libraries participated in this award program)

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, *Buffalo, New York*  
Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository, *Kodiak, Alaska*  
B.B. Comer Memorial Library, *Sylacauga, Alabama*  
Queens Borough Public Library, *Jamaica, New York*  
Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives, *Los Angeles, California*  
Urie Elementary School Library, *Lyman, Wyoming*  
Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia, *Beckley, West Virginia*

## 1999

Lincoln Park Zoo, *Chicago, Illinois*  
Nevada Museum of Art, *Reno, Nevada*  
St. Simons Island Lighthouse Museum, *St. Simons Island, Georgia*

## 1998

Belknap Mill Society, *Laconia, New Hampshire*  
Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, *Dearborn, Michigan*  
New Jersey Historical Society, *Newark, New Jersey*

## 1997

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, *Indianapolis, Indiana*  
The Museum of Fine Arts, *Houston, Texas*  
National Aquarium in Baltimore, *Baltimore, Maryland*

## 1996

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, *Washington, District of Columbia*  
The Field Museum, *Chicago, Illinois*  
The Natural Science Center of Greensboro, *Greensboro, North Carolina*

## 1995

Brooklyn Children's Museum of Science, *Brooklyn, New York*  
The Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, *Chicago, Illinois*  
Montshire Museum of Science, *Norwich, Vermont*  
The Wing Luke Asian Museum, *Seattle, Washington*

## 1994

Brukner Nature Center, *Troy, Ohio*  
The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, *Jacksonville, Florida*  
Missouri Historical Society, *St. Louis, Missouri*

# ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities. The Institute fosters leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning by supporting the nation's 15,000 museums and 122,000 libraries. The Institute also encourages partnerships to expand the educational benefit of libraries and museums.

To learn more about the Institute, please log on to: [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov).

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## NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

The National Museum and Library Services Board consists of 24 individuals and is chaired by the Director of the Institute. The President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints 20 members to the Board who advise the Institute on general policy with regard to museum and library services. Board members represent the museum and library communities and the general public. Through their collective representation, members contribute specific expertise and broad knowledge in their respective fields.

### *Chairman*

Robert S. Martin, Ph.D., *Director*, Institute of Museum and Library Services

### *Members*

John E. Buchanan, Jr., Oregon

David A. Donath, Vermont

Nancy S. Dwight, New Hampshire

A. Wilson Greene, Virginia

Mariam Mercedes Guillemard, Puerto Rico

Peter Hero, California

Thomas E. Lorentzen, California

Terry L. Maple, Georgia

Elizabeth Pruet, Arkansas

Judith Ann Rapanos, Michigan

Edwin Rigaud, Ohio

Harry Robinson, Jr., Texas

Margaret Webster Scarlett, Wyoming

Beth LaRoche Walkup, Arizona

### *Nonvoting Members*

Schroeder Cherry, Ed.D., *Deputy Director*,  
Institute of Museum and Library Services

Mary Chute, A.M., M.L.S., *Deputy Director*,  
Institute of Museum and Library Services

Beth Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., *Chairperson*, National Commission on  
Libraries and Information Science

Board members review the nominations for the National Awards for Museum and Library Service and make recommendations to the Institute's Director. The Director selects the final winners.

The background of the page is a solid, bright yellow. Overlaid on this are several large, overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in various colors: light blue, lime green, orange, pink, and red. These shapes are irregular and wavy-edged, creating a layered, abstract effect. The text is positioned in the lower-left quadrant, partially overlapping some of these shapes.

INSTITUTE  
*of* MUSEUM  
*and* LIBRARY  
SERVICES

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