



2007 Medals

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

IMLS will provide an audio recording
of this publication upon request.

Printed December 2007.

Credits

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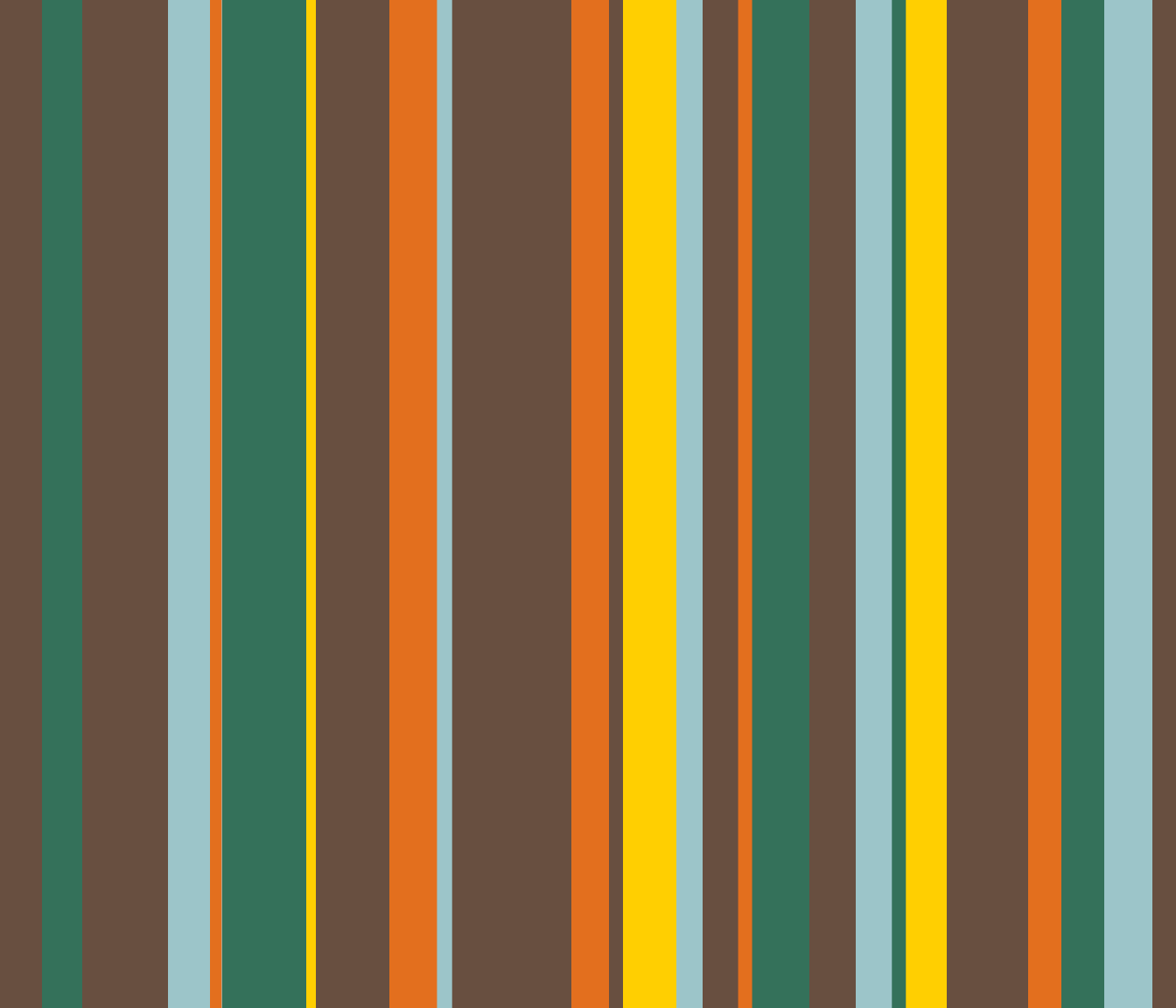
Designer: Ellen Arnold

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These award-winning museums and libraries, through their innovative programs and services, engage citizens of all ages. They teach us about ourselves and the world around us, and in doing so, enrich our communities and the nation.

