



2008

National Medal for Museum and Library Service



INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

1800 M Street NW, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
202-653-IMLS (4657)
www.ims.gov

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Produced by: the Office of Policy, Planning, Research
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Author: Katherine Bowen with contributions from Jeannine Mjoseh

Editor: Kevin O'Connell

Graphic Design: Ellen Arnold



“Congratulations to the winners of the 2008 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The programs and services they provide are very important to the nation and to the communities they serve. These outstanding libraries and museums have enriched the lives of their patrons by helping them expand their knowledge and explore their imaginations.”

—Mrs. Laura Bush

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From the Director



It is with great pride that we award this year's National Medals for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums that help make their communities better places to live.

The ten institutions we honor serve communities from Dorado, Puerto Rico, to Skokie, Illinois; from New York City to Cody, Wyoming. They are in large cities and tiny towns, with users of all ages. They include art museums, history museums, science centers, and public libraries. But they share the common bond of having achieved extraordinary success at reaching out to the communities they serve and meeting the unique needs of the members of those 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 2008 National Medals for Museum and Library Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne-Imelda M. Radice". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director

Institute of Museum and Library Services

IMLS would like to thank the following organizations for their generous support of the National Medals celebration:



Americans for the Arts

**Hollinger/Metal Edge, Inc.
Archival Storage Materials**

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02 Buffalo Bill Historical Center

Cody, WY

Buffalo Bill Cody was one of the most famous men of his time, and he earned his nickname as a prolific buffalo hunter for the Kansas Pacific Railroad. But he was equally well known for his exploits as an army scout, an entrepreneur, and, of course, as the proprietor and star of the Buffalo Bill Wild West shows. Buffalo Bill also founded the city of Cody, Wyoming, now home of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, which examines and interprets the life of this legendary figure, the times in which he lived, and the art and history of the Old West. Operating as seven distinct institutions—the Buffalo Bill Museum, the Cody Firearms Museum, the Draper Museum of Natural History, the Plains Indian Museum, the Whitney Gallery of Western Art, the McCracken Research Library, and the Cody Institute for Western American Studies—the center contains 35,000 artifacts, 20,000 books, and more than 500,000 photographs, all of which are available for study and appreciation by the 200,000 people who visit the center each year.

The center's Museum Adventures project brings together the five on-site museums to offer programming that meets the needs of students in isolated communities who have little or no access to the arts and humanities. Participants in the adventures program can attend the American Indian Heritage Celebration, which features Plains Indian art and history as interpreted by Plains artists, storytellers, dancers, and musicians; celebrate Buffalo Bill's birthday and see what life was like when he was alive; or enjoy the Cowboy Songs & Range Ballads weekend to learn more about western heritage through stories and songs.

Visitors to the center are invited to participate in Lunchtime Expeditions, hosted monthly from May through December by the Draper Museum of Natural History. This free series of public programs explores natural resources and history, as well as conservation, management, and other issues affecting the Greater Yellowstone region's ecosystem. Recent topics have included the status of elk populations in the Absaroka Mountains and an update on the area wolf population. The program regularly attracts capacity crowds.

All visitors, young and old, are encouraged to attend the Plains Indian Museum Powwow, which has been an annual event for the past 27 years. The Powwow attracts more than 5,000 visitors from around the globe and lasts for two days in the Robbie Powwow Garden on the grounds of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Attendees are invited to sit in on informal classes on the traditions of powwow—including clothing, dancing, and etiquette—and also learn about contemporary issues facing Indian tribes across the United States.

During the dark days of winter, the center hosts Fourth Friday, a free event that provides area residents an opportunity to see their friends, enjoy entertainment, explore one of the five museums, and attend educational programming presented by the center's curatorial staff. Fourth Friday events happen in January, February, and March, and attract, on average, 500 participants each month.

The Buffalo Bill Historical Center can attribute its success to a number of things, including its creative programming, its



educational outreach, and its connection to the Cody community. But it is the diversity of the center's institutions and the opportunities that visitors have to make their experience at the center their own that are truly unique.

Address

Buffalo Bill Historical Center
720 Sheridan Avenue
Cody, WY 82414

Web site: www.bbhc.org

Phone: 307-587-4771

Annual Budget: \$9,400,000

Full-time Staff: 95

Part-time Staff: 28

Director: Bruce B. Eldredge

Community Partners

American Heritage Center, Big Horn Radio Network, City of Cody, Code of the West Foundation, Cody Country Chamber of Commerce, Corral West Ranchwear, Inc., First National Bank & Trust, Marathon Oil Company, Northwest College, Park County School District #6, Park County Travel Council, Pinnacle Bank, Sinclair Oil Corporation, University of Wyoming, Wells Fargo, Wind River Indian Reservation, Wyoming Arts Council, Wyoming Community Foundation, Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Wyoming Humanities Council, and Xanterra Parks & Resorts.

Left: Visitors view American bison, photo by Sean Campbell.
Center: Building exterior.
Right: Cowboy musician Otto Rosfeld entertains school children during the 25th Anniversary of Cowboy Songs and Range Ballads.

