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INSTITUTE of  
**Museum and Library**  
SERVICES

2005

Awards

National Awards for Museum and Library Service

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*We are so proud of these libraries and museums. They are centers of excellence that reach out to everyone in their communities. They are lifetime partners in discovery, imagination and learning that we can call on again and again throughout our lives.*

*— Laura Bush*



*These libraries and museums are cornerstones  
of our democracy. They help to create and  
sustain a nation of learners.*

*— Mary L. Chute*

# From the Director

**The National Awards for Museum and Library Service are the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums that make their communities better places to live.**

These award-winning institutions are centers of excellence. They connect people to information and ideas – and to each other. They are model institutions using their full capacity – collections, staff, technology, public spaces – to create programs and partnerships that offer discovery, entertainment and new skills.

They go beyond expected levels of service to assure that their institutions are accessible and responsive to a wide range of community lifelong learning needs.

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.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Chute  
*Acting Director*  
Institute of Museum and Library Services

## 04 COSI Toledo

### Toledo, Ohio

**The region around Toledo, Ohio, is evolving from an industrial to an information technology economy, and COSI Toledo knows it has a critical job in helping the area become equipped for the change. The hands-on science museum, located in the city's center, presents new science experiences for kids and their families and is a catalyst for transforming the way teachers present science.**

Although technical and scientific literacy is essential for the new economy, many area residents are not skilled in or comfortable with science, technology, engineering, and math. Regional companies have begun to notice they cannot fill vacancies for jobs requiring skilled, educated employees to design, build, install, operate, and maintain complex, cutting-edge technologies. As a regional leader in informal science and technology education, COSI Toledo's focus is to invigorate science and technology education in the Toledo community, especially in underserved areas. Programs and exhibits strive to attract people to the wonder, joy, and adventure of science, technology, and discovery.

COSI Toledo relies on extensive community input to inform its overall strategic planning process. The museum also shapes many individual programs in collaboration with community organizations to meet the needs of its myriad audiences. One of the museum's strongest areas of collaboration is with educational partners and the three local school systems, with whom they develop a variety of innovative programs for schoolchildren and teachers.

Project ISIS, Inquiry and Science Induction for Schools, is one of only a few science induction

programs for elementary teachers. The two-year program is for new teachers in their first and second years. A professional development program, Project ISIS unites the resources of public schools, universities, and the science museum to give the teachers new skills and help them adopt behaviors that support and improve science teaching.

COSI Toledo's Horizons Gifted and Talented partnership with Toledo Public Schools provides more than 300 gifted and talented students from inner-city Toledo inquiry-based learning opportunities and field experiences throughout the school year at the museum. At the end of the year, parents, relatives, teachers, and school officials return to COSI for a science night that showcases the work of Horizon students. In the six years COSI Toledo has coordinated the program, more than 1,800 students have benefited.

COSI Toledo offers several outstanding programs designed to connect young women to math, science, and technology. The museum recognizes the need to develop leadership, science literacy, and critical thinking skills to help close the gap between boys and girls in schools and in the working science fields.

The museum's UPCLOSE program focuses on underserved middle school girls through after-school, weekend, and summer events and mentoring. This program teaches participants job skills and civic engagement by offering them opportunities to work at COSI or area organizations. The young women can choose to present science activities to children at the Boys and Girls Clubs, engage families in science at COSI's Science Café exhibit, or become involved in



activities for the annual Martin Luther King Cultural Event weekend. The program is a life-changing one for the 50 young women involved.

Dreams to Reality is another successful offering for young women. The annual two-day college/career fair attracts more than 500 teenage girls in inner-city Toledo, Detroit, and the surrounding rural communities. The event is held in partnership with the Girl Scouts, local universities, and businesses and gives top billing to a well-known woman science professional. Girls also learn about the hot science topics, local employment opportunities, and university programs.

COSI's annual Camp-In is designed for an even younger set. More than 5,000 girls grades 3–6 spend the night at the museum immersed in hands-on activities designed to stimulate their interest and confidence in science, math, and technology.

From college fairs to camp-ins, from one-time experiences to multi-year programs, COSI Toledo is dedicated to community-based service that reveals a world of science.