—Mrs. Laura Bush



These institutions provide ground-breaking programs that respond to community challenges, serve as models for the nation's museums and libraries, and most of all make a difference in people's lives. I applaud their good work and encourage others to follow their example.

—Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice

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 are as varied as the visitors and residents they serve. Yet all have one thing in common: they make deep connections with their communities by sparking curiosity and inspiring a lifelong love of reading, history, art, and science. Simply put, these museums and libraries are models of public service.

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 Medals for Museum and Library Service.

Sincerely,



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:



3M Library Systems

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06 Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

Birmingham, AL

To walk through the doors of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is to enter a living history lesson and retrace the steps some of the nation's bravest citizens took in the name of freedom and dignity. It is also to glimpse a future where human rights are a greater reality around the world, thanks to programming that challenges visitors and students not only to think but to act and innovate.

Open since 1992 in the heart of Birmingham's historic Civil Rights District, the Institute has made it its mission to promote civil and human rights worldwide through education. More than two million visitors have touched the cell bars behind which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. penned his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," come face-to-face with haunting life-size replicas of a burned-out bus and segregated streetcar, and taken in the images and sounds of historic court battles and freedom marches.

But leaders of the Institute are not content to merely rely on imagery of the past. Strong partnerships with area schools, libraries, and museums allow a host of programs, workshops, and special exhibitions to reach students and teachers in person and online.

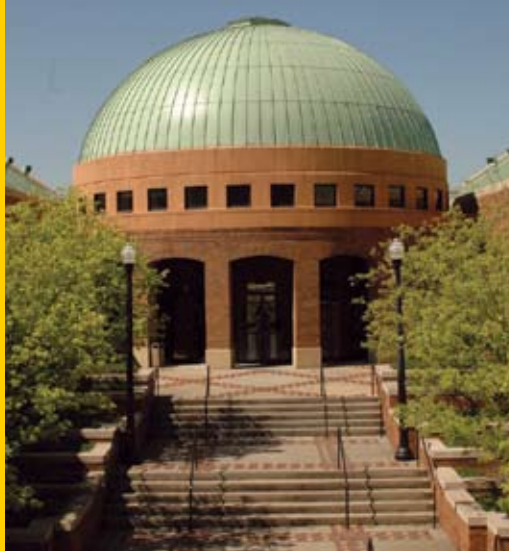
The Institute created and administers the Birmingham Cultural Alliance Partnership, a national model for afterschool programs that has served more than 1,200 middle school students and their families through hands-on academic enrichment activities. In January 2007, the program won a Coming Up Taller award at the White House. This is the highest honor for afterschool programs in the arts and humanities.

The Institute also sponsors Heritage Alive!, a literacy program for young learners and families. Summer camps give middle and high school students the opportunity to learn about African American history and perform plays for other day camps.

Older visitors, meanwhile, encounter no shortage of programs, lectures, and interactive exhibitions. Each year, the Institute hosts a conference focused on international human rights issues. Past speakers have included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former South African President F.W. DeKlerk, and the Rev. Joseph Lowery. The Institute is the premiere resource for teacher training in the civil rights movement, offering experiential learning for hundreds of educators who meet participants, visit iconic sites, and apply scholarly research to enrich their classroom teaching.

Special exhibitions have included *History through Deaf Eyes*, which aligned nearly 200 years of U.S. history with the experiences of deaf people. In 2006, the Institute teamed with the Birmingham Holocaust Education Committee and Birmingham Museum of Art to present *Children's Story*, which featured drawings from children imprisoned in the Terezin Concentration Camp. It was the third time the Institute had hosted a Holocaust exhibition. In 2007, the Institute presented *At the Master's Feet: The Influence of Hale Woodruff and Charles White*, a collection of African American art on loan from the Paul R. Jones Collection.

The Institute has made its goal to serve as a "common" place that promotes open dialogue on issues of concern to the



public. It has done just that. Indeed, since opening, the Institute's archive—perhaps the nation's most comprehensive on the subject—has been used by researchers around the world, making some 90 percent of the processed oral history, document, and manuscript collections available for study. The Institute's partnerships with prominent local institutions have allowed it to reach 80,000 people annually through community-based programming. And its new Web site, featuring oral history interviews and a searchable catalog, has attracted more than 40 million hits since launching in 2004.