04 The Franklin Institute

Philadelphia, PA

Founded in 1824 and dedicated to the same spirit of discovery and inquiry as its namesake, Benjamin Franklin, The Franklin Institute has a distinct reputation, both nationally and internationally, as a premier science center. Over the years, The Franklin Institute has evolved and flourished, while always remaining true to its mission of instilling in its visitors a passion for learning about science and technology through interactive exhibits, educational programs, and outreach.

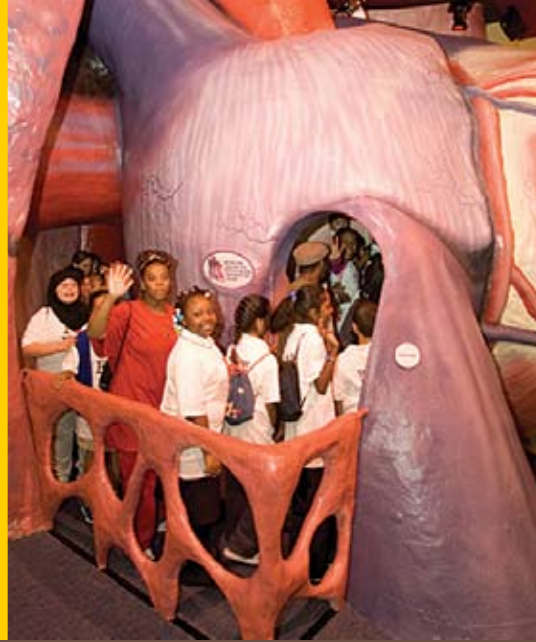
The Franklin Institute is comprised of three centers, the first being the museum, which opened in 1934. As the institute's flagship, the museum develops, maintains, and presents interactive and interesting exhibits and programs for visitors of all ages and backgrounds. Last year, the museum welcomed 1.75 million visitors, making it Pennsylvania's most popular museum. With 1.3 million visitors, the museum's *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs* was the most visited special exhibition in the world in 2007.

Dedicated to community service, the Franklin's museum admits 30,000 schoolchildren to the institute for free, with hundreds of thousands more admitted at substantially reduced costs. Another outreach initiative tailored to economically challenged families is the Community Nights program, which occurs one Wednesday night each month. People participating in the program are invited to stay in the museum after hours and are able to attend special activities and educational programs. Twenty thousand kids and families have attended the program since its inception in 2006, and partnerships with urban radio stations,

community-based organizations, and church groups have helped to make Community Nights a great success.

The Franklin Center, the second of the three components of the institute, is the overseer of The Franklin Institute's historical collections, the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, *The Journal of the Franklin Institute*, and the internationally recognized Awards Program, which is one of the oldest and most prestigious comprehensive science and technology awards programs in the world. Pre-dating the Nobel Prize by more than half a century, the winners of the award are a veritable "Who's Who" of notable scientists from the past two centuries, and include Albert Einstein, Alexander Graham Bell, and Pierre and Marie Curie.

The third component is the Center for Innovation in Science Learning (CISL). CISL is a nationally renowned science learning research and program development center that touches the lives of thousands of visitors with its programs each year. Two of CISL's major community commitments are its Science Leadership Academy, an innovative magnet high school created in partnership with the City of Philadelphia; and the Partnerships for Achieving Careers in Technology and Science (PACTS) program. PACTS is a signature initiative geared to young people and created to inspire more students to pursue education and careers in science and technology. Every year, PACTS enrolls 100 underserved grade-school students from the Philadelphia area in afterschool and summer-based science education programming, and serves 1,500 more students through outreach projects and weekend workshops. Upon the completion of a recent formal



evaluation of the initiative, previous PACTS participants revealed that their involvement in the program inspired them to go to college and helped them choose a career path.

With a museum, a learning center, and a world-renowned award to its name, The Franklin Institute is well equipped to educate and inspire future generations of scientists, as it has been doing for nearly two centuries.

Address

The Franklin Institute
 222 North 20th Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Web site: www.fi.edu

Phone: 215-448-1104

Annual Budget: \$26,686,800

Full-time Staff: 166

Part-time Staff: 231

Director: Dennis M. Wint, Ph.D

Community Partners

The School District of Philadelphia, the Free Library of Philadelphia, Girl Scouts of the USA, the African American Museum in Philadelphia, Congreso de Latinos Unidos, the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Falomi Club/Camp Fire USA, the Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation, the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors' Bureau, The Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News, 6ABC, Drexel University, The University of Pennsylvania Museum, and a number of colleges, universities, and school districts.

Left: A child in the "Space Command" exhibit.
Center: Children entering the iconic "Giant Heart" exhibit.

Right: Visitors within The Franklin's Atrium.

06 General Lew Wallace Study and Museum

Crawfordsville, IN

General Lew Wallace is best known as the author of *Ben-Hur*, the best-selling novel of the 19th century. But *Ben-Hur* was just one of Wallace's many notable achievements. He was also a Union general in the Civil War, a military judge at Abraham Lincoln's assassination trial, a statesman, governor, violinist, artist, architect, and inventor. So it is fitting that the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum uses Wallace's illustrious life and accomplishments as a lens through which lessons of leadership, strong character, and lifelong learning can be taught to visitors and the community that it serves.