#### **Address**

**COSI Toledo**

**1 Discovery Way**

**Toledo, OH 43604**

**Phone: 419-244-2674**

**Fax: 419-255-2674**

**Web site: <http://www.cositoledo.org>**

**Annual budget: \$3.2 million**

**Full-time staff: 25**

**Part-time staff: 40**

**President and CEO: William H. Booth**

#### **Community partners**

**Toledo Public Schools; The University of Toledo; Bowling Green State University; Girl Scout Council of Greater Toledo; Boys and Girls Clubs of Toledo; Art Museum; the Symphony; area manufacturing companies; Sauder Village (a living history center); Regional Arts Council; and the American Association of University Women.**

# 06 Johnson County Library

## Overland Park, Kansas

**The Johnson County Library has a clear mission to provide access to ideas, information, experiences, and materials that support and enrich people’s lives. It is achieving that mission by implementing a strategic plan with ample input from patrons, staff, and community partners to identify needs and to tailor services to fit those needs. More than 83 percent of the 391,500 Johnson County residents living in the greater Kansas City metro area are registered borrowers.**

JCL is highly valued and integrated into its community. It has high circulation rates and a high number of visits per capita. Library events are covered by local news media, and staff members are frequently invited to present at local club meetings and community events. The library’s extensive traditional youth programs reach more than 81,000 children and youth annually, and the library extends services and programs to more than 8,500 institutions (including 135 schools), and more than 1,100 professional associations, social service entities, and community organizations. Beyond the library’s traditional programs, however, the Johnson County Library pursues its passion for new opportunities to build a stronger society.

To foster its role as an agent of democracy, the Johnson County Library developed “Community Issues 101,” a vehicle for citizen deliberation and exchange. The library adapted the National Issues Forum model from the Kettering Foundation. JCL began by partnering with the Kansas City-based Kauffman Foundation in 2002 on a series of forums on regionalism, race relations, economic

development, and transportation. Then, with funding from Kauffman, the library developed its own forum on education with assistance from area school districts, parochial and private schools, home-schooling parents, and officials from the Kansas Department of Education. The success of that event gave momentum to Community Issues 101 as a continuing opportunity for open and civil discussion and a national model for public library-based issues forums.

The library also charted new territory with its Changing Lives through Literature, program, the nation’s first alternative-sentencing literature discussion program for teens. This seven-week program brings eight to twelve teen probationers, their probation officers, and one judge to the library for librarian-facilitated discussions about fiction. Library staff engage the participants in in-depth discussion of issues such as betrayal, relationships, families, and consequences, encouraging the teens to draw parallels to their own lives from the dilemmas faced by fictional characters. The highly successful program reduces the recidivism rate to almost half of the norm.

The Johnson County Public Library continually seeks new opportunities to serve its community, and in partnership with community organizations the library has created innovative and exceptional programs, while enhancing its basic services. JCL’s innovation is a natural outgrowth of its staff’s passion for serving its community.





#### **Address:**

**Johnson County Library**  
**Box 2901**  
**Shawnee Mission, KS 66201**  
**Phone: 913-495-2400**  
**Fax: 913-495-2460**  
**Web site: <http://www.jocolibrary.org>**  
**2005 budget: \$20.3 million**  
**Full-time staff: 188**  
**Part-time staff: 198**  
**Director: Mona Carmack**

#### **Community Partners**

Six area school districts; local chambers of commerce; hospitals; universities; residential care facilities; detention centers; senior centers; youth centers; and preschools. Other metro-wide organizations include Kauffman Foundation; Kansas City Public Television; Heart of America Family Services; Mid-America Regional Council; El Centro; and the United Way. Other government and nonprofit organizations include Department of Public Health; United Community Services; District Attorney's Office; the Department of Corrections; The Writers Place; Midwest Center for the Literary Arts; Johnson County Community College; Ethnic Enrichment Commission; and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

# 08 Levine Museum of the New South

## Charlotte, North Carolina

**Active engagement in Charlotte's civic life is the hallmark of the Levine Museum of the New South. Serving the increasingly diverse metropolitan region of Charlotte and surrounding Mecklenburg County in North Carolina, the museum is committed to using history to build community. It considers itself the community's "front porch" for people of different backgrounds to come together to share their stories. Through the process of story sharing, the museum seeks to provide historical context for contemporary issues, raise important questions, spark community dialog, and build trust among culturally diverse people.**