All of these features add up to a museum very much in touch with the past it solemnly chronicles, but also equally focused on building a future based on tolerance, equality, and understanding.

Address

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
520 Sixteenth Street North
Birmingham, AL 35203

Web site: www.bcri.org

Phone: 205-328-9696

Annual budget: \$2.3 million

Full-time staff: 27

Part-time staff: 4

Director: Dr. Lawrence J. Pijaux, Jr.

Community Partners

Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame, Birmingham
Botanical Gardens, Birmingham
International Center, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham Public Library, McWane Science Center, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, Southern Museum of Flight, public and private schools and school systems.

Left: A member of the Magic City Girls Choir performs at BCRI. Center: The Rotunda entrance. Right: A father and daughter participate in family activities.

08 Brookfield Zoo, Chicago Zoological Society

Brookfield, IL

The primary goal of any zoo, according to the Chicago Zoological Society, is to educate the public about environmental conservation in hopes of preserving the world's natural habitats and resources for future generations. Since Chicago's Brookfield Zoo opened its doors to the public in 1934, it has taken this mission seriously, creating a host of programs to educate students, parents, teachers, and other community members about their responsibilities as world citizens, and to inspire them to enter scientific fields.

Nearly 2 million visitors walked through the Brookfield Zoo's turnstiles last year. With cutting-edge exhibits, including *The Swamp* and *The Living Coast*, and family-friendly zones such as the *Hamill Family Play Zoo*, the Brookfield Zoo stands out in its community as a place to learn, play, and explore.

This emphasis on education is not new to the zoo. The Brookfield Zoo established its Education Department in the 1960s, and since then has pioneered programs for the community that focus on everything from teacher training to animal behavior studies, family bonding, youth science education, and vocational training for disabled community members.

The Chicago Zoological Society runs a number of programs specifically for students, from preschoolers to high-school-aged teens. The Zoo Adventure Passport (ZAP!), for example, offers free afterschool and weekend, environment-themed activities for parents and their young children.

For older kids, the Youth Conservation & Science Corps promotes science education through hands-on training and mentoring. Each student can choose one educational track to follow while participating in the program: the environmental education track, which trains students to interpret zoo animals and exhibits; or the science track, which teaches students about issues pertaining to conservation research.

The Society also addresses the educational needs of students with physical, auditory, and visual disabilities through its award-winning Every Student Is a Scientist (ESS) program. ESS was created to help teachers include disabled students through technology applications and curricula, so that these students might learn alongside their peers in the classroom.

While many of the Chicago Zoological Society's initiatives focus on teaching area schoolchildren, the Society has also developed outreach programs that target Chicago area residents from diverse backgrounds, both ethnically and socioeconomically. The Fuller Park and South Chicago communities, both considered underserved areas with high rates of poverty, are invited to take part in Grassroots Zoo, a program implemented in 2006 that invites these residents to immerse themselves in environment and conservation-based projects—lessons about flora and fauna and habitat restoration that many have applied in their own neighborhoods by increasing green space.

Through its numerous educational and social endeavors, the Chicago Zoological



Society has established Brookfield Zoo as a place to learn and play. After nearly a century of serving the public, it remains a vital part of the greater Chicago community.

Address

Chicago Zoological Society
3300 Golf Road
Brookfield, IL 60513

Web site: www.brookfieldzoo.org

Phone: 708-485-0263

Annual budget: \$48,707,879

Full-time staff: 409

Part-time staff: 40

Director: Stuart D. Strahl, Ph.D.

Community Partners

Aurora University, Benedictine University, Chicago Environmental Network, Chicago Public Schools, Rudy Lazano Public Library, West Belmont Public Library, Chicago Wilderness, Eden Place, Juan Diego Community Center, LaGrange Area Department of Special Education (LADSE), Lincoln Park Zoo, Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood Public Library, National Louis University, Riverside-Brookfield High School, Shedd Aquarium, Triton College, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, Vocational Alliance.