For almost a century, the grounds, study, and carriage house that made up General Wallace's property were tended by one or two staffers whose jobs were to maintain the site and offer seasonal tours to the public; educational programming was not offered. In 2003, the Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society positioned the property as a place where the community could gather to learn and decided to preserve the study and the artifacts therein, clean up the grounds, and restore the carriage house as the museum's Interpretive Center.

The Carriage House Interpretive Center features an education room, a changing exhibit gallery, and a collections storage vault. In 2007, the museum's programming theme was the Wallace Women (a nod to Wallace's stepmother, an active suffragist; and Wallace's wife, a notable author). The Carriage House held programs, including the Brown Bag Book Club series and the Women Making a Difference Symposium, and served as the starting point for the Women's Suffrage Walking Tour. These programs gave visitors a

chance to delve into the history of the suffragist movement and learn about the issues facing women at the turn of the century.

The cornerstone of educational programming for school-aged children at the institution is the Lew Wallace Youth Academy. Established in 2005 for middle school students interested in history, the academy incorporates Wallace's life story into lessons in problem solving, creating art, and serving others. Area schools preselect about half of the admitted students, and participants are taught by local professionals, scholars, historians, and college professors. Upon completion of their studies, students participate in a formal graduation ceremony attended by their families and friends.

With great strides made in its educational programming, the museum felt that it was time to institute an initiative that gave the rest of the community an invested interest in the estate and the museum. In 2007, the institution hosted its first annual Taste of Montgomery County event to help raise funds for the study and museum's operating budget. The daylong festival held on the museum grounds drew 2,000 attendees and featured restaurants and caterers from around the county. The event attracted great corporate sponsorship, created an economic engine for small businesses in the Montgomery County area, and brought new people to the museum's campus to celebrate local food and music.

That same year, the museum participated in a public forum called "Build a Better Downtown," which asked that participants voice their concerns about, and ideas for, community revitalization that local institutions then tried to address. The museum became



engaged in the initiatives that were developed as a result of this forum and, through its involvement, hopes to ensure long-range support for the museum's services.

Through exceptional educational programming; collaborations with local and state organizations, including colleges, service organizations, and tourism groups; and community development opportunities, the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum fulfills its mission to "celebrate and renew belief in the power of the individual spirit to affect American history and culture."

Address

General Lew Wallace Study and Museum
200 Wallace Avenue
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Web site: www.ben-hur.com

Phone: 765-362-5769

Annual Budget: \$120,000

Full-time Staff: 2

Part-time Staff: 2

Director: Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko

Community Partners

Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society, League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Wabash College, Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Crawfordsville Main Street, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Indiana Historical Society, Montgomery County Community Foundation, Montgomery County Historical Society, Montgomery County Cultural Foundation, Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County, Crawfordsville District Public Library, public and private school systems, numerous civic groups that support programming each year, and the area colleges and universities that use the museum as a learning lab for students and interns.

Left: A Youth Academy participant.
Center: Students partake in a matching activity during a tour of the study.
Right: Study and museum grounds.

08 Jane Stern Dorado Community Library

Dorado, PR

When Jane Stern moved from New York City to the tropical island of Puerto Rico in 1963, she was already an established community activist. Her social activism continued in Puerto Rico, and after being instrumental in founding the Mayaguez and Ponce League of Women Voters, Jane set her sights on creating the first community library in the territory. On February 4, 1974, the Jane Stern Dorado Community Library (JSDCL) opened to the public in the small town of Dorado, established by Stern and 19 other families in Dorado who wanted to offer their community a place to read, learn, and interact.

The JSDCL operates as its own entity and is an outstanding example of what can be accomplished when responsibilities are shared with the community, the private sector, and the government, both state and municipal. Goals set forth by the library include engaging the population in activities and services, matching resources to users, offering education and training, and providing diverse materials for the community's education and enjoyment.

The JSDCL strives to engage the population in activities and services, match resources to users, offer education and training, and provide diverse materials for the community's education and enjoyment. To engage local youth in reading and other activities at the library, JSDCL offers the Story Hour Program. The initiative, which invites authors and special guests to read books to the participants, draws groups of at least 60 children to the

library each week from private and public elementary schools, and includes clowns and other live entertainment as part of the program. Summer workshops for kids include classes on art, photography, Tae Kwon Do, and the importance of ethical behavior. In addition to programs for the school-aged population of Dorado, the library reaches out to senior citizens in the community through a variety of initiatives, including yoga and computer literacy courses.

While the library does a great deal to strengthen the community that it directly serves, it has also been the strongest proponent for the creation of community libraries throughout the island of Puerto Rico. In 1987, after the neighboring city of San Juan had seen all of the good work done by JSDCL, the library was asked to help institute a community library in San Juan. The San Juan Rotary Club and the Jane Stern Dorado Community Library created a formal partnership called Libraries for Literacy to establish community libraries throughout Puerto Rico. As of 2007, seven new community libraries have been built, courtesy of Libraries for Literacy.

Founded as the only community library in Puerto Rico just 34 years ago, with just 100 books and 19 members to its name, the Jane Stern Dorado Community Library has become the heart of its community, connecting people—young and old—to books, programming, and one another.



