

2008 National Medal for Museum and Library Service Video Script

As the primary source of federal support for the Nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums, the Institute of Museum and Library Services has a special vantage point on what makes a great library and a great museum.

It has created the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums that make their communities better places to live.

These award-winning institutions demonstrate outstanding community service. They lead efforts to address real community needs. And connect everyone to knowledge, literacy, science, history and art.

The Institute is proud to honor these 10 model libraries and museums with the 2008 National Medals for Museum and Library Service.

Graphic: BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER, Cody, WY:

Located in Cody, Wyoming and named after the town's favorite son, Buffalo Bill Cody, the Buffalo Bill Historical Center is composed of seven distinct institutions that examine and interpret the life of Buffalo Bill, the times in which he lived, and the art, history, and natural history of the Old West. Among the institutions' holdings are 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 that visit the center each year.

Graphic: 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 a passion for learning about science and technology in its patrons through interactive exhibits, educational programs, and outreach.

Graphic: GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY AND MUSEUM, Crawfordsville, IN:

As a soldier, statesman, governor, violinist, artist, architect, inventor, and author of the best-selling novel of the 19th century, *Ben-Hur*, General Lew Wallace was a man of varied interests and skills. 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 life-long learning can be taught to visitors and the community that it serves.

Graphic: JANE STERN DORADO COMMUNITY LIBRARY, INC.

Dorado, PR:

When Jane Stern moved to the island of Puerto Rico in 1963, she was already an established community activist. Her social activism continued in Puerto Rico, and on February 4, 1974, the Jane Stern Dorado Community Library opened to the public in the small town of Dorado. The library was founded by Stern and 19 other families, and has since become the heart of its community, connecting people—young and old—to books, activities, and one another.

Graphic: KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY, Kansas City, Missouri:

A champion of literacy, community, and education, the Kansas City Public Library has established itself as an institution committed to offering programs and materials that speak to all visitors, thereby providing their community 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 with an annual circulation of nearly 2.6 million books and other materials.

Graphic: 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 programs like the Art of Storytelling and its “Five Star Commitment” to the community, the library engages its six million annual visitors in activities developed to meet their ever-changing needs.

Graphic: THE NORTON MUSEUM OF ART, West Palm Beach, FL:

Since its founding in 1941, the Norton Museum of Art has made it its mission to bring art into the lives of the residents of West Palm Beach, Florida. Through its innovative initiatives, both in the museum and out in the community, the Norton is able meet the educational and aesthetic needs of art enthusiasts, and raise the public’s awareness of, and appreciation for, the arts.

Graphic: 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 these year-round residents and seasonal visitors alike with its varied programming and 30,000 titles in a new, state-of-the-art building.

Graphic: SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY, Skokie, IL:

With 42 percent of its residents foreign-born and 97 languages other than English spoken at home, Skokie, Illinois is recognized as one of the most diverse cities in the United States. The Skokie Public Library embraces the diversity of its constituency and takes great pride in targeting and tailoring its programming to the myriad populations it serves.

Graphic: 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. Since 1988, the Tenement Museum has recreated the homes and stories of these tenants and has been integral in the education of visitors, from both the United States and abroad, interested in the history of immigrants in America.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is proud to congratulate the esteemed honorees of 2008.

The celebration of this year's medals winners was also made possible by the support of Americans for the Arts and Hollinger/Metal Edge, Inc. Archival Storage Materials.

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