Left: The zoo's Roosevelt Fountain. Center: Zoo visitors are introduced to a red-tailed hawk. Right: African lions live in the zoo's Fragile Kingdom.

10 Georgetown County Library

Georgetown, SC

South Carolina's Georgetown County Library has emerged as a national treasure by inspiring residents to embrace their heritage and to dream of a bright future armed with literacy, pride, and knowledge.

A century and a half ago, Georgetown County was the nation's principal rice growing region—and home to the state's largest concentration of slaves. For residents of this coastal county, the local library was a place reserved for planters and merchants, and later a hospital for federal troops at the end of the Civil War. For decades to come, the library would be a resource for the privileged few.

But in the 1950s, life in Georgetown County began to change when residents decided to fund a library of their own by refurbishing a former local jail. In 1989, the county voted to build three new library buildings; in 2006, a fourth went up in the county's poorest, most rural section.

By this point, Georgetown County Library had earned distinction as the only public library nationwide to be named a Local Legacy by the Library of Congress. It did so by availing itself of much more than books and periodicals.

In a county where illiteracy in some areas approached 30 percent, and poverty hovered around 16 percent, Georgetown County Library has succeeded by launching programs designed to encourage all residents, regardless of age or background, to think big and to ponder big questions.

Library leaders helped organize a November 2001 visit by the *Freedom Schooner Amistad*, a replica of the ship that was home to the famed slave revolt.

They have planned and produced lectures, exhibitions, documentaries, oral-history videos, storytelling, dance, and music to bring residents together on the topic of race and reconciliation. The library has been a site for two national exhibitions sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, "Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation" and most recently, "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World."

To bolster preschool education, the Georgetown County Library has established a curriculum, donated collections of 30–60 books to 42 childcare centers, given individual books each quarter to 630 preschoolers, and provided the services of a countywide storyteller. An Adult Literacy Council helps adults learn how to read, while continuing-education courses allow dozens of parents and educators to gain credits in everything from medical issues to computer resources. An award-winning partnership with the Medical University of South Carolina and the Charleston County Library, meanwhile, is helping to teach poor, rural residents how to use Internet databases and other resources to learn about, and effectively manage, diabetes.

This drive to connect residents to knowledge shows no signs of slowing. Work is under way to create an online encyclopedia, modeled after Wikipedia, about Georgetown County, while a collaboration with ten local museums and archives is using a grant to digitize and conserve more than 20,000 historic local photos.

Georgetown County, meanwhile, has joined with six other public library systems



to create the state's first public library consortium, making available nearly 785,000 items to each system and saving taxpayers significant money. The libraries have now focused on securing a joint subscription for an online library of downloadable audiobooks, videos, music, and games.

While looking to the past for perspective and inspiration, Georgetown County Library has never stopped looking forward to make life better for its patrons. By promoting local heritage and offering residents the quality of resources that belie an institution of its size and location, Georgetown County Library has boosted library card membership to 70 percent, engaged a new generation, and created a region of devoted readers.

Address

Georgetown County Library
405 Cleland Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

Web site: www.gclibrary.org

Phone: 843-545-3300

Annual budget: \$1,204,912

Full-time staff: 20

Part-time staff: 18

Director: Dwight McInvaill

Community Partners

Friends of the Library, School District, Recreation and Leisure Services, Cultural Council, First Steps, Georgetown County Museum, Rice Museum, Kaminski House Museum, Adult Literacy Council, Coastal Carolina University's Higher Education Center (Litchfield), Dream Keepers: The Committee for African American Observances, United Way, Miss Ruby's Kids, Kudzu Bakery, Studio of Dance, Brookgreen Gardens, Belle W. Baruch Foundation, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation, Andrews Museum, Murrells Inlet 2007, Pawleys Island Civic Association.

Left: Visitors enjoy a humanities program offered by the library as part of its 200th Anniversary celebration. Center: Exterior of the Georgetown County Library. Right: Shelia Sullivan, Head of Children's Services, shares books with youngsters in the Children's Department.