Address

The Jane Stern Dorado Community Library
331 Mendez Vigo St.
Dorado, PR 00646

Website: <http://home.coqui.net/jsdcl>

Phone: 787-796-3675

Annual Budget: \$600,000

Full-time Staff: 2

Part-time Staff: 7

Director: Mrs. Elinette González Aguayo

Community Partners

Abbot, Angel Ramos Foundation, Banco Popular Foundation, Bill and Helen Braddock, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Coyne Family, Cutler Hammer, Danosa Caribbean, Doral Financial, DuPont, Efron Foundation, El Nuevo Día, Emerson, ESSO, FirstBank, Fred and Marian Jenks, Hermanos Meléndez Hospital, Hill Construction, Jim and Barbara Cimino Foundation, Johnson & Johnson, Lederle, Libraries for Literacy, Marilyn Whitney, Matosantos Commercial, McNeil Pharmaceutical, Medic-Rec Foundation, Monte and Rita Goldman, Municipality of Dorado, Newcomers Club, Owen Illinois, Pepsi Cola, Peter Alfond Foundation, Phileona Foundation, Plaza Cellars, Procter & Gamble, Resort Homes at Dorado Beach, San Juan Rotary Club, Sterling Products, Sydney Goldberg, TASIS Dorado, Toppel Foundation, Triple-S, United Way, WOSO Radio, and countless others.

Left: Senior citizen computer class.

Center: Folkloric dancers perform at the library.

Right: Children from the arts and crafts class display their projects.

10 Kansas City Public Library

Kansas City, MO

A champion of literacy, community, and education, the Kansas City Public Library (KCPL) has established itself as an institution committed to offering programs and materials that speak to all ages, races, and genders, thereby providing the community of greater Kansas City, Missouri, with much more than a place to borrow a book. Founded in 1873, an eight-dollar bookcase and a set of encyclopedias its only holdings, KCPL has grown into 10 locations—including its newest and largest facilities, the Central Library and the Plaza Branch—that operate 64 hours per week, with an annual circulation of nearly 2.6 million books and other materials.

Creating and fine-tuning programming for its diverse population of patrons is of the utmost importance to KCPL. To fulfill this goal, the library conducts annual community needs surveys, solicits feedback as part of interactions with its customers, and partners with a diverse array of stakeholders ranging from homeschoolers to homeless shelters. Community members, in turn, feel comfortable approaching library staff with ideas and concerns, which the library is then happy to address.

For children, KCPL's programming includes the Books to Go project, which delivers books monthly to more than 7,000 preschool-aged children through Head Start programs and other similar venues. Once Upon a Time, an interactive exhibit presented at the Central Library in winter 2008, brought to life fairy tales from around the world (including Lon Po Po and Beauty and the Beast) through kid-sized activity areas that encourage imaginative play by allowing participants to dress like the characters in the stories.

More than 30 percent of the Kansas City population is African American, and the library strives to institute programs that delve into the African American experience for the benefit and education of all Kansas City area residents. One such program is Imaging Blackness, an Indiana University Black Film Center/Archive exhibit of 43 film posters from 1915 to 2002 that tracks the representation of African Americans in film.

Adhering to what it describes as a “liberal arts–type” philosophy, KCPL offers its constituents programs that reinforce the idea of lifelong learning through an extensive menu of monthly events featuring presentations by historians, novelists, economists, and journalists. A leading example of this programming is the library's focus on examining American history by hosting scholarly forums, public dialogues with reenactors, and panel discussions. Attendees are then asked to reflect on the presentations and bring up any questions or concerns for discussion.

The library also takes great pride in its offerings of wireless Internet access and computer competency courses in its effort to help all of its constituents remain connected. Classes range from e-mail basics to advanced computing tips, and are open to any interested persons at a number of locations. KCPL's Web site is another important part of its technological offerings and provides constant access to historical materials, newspapers, periodicals, and fiction and poetry databases.

The Kansas City Public Library strives to serve its community by promoting reading, bringing together community cultures,



and bridging the digital divide, and in so doing, has created an ideal place for Kansas City residents to gather, work, play, and learn.

Address

The Kansas City Public Library
14 W. 10th Street
Kansas City, MO 64105

Web site: www.kclibrary.org

Phone: 816-701-3400

Annual Budget: \$17,744,969

Full-time Staff: 144

Part-time Staff: 124

Director: Crosby Kemper III

Community Partners

American Institute of Architects/Kansas City, BkMk Press, Black Archives of Mid-America, Commerce Bank, Cornell Club of Mid-America, The Downtown Council of Kansas City, Friends of the Kansas City Public Library, Hall Center for the Humanities/University of Kansas, Hallmark Cards, Johnson County Library, Kansas City Literary Festival, Kansas City Missouri School District, The Kansas City Star, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, The Latino Writers Collective, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, The National World War I Museum, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Park University, Rainy Day Books, Reading Reptile, Tapei Economic and Cultural Office, Toy and Miniature Museum, Truman Library and Museum, University of Missouri–Kansas City, and The Writer’s Place.