In 2004, the museum initiated an exhibition and series of discussions that were a level beyond what Charlotte had previously known as community-building. "Courage: The Carolina Story That Changed America" had three components: a six-month, 3,500-square-foot exhibit on the 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*; nine months of public programming, including the premiere of a documentary film that was later broadcast on public television throughout the Carolinas; and facilitated discussions for community leaders, called "Conversations on Courage."

The issue of school desegregation brought back emotional memories for many of the 26,750 visitors to the exhibit, and it reminded them there is much to be done to deal with contemporary issues of equity, access, and inclusion. One visitor recalled his mother forbidding him to use the newly integrated public swimming pool. He said,

"It's interesting to me in retrospect that she never tried to explain why. It's as if somehow she knew that whatever she said about race would not fit with what I was learning at Sunday school." The exhibit prompted an African-American visitor to remember: "I was in second grade when my mother explained that I'd be changing schools and referred to Dr. King and the role I'd be playing in his work. Then in high school, I was one of seven black students in a school of 1,100. It was tough."

While the exhibit and programming garnered enthusiastic reviews from visitors, national news outlets, and even the U.S. State Department, the "Conversations on Courage" had an even deeper impact on its participants. The need for the series was underscored by a recent national survey that had, placed Charlotte toward the bottom of a list of 40 communities on the issue of trust among different racial groups. Developed in partnership with Charlotte's Community Building Initiative and funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the discussion series was designed to inform existing management teams from business, government, and non-profits about the struggle for school desegregation. The dialog series used the exhibit as a catalyst for discussion.

The original target of 750 participants was surpassed in the first four months of the dialog program. By the end of the exhibit's Charlotte run, "Conversations" had attracted 111 groups of more than 1,700 community leaders in the corporate, education, nonprofit, and government sectors. After the discussion, participants generally noted a



climate change in their organizations and a new willingness to discuss race and other sensitive issues. Most participants asked that further steps be taken by their organizations to address issues of racism and segregation, and some teams are continuing to work on the issue in their offices. The Wachovia Corporation, one of Charlotte's major employers, used the experience as a core part of its diversity training.

The Levine Museum has become an important catalyst for change in Charlotte. It dares to explore difficult subjects that other organizations find easier to leave untouched. With its "Courage" exhibit and dialog series, the Levine Museum helped bring a divided community a leap closer.

#### **Address**

**Levine Museum of the New South**

**200 East 7th Street**

**Charlotte, NC 28202**

**Phone: 704-333-1887**

**Fax: 704-333-1896**

**Web site: <http://www.museumofthenewsouth.org>**

**Annual budget: \$1.63 million**

**Full-time staff: 20**

**Part-time staff: 3**

**Director: Emily Zimmern**

#### **Community partners**

**Community Building Initiative; Wachovia Corporation;**

**Charlotte Symphony Orchestra; Latin American**

**Coalition; Charlotte Woman of the Year Committee;**

**Catawba Lands Conservancy; UNC Charlotte; and WTVI.**

# 10 Mathews Memorial Library

## Mathews, Virginia

**Mathews Memorial Library serves a small, relatively isolated community in Virginia on a peninsula sandwiched between Mobjack Bay and the Chesapeake Bay. The population of just over 9,000 has remained relatively stable over the past four or five decades. The demographics have shifted, however, to reflect a growing number of people over the age of 55. They now make up 35 percent of the total population. The growth of the area as a retirement community has added tremendously to the cultural enrichment of Mathews, but it has generally diminished opportunities for creating economic growth.**

Once, most of the wage-earners of Mathews County were self-employed watermen who for generations made a living by fishing, crabbing, and oystering on the Chesapeake Bay. This way of life is waning with the decline of seafood and oyster harvests from the bay. While younger residents are seeking work ashore, the county has slim offerings: limited retail, no major medical facilities, and only one small industry.