12 Kim Yerton Branch, Humboldt County Library

Hoopa, CA

As California's only joint county-tribal library on an Indian reservation, the Kim Yerton Branch of the Humboldt County Library has become a center for the rural community of Hoopa Valley, connecting thousands of residents of all ages with Native American reading materials, computer access, and the prospect of a better life through literacy.

When the Kim Yerton Library was built 15 years ago, its focus was to serve a Native American population in northwestern California historically wracked by unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, and limited resources. Its builders had more in mind, however, than just making it a repository of books.

With a poverty rate of 30 percent and unemployment at 27 percent, residents and elders in this remote region demanded something more—a gateway not only to their heritage, but to the outside world and to upward mobility for future generations. Located across from the area's high school and elementary school, and adjacent to a branch of College of the Redwoods, the Kim Yerton Library provides students and educators with vital access to computers and the Internet to support their research and studies—this in a community where many of the 3,000 Hupa, Yurok, and Karuk tribal members still live in traditional homes without electricity, phone service, or television, and must travel up to an hour to get to the library.

By every account, they do. Since December 2001, the Kim Yerton Library has recorded more than 55,000 visits, circulated more than 43,000 items, hosted 175 children's

programs, logged more than 17,000 computer sessions, and handled more than 8,600 requests for materials or information by community members.

Programs such as Daily Learn to Read! introduce teens and adults to literacy through personal tutoring, allowing them to take these lessons back to their families. Partnerships with tribal Head Start programs open up the library's facilities and introduce reading to hundreds of young children in the area, while First 5 Humboldt schedules family programs to share stories, videos, and crafts, and to give free books to each preschool family.

Dedicated in 1992, the Kim Yerton Branch is the namesake of a tribal member who dedicated her career to the collection and preservation of records and artifacts central to Hupa culture. With fewer than 70 living speakers of the Hupa language left, the library also houses the largest collection of Native American materials of any institution in the Humboldt County system, and in turn, keeps an endangered tradition alive.

The library also keeps this tradition alive by hosting "Threadbenders," a group of mothers and grandmothers, which includes skilled and novice seamstresses, knitters, crocheters, and spinners. The group was first composed for these women to visit, learn, and share tips about fiber arts. But it has become much more. For them, the library is now a place to read books aloud; to savor a little time away from family responsibilities; to ponder, reflect, learn, and create beautiful crafts; and to rekindle a love of stories and books.



All these programs have made the Kim Yerton Branch of the Humboldt County Library much more than a collection of books for the people of Hoopa Valley. For them, it is the intersection of tradition and innovation, and the reflection of a culturally rich tradition and community.

Address

Kim Yerton Memorial Library
 P.O. Box 1407
 Hoopa, CA 95546

Web site: www.humlib.org
Phone: 530-625-5082
Annual Budget: \$66,000
Full-time staff: 1
Part-time staff: 2
Director: Victor Zazueta

Community Partners

Hoopa Valley Tribal Council, First 5 Humboldt, the Humboldt County Authors' Festival, Friends of the Hoopa Library, local schools, and a branch of the College of the Redwoods.

Left: Children enjoy a magic show at the library. Center: An after-dinner performance by Storm Taylor. Right: A local family participates in a "Chalk It Up for Books" event.

14 Memphis Public Library & Information Center Memphis, TN

With 19 locations and 114 years of experience, it is safe to assume that the Memphis Public Library system knows a thing or two about the community that it serves. Innovative programs held at each branch (such as Family Activity Night), and outreach initiatives (including its radio *and* television stations dedicated to community news and events) demonstrate a commitment to Memphis, Bartlett, and Shelby County residents that goes above and beyond the average public library system.

This past year, the Memphis Public Library & Information Center recorded more than 3 million visits, up 4.3 percent from the prior year, and sponsored nearly 3,000 programs, averaging 26 participants per course. This success can be attributed to the library's own mission to "satisfy the customer's need to know," and to continually remain connected to the community it serves.

The "need to know" is addressed by the library system through its attentive staff and educational programs, including genealogy workshops and courses promoting health literacy, financial literacy, and computer literacy.