Left: Giant spines featuring classic world literature titles decorate the exterior of the Central Library’s parking garage, photo by Mike Sinclair.
Center: Two readers enjoy a book in the new Children’s Library, photo by Bill Manginelli.
Right: The Central Library’s Kirk Hall hosts events that regularly attract more than 400 people, photo by Matthew Kemp.

12 Lower East Side Tenement Museum

New York, NY

Between 1815 and 1914, more than 30 million immigrants poured into America looking for decent work and a safe place to live. Some 7,000 people from 20 countries made their way to 97 Orchard Street, a New York City tenement. Today, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum recreates homes and stories of tenants who lived in these cramped spaces with stifling ventilation, poor lighting, and lack of privacy. Since 1988, the Tenement Museum has been integral in the education of visitors, from both the United States and abroad, interested in the history of immigrants in America.

The museum, which began as a simple display in 97 Orchard's storefront, takes a unique hands-on approach to connecting visitors to the struggles and triumphs faced by former tenants. Instead of a building filled with artifacts displayed in cases of glass, rooms rented by six families from the 19th and 20th centuries have been recreated from Census records, first-hand accounts, and old photographs. Visitors to the museum are encouraged to interact with the rooms, not simply observe them from a distance. Tour guides give insight into the lives of the immigrant families that lived, and sometimes even worked, in their apartments, and in sharing these personal stories, aim to promote tolerance, give historical perspective, and encourage discussions about the larger issues concerning immigration in the present day.

The Tenement Museum prides itself on its efforts to foster civic engagement, provide services to new immigrants, and promote community development through a number of outreach initiatives. One such program is Shared Journeys, which brings

students from ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and ELL (English Language Learner) classes to the museum free of charge to listen to a costumed reenactor discuss the trials faced by immigrants in 1916 America. Students are then encouraged to discuss their own experiences as recent immigrants. Many find that even though they are almost a century removed from the story the museum tells, it is in many ways much like their own.

Another program geared toward finding a common ground between recent immigrants and people whose ancestors made the journey to America long ago is Kitchen Conversations. After a tour of the museum, participants discuss and share their opinions on current immigration issues facing the United States. This relaxed environment promotes candid and open, yet always respectful, conversations on a potentially controversial topic.

In 2004, the museum provided an invaluable service to recent immigrants with the publication of *The New York Times Guide for Immigrants in New York City*. The guide features current information for immigrants in New York on topics including obtaining green cards, finding apartments, getting jobs, enrolling children in school, protecting their legal rights, utilizing social services available to immigrants, and much more.

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum has had numerous important achievements since its inception in 1988, including its addition to the National Register of Historic Places and its recognition, paired with Ellis Island, as a National Historic Area. These accomplishments complement the museum's creative and interactive tours and programming, which help visitors—approximately



one million in the past 20 years—put a face and a name to a quintessentially American story.

Address

Lower East Side Tenement Museum
108 Orchard Street
New York, NY 10002-3132

Web site: www.tenement.org

Phone: 212-431-0233

Annual Budget: \$5,417,298

Full-time Staff: 39

Part-time Staff: 53

Director: Morris J. Vogel

Community Partners

Downtown Manhattan Community Development Corporation, Fifth Avenue Committee, Henry Street Settlement, Henry Viscardi School, The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, Literacy Assistance Center, Lower East Side Business Improvement District, Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Public School 42, Queens Public Library, Tenants & Neighbors, and United Neighborhood Houses.

Left: The kitchen in the Levine apartment, photo by Battman Studios.
Center: Visitors in one of the apartment hallways, photo by Keiko Niwa.
Right: A student group gets a tour of the museum, photo courtesy Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

14 Miami-Dade Public Library System

Miami, FL

Once upon a time, a little over 100 years ago, the Miami-Dade Public Library System was a small institution serving a tiny community. Today, through initiatives like the Art of Storytelling and its Five-Star Commitment to the community, the library engages its six million annual visitors in programs developed to meet their ever-changing needs.

For a number of years, the Miami-Dade Public Library System surveyed its patrons and consistently received high marks from library goers in the area of customer satisfaction. But the library itself was not satisfied. Instead, it saw these surveys as a chance to reinforce its commitment to Miami-Dade County residents. Thus the Five-Star Commitment to the community was implemented. This commitment promises patrons that each library will have staff that will be ready and willing to lend a hand; provide opportunities for learning; assist visitors in their research efforts; empower patrons with knowledge; and offer an inviting environment in every library location. This promise is proudly displayed on posters in each of the library's locations.

To fulfill the Five-Star Commitment, the library system instituted a variety of programs to address the needs of its diverse constituency, which is 61 percent Hispanic, 18 percent white non-Hispanic, and 20 percent African American. The Art of Storytelling initiative, for example, brings in people of all backgrounds for international library-to-library workshops, storytelling seminars, and an international festival day. In the diverse community of

Miami-Dade County, participants find that the storytelling program brings together families, promotes literacy, and gives them a chance to share their unique cultures with their children and their community.

Kids in the Miami-Dade area are invited to participate in the Science, Math and Reading Tutoring (or S.M.A.R.T.) program, which is a no-cost initiative that pairs students aged 5 to 18 with trained teachers who can help them work through their homework and study for tests on Saturdays throughout the school year. In a partnership with the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, visually impaired and blind children, and kids who have their sight, come together for the annual Make-a-Bookmark Contest. Winners of the contest have their bookmarks printed and distributed by the library system.