The tension between the need for economic development and the desire to preserve the environment, the culture, and the long history of the area has never been greater in rural Mathews County. It has been a motivation for the small public library to become the community's informational, recreational, and cultural center, a place where diverse segments of the community can come for programs that offer learning for a lifetime.

The Mathews Memorial Library has been a catalyst for developing a population of readers with strong literacy and computer skills. Its computer training

program was formed with the nonprofit group, TechRiders to help adults acquire basic computer skills. An array of classes is offered each month, ranging from basic computer workshops to advanced Internet searching. The classes enable many patrons to participate for the first time in the world of electronic communication. Classes also teach proficiency in skill areas that are critical for jobs in today's market.

Reading programs abound for all age groups and proficiency levels. The library works with local physicians to provide new mothers with packets on the importance of reading that include tips, suggested titles, a library card, and a voucher for the classic *Goodnight Moon*. The library also organizes "Read It Mathews," the community-wide book read, with funding from Wal-Mart to distribute books to civic and social organizations. The annual event involves book discussions and a visit from the author. This year's title is *Waterfront Property*, a book that examines the issue of land development and preservation.

The library's Summer Youth Programs are popular themed events that last the month of July. Last year's "The Sky's the Limit" program provided young participants with the opportunity to talk with an astronaut, hear from an astronomer, visit an air and space museum, and build kites that were flown the final day of the program. Last year more than 100 children attended the sessions each Tuesday through Friday.

The library's enrichment programs have made a big impact on users. The library offers monthly music



programs using the resources of its collection and the talent in the community. Performances have ranged from chamber music to jazz to folk singing, and have provided residents a chance to learn about a variety of musical forms. The library's recent five-week series on enjoying classical music has been so popular, the library has been asked to present it in other communities. Mathews Memorial Library's "Voyage through Time" series taps into the wealth of community history. The series has enabled residents to celebrate the tercentennial of the New Point Lighthouse, to hear stories by older mariners and fishermen as part of an oral history project; and to view an exhibit based on information about African-American churches in Mathews County.

The challenges facing the community of Mathews County are many, but so are the opportunities. The Mathews Memorial Library sees its role as central to the goal of creating a thriving community, and area residents have taken notice. One involved citizen called it "the best little library in Virginia."

#### **Address**

**Mathews Memorial Library**

**P.O. Box 980**

**Mathews, VA 23109**

**Phone: 804-725-5747**

**Fax: 804-725-7668**

**Web site: <http://www.mathewslibrary.org>**

**Annual budget: \$187,496**

**Full-time staff: 3**

**Part-time staff: 5**

**Director: Bette H. Dillehay**

#### **Community partners**

**Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library; Mathews County Historical Society; Bay School Cultural Arts Center; and TechRiders (a nonprofit that provides computer training).**

# 12 Pratt Museum

## Homer, Alaska

**The Pratt Museum of Homer in south central Alaska belongs to the people of its community in a very palpable way. Exhibits and programs give voice to community perspectives of the 12,000 regional residents and, at the same time, provide regional interpretation for the 30,000 annual visitors. As change descends on a place that is still wild and still provides for its people through bountiful natural resources, the museum has found meaning by involving members of the community.**

Kachemak Bay is home to culturally diverse coastal communities that make their living from the sea. Alaska is undergoing changes that occurred elsewhere in the United States generations ago when traditional ways of life and wild spaces vanished. Because Alaska is so vast and recently settled by non-natives, it has a relatively intact landscape, indigenous culture, and subsistence lifestyle. Living cultures in Kachemak Bay have not lost connection to tradition. Fishing and marine harvesting are still vital enterprises in the ecologically rich region, but the bounty provided the sea and land is declining.

Through its long-term community-based project, “Kachemak Bay, Alaska: An Exploration of People and Place,” the Pratt has a comprehensive plan for exhibits and public programming. It is one that makes community members co-developers of exhibits that answer critical questions of self and place. The master exhibition plan is story-centered and co-developed with the community rather than object-centered and curator-driven. The flexible approach allows the museum to make the most of its small museum spaces, to interpret and display collections in endless combinations of different community views, and to respond to current issues through distinctive programs.