With literacy remaining one of the greatest obstacles for the Memphis Public Library community, the library system has focused many of its outreach efforts on helping residents improve their reading proficiency. InfoBUS, for example, sends a colorful, 40-foot bus to visit neighborhoods with large immigrant populations to offer library services and help with assimilation. For children interested in bettering their

reading skills, but afraid to practice in front of other kids, the library hosts PAWS for Reading—a program that gives kids the opportunity to read aloud to specially trained dogs.

PAWS for Reading is among a number of the library's programs focusing on children and teens in the Memphis community. Concerned with the effects of poverty and dysfunctional home lives on children in its districts, the Memphis Public Library started the Read to Erase Your Fines project, which allows kids who've lost their library privileges because of overdue fines to be reinstated by reading to the elderly. By erasing their debt to the library, participants not only regain their privileges, but also have the satisfaction of finding a solution to their problem. The library also hosts Teen Tech Camp, where students can take courses for one week in the summer that emphasize working with computers and webcams, digital editing, and other technology-based skills.

Along with creating and promoting their own community-based initiatives, the Memphis Public Library & Information Center serves customers through partnerships with other large organizations. Last year, the library petitioned the State of Tennessee to become the area's 2-1-1 information provider. The number works much like 9-1-1 emergency assistance, but instead provides up-to-date information and referral services pertinent to the Memphis community.

The library also partnered with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and AARP this past year to help residents prepare their filings.



The Memphis Public Library & Information Center has an impeccable reputation for gauging the needs and interests of the community it serves, and through its many outreach activities, it has improved the quality of life for its customers, both young and old.

Address

Memphis Public Library &
Information Center
3030 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38111

Web site: www.memphislibrary.org

Phone: 901-415-2700

Annual budget: \$18,108,361

Full-time staff: 279

Part-time staff: 59

Director: Judith A. Drescher

Community Partners

The Friends of the Library, The Foundation for the Library, Memphis City Schools, United Way of the Mid-South, Mid-South Reads, The Memphis Grizzlies, National Civil Rights Research Consortium, Assisi Foundation, WMC Action News 5, Porter Leath, Department of Human Services, Memphis Housing Authority, Society for Information Management, First Tennessee Bank, Associated Catholic Charities, River City Romance Writers, Aging Commission of the Mid-South, AARP, Volunteers in Tax Assistance, Earned Income Tax Credit Alliance, Brooks Museum, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, SCORE, Facing History and Ourselves, American Red Cross, Latino Connexion.

Left: The Central Library welcomes nearly 1.2 million visitors a year. Right: The library's "Read to Erase" program allows children to read off their library fines over summer break.

16 National Museum of Women in the Arts

Washington, DC

Since opening its doors to the public 20 years ago, the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) has welcomed more than 3.5 million visitors, cultivated a collection of 3,500 objects, and presented more than 200 art exhibitions. Founded by Wilhelmina Cole Holladay—who, after searching through a college art textbook in the 1960s, found that not a single woman artist was mentioned—NMWA has grown from a private collection to a museum near the National Mall, where anyone can come and appreciate the contribution of women artists such as Frida Kahlo and Mary Cassatt.

From the painters of the Italian Renaissance and contemporary Australian Aboriginal cultures to Nordic designers and Native American potters, NMWA strives to present women artists from diverse backgrounds and time periods. In 2006, the museum presented its first humanities-based exhibition, using artifacts of Pre-Columbian civilizations to examine the roles of women in the ancient Americas.

In keeping with its founder's vision to introduce the public to the works of talented female artists, NMWA develops educational programming for students of all ages. The goal: to cultivate visitors' interest in the arts and demonstrate that talented women artists are anything but an exception.

Families with children ages 6–12 can enjoy monthly Family Programs that feature hands-on art activities. For third, fourth, and fifth graders, there is Bridging Communities, a yearlong partnership between NMWA, local elementary schools,

artists, and authors. Students learn how to make, write, and illustrate their own artists' books and then exhibit them at the museum for a few months each summer.

Young adults and teenagers are invited to take part in Role Model Workshops, which bring students together with successful women artists, who teach participants about their work in a creative field (including dance, architecture, and fashion design), and in turn inspire and motivate a new generation of artists. Through all of its programming, NMWA aims to not only improve visual, verbal, and critical thinking skills, but to help students gain greater self-confidence, to find a shared humanity between themselves and others, and to learn respect for those who are different.