Senior citizens are encouraged to take part in the Seniors Telling Stories program, which connects them to college professors who are trained to teach them how to craft and share their personal histories. The seniors then debut their stories as part of the Art of Storytelling festival at their local libraries and community centers.

The Miami-Dade Public Library System is very much aware of its importance to its community. Through its Five-Star Commitment; its programming for library goers of all ethnicities, abilities, and ages; and its emphasis on customer satisfaction, the library is able to remain an essential part of the lives of its patrons.



Address

Miami-Dade Public Library System
101 W. Flagler St.
Miami, FL 33130

Web site: www.mdpls.org

Phone: 305-375-2665

Annual Budget: \$123,224,000

Full-time Staff: 591

Part-time Staff: 263

Director: Raymond Santiago

Community Partners

Bank of America, Citibank, City of Coral Gables, City of Miami Beach, Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, Juvenile Division, 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida, Miami Art Museum, Miami Children’s Museum, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Miami-Dade College, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs, Miami, Miami-Dade Public Library Foundation, Miami Dolphins’ Foundation, Rotary International, Urban Libraries Council, Miami-Dade County Community Action Agency, Town of Miami Lakes, and Village of Key Biscayne.

Left: Central library building exterior.
Center: Young patrons visit the craft corner during the annual Art of Storytelling Festival
Right: Celebrating the spirit of Colombia with traditional dances during the festival.

16 Norton Museum of Art

West Palm Beach, FL

Students who participate in the Norton Museum of Art's seven-week summer internship program love coming to work on Monday mornings. Each week offers enriching experiences designed to expose the 10 high school, college, and grad school interns to myriad museum career paths. In an average week, the interns might build a cell phone tour of an exhibit, create and distribute press kits, and take field trips to artist, collector, and conservator studios. And sometimes they come back to work in the museum. Carolyn Sickles, the museum's Assistant Curator of Education for Family and Outreach Programs, now runs the internship program she participated in 10 years ago.

This program is just one of the Norton Museum's many efforts to reach out to the community it serves. Another program that connects the museum to its audience is the Progressive Afterschool Art Community Education (PACE) program, which provides 750 students in underserved populations the chance to participate in free, first-rate arts education. Students enrolled in PACE are given tours of the museum and are exposed to the visual arts by experienced teachers and visiting artists. As the only free year-round afterschool arts program in Palm Beach County, PACE offers students approximately 25,000 hours of contact time with instructors annually.

With arts education for children and young adults a priority, the Norton established a partnership with the Palm Beach County School District. The partnership was forged to address the startling findings of a study by the Robert and Mary Pew Fund and Florida Atlantic University that only \$1.50 is set aside for arts

programs for every elementary-aged student in Palm Beach County, and no money is specifically designated for middle or high school students. Through this partnership, the museum works to fill the void in Palm Beach County's arts programming by offering tours of the museum, hosting professional development days, running teacher orientations, and exhibiting student artwork. Programs run by the Norton are offered gratis to the school system and make up 25 percent of all arts education programming in Palm Beach County schools.

For the enjoyment and education of all museum patrons, the Norton curates and presents exhibits that highlight art from various countries and cultures. *Spain in the Age of Exploration* and *In the Hands of African American Collectors: The Personal Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey* were two such exhibitions that facilitated greater outreach to the Hispanic and African American communities in West Palm Beach.

The Norton has also bolstered its African American art holdings, spending half of its acquisition budget over the past eight years to develop its African American collections. Recently, the museum showcased these works in an exhibit called *Highlights: African American Art from the Norton Collection*. In conjunction with *In the Hands of African American Collectors*, *Highlights* was promoted by two committees made up of community leaders and shared with area residents through a Community Day, cell phone tours, a Web brochure, and a 20-page *Newspapers in Education* supplement. Through these outreach initiatives, the museum ensured maximum community impact for this exhibition.



By playing a significant role in the art education of thousands of visitors and community members, regardless of economic status or cultural heritage, the Norton Museum of Art has proven itself to be an important contributor to the community of West Palm Beach.

Address

Norton Museum of Art
1451 South Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Web site: www.norton.org

Phone: 561-832-5196

Annual Budget: \$10,301,167

Full-time Staff: 80

Part-time Staff: 16

Director: Dr. Christina Orr-Cahall

Community Partners

Palm Beach County School District, Broward County School District, Miami-Dade County School District, Martin County School District, Florida Alliance for Arts in Education, Palm Beach County Cultural Council, Florida Association of Museums, West Palm Beach Parks and Recreation, Urban League, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, U.S.-China Peoples' Friendship Association, Jewish Film Festival, Junior League of the Palm Beaches, Police Athletic League, High Ridge Family Center, Belle Glade Housing Authority, My Choice Community, Development/Riviera Beach, Youth Empowerment Center, African American Ministers' Conference, VSA, Towards a More Perfect Union, The Links, Men of Tomorrow, Palm Beach County Libraries, Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Palm Beach Community College, and Florida International University.

Left: The museum's Central Sculpture Garden.
Center: Students discuss artwork on a museum tour.
Right: A family discovers the museum together,
© LILA Photo.