The Pratt Museum has worked for years to reach out and build trust with Native villages around Kachemak Bay. The museum’s biennial Labor Day weekend of sharing, “Tamamta Katurlluta—A Gathering of Native Tradition,” symbolizes the arrival of visitors and returning hunters. A collaboration with numerous Native villages and Native corporations, the event features welcoming dancers and a blessing for incoming boats and hunters, an inclusive potluck dinner, traditional skill demonstrations with Native Youth Olympians, exhibitions of Native art, storytelling, plays, and performances.

The Pratt’s series of community-based videos are another way the people of the area participate in museum-making. With a small budget, a participatory process, and an open mind for the direction of the final product, the museum loosely guides the development of these videos, which are presented throughout the museum’s exhibits. Examples include “Rich and Simple Life,” about the homestead life of Ruth Kilcher revealed by readings of her diary and memories of her eight children; and “Bringing The Stories Back,” about the remembrances of Alutiiq ancestral homes on the outer coast of the Kenai Peninsula. The newest video, “Kiputmen Naukurlurpet—Let It Grow Back,” was developed with elders and youth from the Native village of Port Graham who discussed their Alutiiq Sugpiaq language. They described how their language was taken away and how it is currently used in the village.

While roughly 3,500 schoolchildren benefit from the Pratt’s education programs during scheduled tours, some students are able to have in-depth experiences through programs such as Pratt’s high school



internships, Summer Adventure Program, or WHIZ Kids. Four to six high school students are provided summer internships that include field research projects, mentorship programs, part-time museum interpreter positions, and work with the museum's digital video-editing technology. Middle school students can attend the Pratt's free Summer Adventure Program and create sculptural pieces for the Forest Ecology Trail, learn to give guided tours, and manipulate the museum's "SeeBirdCam" technology. The museum also invites elementary and pre-school aged students and their families to winter afternoon WHIZ Kids sessions for a wide variety of arts and academic projects.

Permeating its many community-based programs and exhibits is an invitation by the Pratt Museum to make connections between worlds—human and nonhuman, land and sea, native and non-native, scientific and spiritual. The museum asks its visitors to stop, listen, reflect, and think in new ways, and be moved to fully participate in community life.

#### **Address**

**Pratt Museum**  
**3779 Bartlett Street**  
**Homer, AK 99603**  
**Phone: 907-235-8635**  
**Fax: 907-235-2764**  
**Web site: <http://www.prattmuseum.org>**  
**Annual budget: \$510,000**  
**Full-time staff: 54**  
**Part-time staff: 12–20**  
**Director: Heather Beggs**

#### **Community partners:**

**Native communities of Kachemak Bay; Kachemak Bay Educational Alliance; Kachemak Bay Research Reserve; Alaska National Wildlife Refuge; Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies; Kenai Peninsula College; Kachemak Heritage Land Trust; Homer Council on the Arts; Cook Inlet Keeper; the City of Homer, public library; local radio station; and local primary and secondary schools.**

# 14 Saint Paul Public Library

## Saint Paul, Minnesota

**The residents of Saint Paul, Minnesota love their library. As the city puts together its budget each year, library patrons by the score let the mayor's office and city council know that library service is important to them.**

The three million people of the Twin Cities metro area have great cause for their strong support of the institution. As the city has experienced tremendous demographic changes in the last two decades, the Saint Paul library system, with its central library, 12 neighborhood branches, bookmobile, and electronic presence, has learned to anticipate and respond to the community's needs, serving the populace in all its diversity.

Once a city of European heritage, with a small but long-standing African-American community, Saint Paul is now 30 percent non-white, with significant Hmong, other Southeast Asian, Chicano, and Somali populations. Saint Paul has the largest Hmong population of any city in the world. In recent years, the Saint Paul Public Library has emphasized serving the underserved, which includes the recent immigrants, but also a host of other individuals and communities. Along with its service to teens, seniors, small-business owners, and the deaf and hard-of-hearing, the library aims to be the doorway to reading and information for people of all ages and backgrounds.