For adults, NMWA offers programs celebrating women in the performing, literary, and media arts; the Shenson Chamber Music Series, which invites women musicians to perform three free concerts in NMWA's performance hall; literary events where authors are invited to read and discuss their works; the Sisters in Cinema series which highlights work by African American filmmakers; and scholarly lectures and symposia on a variety of topics.

Beyond the DC metro area, NMWA reaches people through its quarterly *Women in the Arts Magazine*, its Web site, its national and international committees, and its online *Clara: Database of Women Artists*, which houses information on 18,000 artists and complements the museum's well-established Library and Research Center.



The National Museum of Women in the Arts' mission began with a simple question: "Where are the women artists?" Through its creative educational outreach, sharing the accomplishments and works of women artists with the public, and constant growth and evolution, NMWA has provided a lasting and emphatic answer to this question. In the process, it has changed the perception that there are no great women artists and inspired a new generation to tap their creative talents.

Address

National Museum of Women
in the Arts
1250 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Web site: www.nmwa.org

Phone: 202-783-7362

Annual budget: \$10,730,986

Full-time staff: 48

Part-time staff: 40

Acting Director: Susan Fisher Sterling Ph.D.

Community Partners

Contemporary visual, literary, and performing artists locally and nationally; Washington National Opera; Washington, DC Public Schools; Arlington, Virginia Public Schools; DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative; The Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital; Duke Ellington Jazz Festival; Children's Book Guild of Washington, DC; Howard University; Junior League of Washington DC; Americans for the Arts; DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival; Women in Film and Video; Jewish Film Festival; Environmental Film Festival; Albuquerque, New Mexico Public Schools and Pascagoula, Mississippi Public Schools; Smithsonian Latino Center; Inter-American Development Bank; Organization of American States.

*Left: Building exterior.
Right: Families
participate in Family
Day activities in
the galleries.*

18 The Newberry Library

Chicago, IL

With more than 1.5 million books, 5 million manuscript pages, and 500,000 historic maps in its collection, Chicago's Newberry Library has a proud history as one of the nation's largest and most revered independent research libraries. But in recent years the Newberry's reach has extended far beyond the shelves of its four ample walls, thanks to programming that actively engages and mirrors the diverse communities it serves.

Founded 120 years ago as a special collections and reference resource for the people of Chicago, the Newberry built its reputation by offering the general public a selection of hard-to-find materials they couldn't otherwise access. Each year, more than 100,000 patrons take advantage of the free collections, amateur genealogists often sitting side by side in the reading rooms with American Indian community historians.

But just as the nation has changed and grown, so too has the Newberry. Set in one of the country's most ethnically diverse areas—with large Latino, African American, Native American, and eastern European communities—the Newberry has made public outreach and relevance one of its top priorities.

A fall 2007 exhibition on *The Aztecs and the Making of Colonial Mexico* featured one of the most extensive post-Columbian Mexican collections of its kind, and included a concert series, a symposium, documentary screenings, lectures on genealogy and mapmaking, and programs to help schoolteachers incorporate Aztec history and culture into their curricula.

The Newberry has dramatically expanded its African American history and genealogy offerings, purchasing several major reference resources from around the country, publishing a user-friendly guide to African American genealogical research, and providing presentations in every public library system throughout Illinois. The focus: to not only provide educators and the public with important resources, but to give them tools that make those resources easier to use, understand, and explain.

To this end, the library's D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History, now in its 30th year, has directed focus toward tribal colleges, providing summer institutes for college faculty in law and literature, an online and traveling exhibition on *Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country*, and one of the nation's most important collections of American Indian linguistic materials, including texts, grammars, glossaries, and dictionaries.

The Newberry's *Teachers as Scholars* program connects schoolteachers from all backgrounds with Chicago's finest cultural institutions, providing seminars, professional development, curriculum support, and tools to help bring the best of the city's museums, universities, and libraries into their classrooms.

For those who can't make it in person, the Newberry has taken its user-friendly approach into the Information Age as well. Within three years, the Newberry has digitized and added more than 600,000 items to its online catalog, allowing students, teachers, and visitors anywhere in the world to search the catalog anytime.