18 Skidompha Public Library

Damariscotta, ME

Every year, lobster lovers flock to the picturesque town of Damariscotta, Maine, and the beautiful Pemaquid Peninsula—a vacation destination whose population fluctuates between 9,000 people in the winter and 14,000 people in the summer. The 103-year-old Skidompha Library meets the challenge of engaging year-round residents and seasonal visitors alike with its varied programming and 30,000 titles in a new, state-of-the-art building.

For elementary to high school students, there is the Books in Motion (BIM) initiative. BIM is a community reading program designed to address the sobering data that shows children often stop reading about the time they reach middle school. Each month, a different book is read, and local businesses pay for a copy of the book to be given to the first 40 BIM participants. At the end of the month, the movie based on the chosen book is screened, free of charge, for members of the Damariscotta community. Following the movie, a discussion involving people of all ages is held to compare the book to the film.

With a large population of citizens over age 65, the Skidompha Library realized that special programming and initiatives were needed to serve the retired community of Damariscotta. A classic film series was initiated by library volunteers and runs every Monday night, drawing crowds of senior citizens and younger patrons alike. The library also offers large-print and audio books,

which are available to all patrons, including seniors and anyone with sight impairments.

The library helps connect readers to materials, but it is also a place for those who are not proficient readers to meet and learn to read. Literacy Circle is an adult literacy class offered in collaboration with the Tri-County Literacy Volunteers. The volunteers meet with the learners and utilize different teaching aids, such as Scrabble tiles, to help further their reading skills. To respect learners' privacy, the program is held at the library after hours.

To remain continually connected to readers and supplement its finances, the Skidompha Library also runs the Second Hand Book Shop. Operated out of a 19th-century carriage house a block from the library, and staffed by 40 volunteers, the bookshop sells donated books at discounted prices. In fact, it is not uncommon for a customer to purchase a book from the shop and then donate it back to the shop for another person's enjoyment. The Second Hand Book Shop brings in approximately \$50,000 annually, which helps to support myriad programs offered by the Skidompha Library each year.

The Skidompha Library may serve a relatively small population in Maine, but through its innovative and thoughtful programming, it has made a name for itself as one of the best public libraries in the state.



Address

Skidompha Public Library
184 Main Street
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Web site: www.skidompha.org

Phone: 207-563-513

Annual Budget: \$341,946

Full-time Staff: 1

Part-time Staff: 8

Director: Pamela Gormley

Community Partners

AARP, Ad-Lib Book Club, Angel Farm Communications, Bruce Bachelder CPA, The Burns Foundation, Coastal Senior College, CONA, Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Club, Downeast Energy, Emil Landau Human Rights Forum, First National Bank of Damariscotta, Hardy Boat Cruises, Healthy Kids!, Heartwood Regional Theater, The Jackson Lab, Lincoln Academy, Lincoln County Community Theater, Maine Coast Book Shop & Café, Mexicali Blues, Miles Memorial Hospital, Renys A Maine Adventure, School Union 74, SCORE, Tri-County Literacy Volunteers, A.K. Watson Charitable Trust, and Dorothy G. & Stanley E. Worden Charitable Foundation.

Left: Participants in the Miles of Friends program, an intergenerational reading buddy program.
Center: Local patrons view the Suzuki Violin Recital in the library atrium.
Right: Building exterior.

20 Skokie Public Library

Skokie, IL

With 42 percent of its residents foreign-born and 97 languages other than English spoken at home—including Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Korean, Chinese, Urdu, Gujarati, and Greek—Skokie, Illinois, is recognized as one of the most diverse cities in the United States. The Skokie Public Library (SPL) embraces the diversity of its constituency and takes great pride in targeting and tailoring its programming to the many and varied populations it serves.

When visitors arrive at the library, they are greeted by large banners that say “library” in 14 different languages; inside, the multilingual signage continues, with “welcome” written on a number of walls. On the library’s Web home page and above the foreign-language book section (which contains almost 20,000 titles in 18 different languages), flags of many nations are on display. Additionally, there is a “recent immigrants” page on the library’s SkokieNet Web site—which has the distinction of being one of the first library-sponsored community Web sites in the country—with information on topics from becoming a citizen to getting a Social Security card. All of these steps have been taken to ensure that every person in Skokie feels comfortable spending time in his or her community library.

The emphasis on programs that speak to the diverse population continues with the library’s cosponsorship of the annual Skokie Festival of Cultures. Started in 1991, the festival provides two days of ethnic foods, music, dance, crafts, fun cultural activi-

ties for the kids, and a chance for integral community development. Last year, 31 different cultures were represented, and the festivities drew 25,000 visitors.

People who are visually or hearing impaired or have limited mobility are another part of the population well served by the Skokie Public Library. Skokie Accessible Library Services was created as a way for the library to provide these members of the community with services including telecommunication devices for the deaf, JAWS for Windows speech synthesis, and Duxbury Braille Translation Software, free of charge. The library also is fully accessible for patrons in wheelchairs or scooters.