The library's strong commitment to community and outreach stretches across a broad range of initiatives and services. School children are a special focus for several library programs. The system's five Homework Centers target teens in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods of Saint

Paul. With computer stations, on-site tutors, and welcoming furniture and surroundings, the Homework Centers have a three-year track record of academic improvement. The library's "Read With Me" program is a critical part of the citywide effort to improve literacy. All branches offer first, second and third graders a chance to be paired with a tutor for an hour of one-on-one help. In partnership with the Saint Paul Public Schools, the library also supports the "Saint Paul Reads" program, which encourages all schoolchildren to read at least 25 books each year.

The library's adult programming served more than 8,000 people last year through more than 100 programs. Mostly conducted by the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library professional staff, the programs include annual series such as the Chicano and Latino Writers Festival, the Twin Cities Jewish Book Festival, and the Fireside Literary Series. Examples of other programs abound, including an innovative project from 2001–2003 in which four professional writers worked in every branch to collect stories. From the stories, the writers wrote their own fictional pieces which were edited and published in book format.

A strong indicator of Saint Paul Library's success is its ability to raise public and private funding to improve existing facilities or build new facilities to serve its constituents. In the last ten years, all of the library's 14 facilities have been updated and made handicapped accessible, including a \$19 million renovation to the historic 1917 central library. Two of the poorest city neighborhoods will have new





branches by 2006. The Dayton's Bluff Branch Library, opened in 2004, is a model of community innovation. It is a public library branch tucked within the new library of the Metropolitan State University. The public library portion focuses on services to children and families, but the resources of both libraries are open to the public. The Rondo Community Outreach Library will be another national model of innovation. It is a public/private partnership, with the city constructing the library's largest branch on the first floor, while private developers construct three floors of community housing above.

In partnership with The Friends group, the Saint Paul Library has invested in a diverse array of community partnerships and has built funding support through public and private venues. The result is a system that delivers more books and materials (a 50 percent increase in the last five years), has more on-site visitors (a 31 percent increase), receives thousands more Web site hits, and has more Saint Paulites opening a book for fun, information, and learning.

#### Address

**Saint Paul Public Library**

**90 West Fourth Street**

**Saint Paul, MN 55102**

**Phone: 651-266-7000**

**Fax: 651-266-7060**

**Web site: <http://www.sppl.org>**

**Annual budget: \$17.6 million**

**Full-time staff: 113**

**Part-time staff: 110**

**Director: Kathleen Flynn**

#### Community partners

**The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library; Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium; businesses and corporations; schools and colleges; labor organizations; arts and cultural groups; foundations; and others. A sample: Minnesota Children's Museum; Metropolitan State University; the Saint Paul Trades and Labor Assembly; Wells Fargo; COMPAS Artwork; Saint Paul Jaycees; Ramsey County Department of Health; Hubbard Broadcasting; Pioneer Press; and Minnesota Historical Society.**

# 16 Previous Winners

## 2004

**Chicago Botanic Garden**, Chicago, Illinois  
**Flint Public Library**, Flint, Michigan  
**Mayagüez Children's Library, Inc.**, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico  
**The Regional Academic Health Center Medical Library of the University of Texas Health Science Center**, San Antonio, Texas  
**Western Folklife Center, Inc.**, Elko, Nevada  
**Zoological Society of San Diego**, San Diego, California

## 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**, Bonners 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



IMLS gratefully acknowledges the contribution of 3M Library Systems

# About the Institute

An independent grant-making agency of the federal government, the Institute of Museum and Library Services has a defined, focused mission: to lead the effort to create and sustain a “nation of learners.”

Libraries and museums help create vibrant, energized learning communities. Our achievement as individuals and our success as a democratic society depend on learning continually, adapting to change readily, and evaluating information critically.

As stewards of cultural heritage, information, and ideas, museums and libraries have traditionally played a vital role in helping us experience, explore, discover, and make sense of the world. That role is now more essential than ever. Through building technological infrastructure and strengthening community relationships, libraries and museums can offer the public unprecedented access and expertise in transforming information overload into knowledge.

Our role at the Institute is to provide leadership and funding for the nation’s museums and libraries, resources these institutions need to fulfill their mission of becoming centers of learning for life crucial to achieving personal fulfillment, a productive workforce and an engaged citizenry.

## **National Museum and Library Services Board**

The National Museum and Library Services Board consists of 24 individuals and is currently chaired by the acting director of the Institute. The President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints 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.

## **Chairperson**

**Mary L. Chute**, Acting Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services

## **Members**

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*\*nonvoting member*

## **Contact Info**

To learn more about the Institute, please visit

**[www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov)**

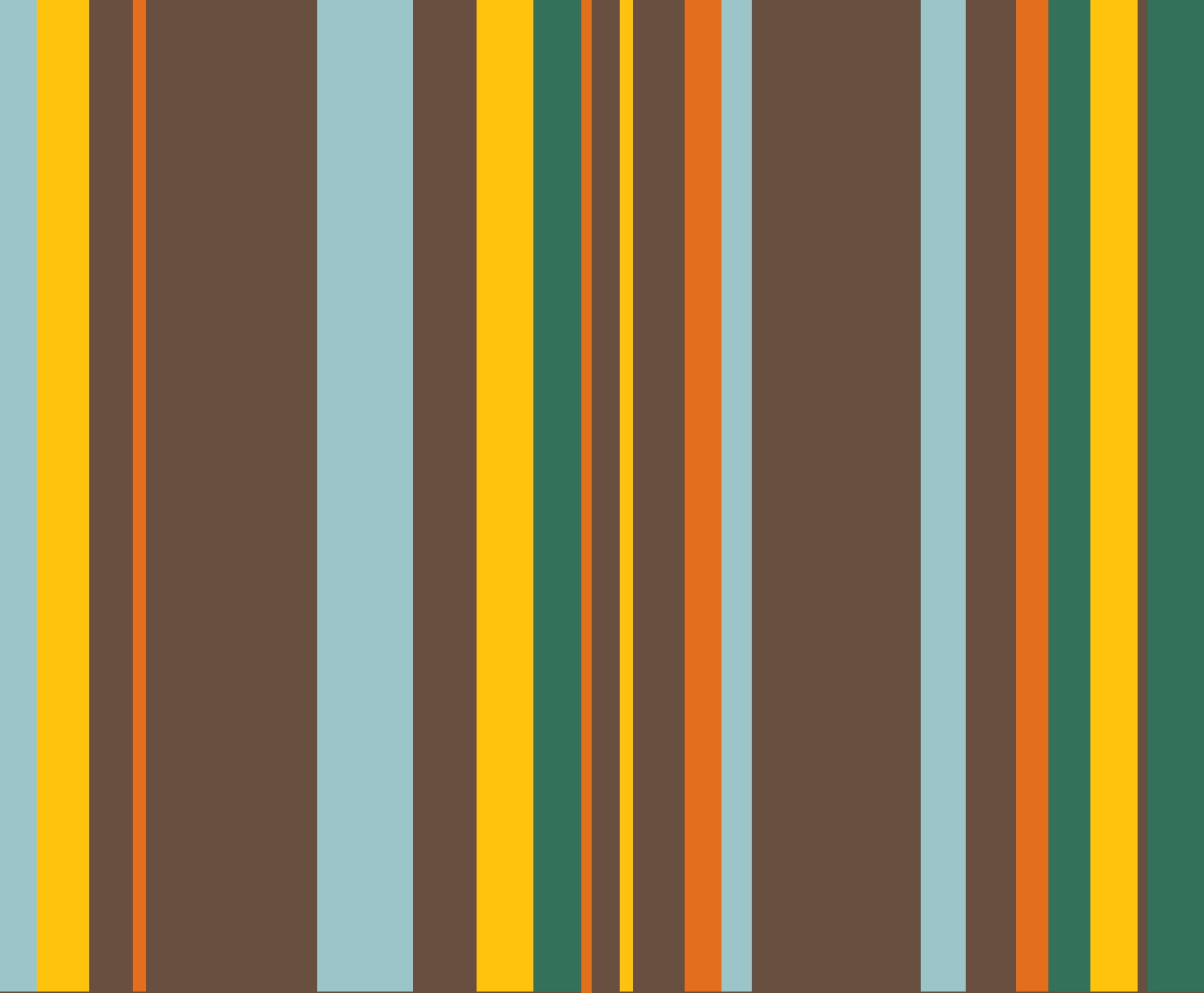
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