Aspiring musicians have an important role in the library’s programming as well, and are encouraged to apply for SPL’s Young Steinway Concert Series. Occurring monthly, the series showcases exceptionally talented youth and offers the musicians valuable performing experience in front of a large audience, as well as free concerts for the community. The series has had more than 400 participants, 99 of whom have moved on to professional music careers. Successful alumni are asked back to play in special solo concerts.

Begun in 1930 and operated out of a rented room above a drugstore, the Skokie Public Library has come to be an essential part of the Skokie community, offering all of its visitors—regardless of race, ethnicity, or ability—numerous opportunities to interact and learn.



Address

Skokie Public Library
5215 Oakton Street
Skokie, IL 60077

Web site: www.skokielinearly.info

Phone: 847-673-7774

Annual Budget: \$8,973,909

Full-time Staff: 87

Part-time Staff: 73

Director: Carolyn A. Anthony

Community Partners

Centre East, Chicago YIVO Society, Coalition of Asian American Communities of Skokie, ColeTaylor Bank, Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund, Independent Merchants of Downtown Skokie, Jewish Vocational Service, Keumsil Cultural Society, local public and private schools, Metropolitan Family Services, Music Institute of Chicago, Oakton Community College, Rush North Shore Medical Center, Skokie Chamber of Commerce, Skokie Historical Society, Skokie Park District, Turning Point Behavioral Health Care Center, Village of Skokie, Westfield Old Orchard, and United Way Northwest Suburban.

Left: Families enjoy stories and songs in the library courtyard, followed by a marshmallow roast.
Center: A young girl shares a favorite story in the Youth Services Department.
Right: A family signs up for the Summer Reading Clubs.

22 Previous Winners of the National Medal (formerly the National Award)

2007

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, AL
Brookfield Zoo of the Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, IL
Georgetown County Library, Georgetown, SC
Kim Yerton Branch of the Humboldt County Library, Hoopa, CA
Memphis Public Library & Information Center, Memphis, TN
National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
The Newberry Library, Chicago, IL
Ocean County Library, Toms River, NJ
Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Portland, OR
Vermont Historical Society, Barre, VT

2006

Artrain USA, Ann Arbor, MI
Frankfort Community Public Library, Frankfort, IN
John G. Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, IL
Lincoln Children's Zoo, Lincoln, NE
Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, NC
San Antonio Public Library, San Antonio, TX

2005

COSI Toledo, Toledo, OH
Johnson County Library, Overland Park, KS
Levine Museum of the New South, Charlotte, NC
Mathews Memorial Library, Mathews, VA
Pratt Museum, Homer, AK
Saint Paul Public Library, Saint Paul, MN

2004

Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago, IL
Flint Public Library, Flint, MI
Mayagüez Children's Library, Inc., Mayagüez, PR
The Regional Academic Health Center Medical Library of the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX
Western Folklife Center, Inc., Elko, NE
Zoological Society of San Diego, San Diego, CA

2003

Bozeman Public Library, Bozeman, MT
Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, PA
Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
Pocahontas County Free Libraries, Marlinton, WV
San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, San Angelo, TX
USS Constitution Museum, Boston, MA

2002

Boundary County District Library, Bonners Ferry, ID
Hartford Public Library, Hartford, CT
Please Touch Museum, Philadelphia, PA
Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Loretto, PA
Southwest Georgia Regional Public Library System, Bainbridge, GA
Wildlife Conservation Society/Bronx Zoo, Bronx, NY

2001

Alaska Resources Library and Information Services, Anchorage, AK
Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, San Jose, CA
Hancock County Library System, Bay St. Louis, MS
Miami Museum of Science, Miami, FL
New England Aquarium, Boston, MA
Providence Public Library, Providence, RI

2000 (the first year libraries participated in the program)

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository, Kodiak, AK
B.B. Comer Memorial Library, Sylacauga, AL
Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica, NY
Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives, Los Angeles, CA
Urie Elementary School Library, Lyman, WY
Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia, Beckley, WV

1999

Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL
Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV
St. Simons Island Lighthouse Museum, St. Simons Island, GA

1998

Belknap Mill Society, Laconia, NH
Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, Dearborn, MI
New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ

1997

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
National Aquarium in Baltimore, Baltimore, MD

1996

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
The Field Museum, Chicago, IL
The Natural Science Center of Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

1995

Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn, NY
The Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, Chicago, IL
Montshire Museum of Science, Norwich, VT
The Wing Luke Asian Museum, Seattle, WA

1994

Brokner Nature Center, Troy, OH
The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Jacksonville, FL
Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, MO

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.



The Institute supports the full range of museums, including art, history, science and technology, children's, natural history, historic houses, nature centers, botanical gardens, and zoos; and all types of libraries, including public, school, academic, research, and archival. Our robust capacity for research, evaluation, policy analysis, grantmaking, and partnerships helps make it possible for libraries and museums to be leaders in their communities.

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Collecting and disseminating results from funded projects, engaging in research, and publishing reports enable the Institute of Museum and Library Services to make a significant contribution to library, museum, and information policy and practice in the United States.

Address

Institute of Museum and Library Services
1800 M Street NW, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20036-5802

Web site: www.ims.gov

Phone: 202-653-IMLS

E-mail: imlsinfo@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 a 24-member advisory body that includes President-appointed and Senate-confirmed 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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