The Newberry is a library very much aware of its place and its time. By reaching out locally, internationally, and virtually, the Newberry touches communities that might not otherwise take advantage of the collections it has to offer. In doing so, it presents a new paradigm for research libraries, where elite resources are democratized and offered to an infinitely expanding visitor base.

Address

The Newberry Library
60 West Walton Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Web site: www.newberry.org

Phone: 312-943-9090

Annual budget: \$10.2 million

Full-time staff: 106

Part-time staff: 13

President: David Spadafora

Community Partners

Representative partners include American Indian Center of Chicago, American Library Association, Mellon Foundation, Art Institute of Chicago, Black Metropolis Research Consortium, Chicago Public Library, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago History Museum, City of Chicago, Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, Field Museum, MacArthur Foundation, McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum, Metropolitan Library System, National Museum of Mexican Art, Polish Women's Alliance, Terra Foundation for American Art, and more than 75 colleges, universities, and school districts.

Left: The Newberry's annual Bughouse Square debates take place in front of the building. Center: McKinley Park Elementary School students perform an Aztec ceremonial dance at the library. Right: The Book Fair attracts visitors from around the city. Photos courtesy of the Newberry Library.

20 Ocean County Library

Toms River, NJ

Ocean County Library believes in “Connecting People, Building Community.” With 21 branches throughout this large county in southern New Jersey, the library serves more than 540,000 residents in 33 municipalities and provides a variety of programs and outreach to ensure that each branch is truly the focal point of the local community.

Open since 1925, the system has grown over the years. New building has increased steadily, the most recent being the Whiting Reading Center, which opened in 2007. Older buildings continue to be renovated or expanded, with the head-quarters in Toms River nearly doubling in size. Taking into account the changing demographics throughout the state and county, Ocean County Library pioneered a Diversity Initiative, to ensure that all residents and staff encounter a warm and welcoming environment.

The library provides programs that recognize and celebrate the area’s diverse cultures and contributions. Cultural awareness seminars have educated staff, Friends of the Library, and the general public.

Citizenship workshops and informal English conversation groups assist immigrants. Discussion groups foster understanding across cultures, and the Home Borrowers program delivers books and audio materials to customers unable to visit the library themselves. To reach out to the Spanish-speaking community, Ocean County Library hired and trained local bilingual adults and teens to provide story times in English and Spanish, reaching more than 1,000 family members since 2006.

With an eye toward engaging and recruiting a new generation of readers and volunteers, the library has focused heavily on youth and families. Ocean County Library fosters teen advisory boards, customer focus groups, and award-winning community service programs with local partners, such as the GangWise Project, which teaches parents and teens about the dangers of gangs and how to resist involvement. Ocean County Library was the first library in New Jersey to host Family Place, a space in the library where parents and toddlers can play and receive professional guidance on child rearing and health.

In addition, librarians visit at-risk teens in detention centers and group homes, bringing materials and leading book discussions. In schools, youth services librarians provide programs for students with autism spectrum disorder, after gaining confidence and heightened awareness through professional training sessions titled “Storytelling Techniques & Tips: Working with Differently Abled Children.”

Ocean County Library is always eager to support area schools in efforts to raise standardized test scores and foster reading for pleasure for all. Local students, in partnership with the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program and Network Arts of Philadelphia, created an original mosaic mural in the library that is both decorative and educational.

In addition to working with youth, the library provides ongoing networking and educational opportunities for businesspeople. The Business Outreach



Pilot Project provides seminars and valuable contacts for small-business owners, while other programs allow entrepreneurs to benefit from the expertise of retired executives.

Ocean County Library's dedication to outreach does not end at the county or state line. In 2006, the library earned the American Library Association's John Cotton Dana award for outstanding public relations for the "Hurricane Katrina—Partners in Caring" project, which raised more than \$120,000 to benefit the Hancock County Library in Mississippi, devastated by the catastrophic 2005 hurricane. The partnership forged between the two library systems continues today, and is just one of the many examples of Ocean County Library's commitment to being a catalyst for growth and change.

Through excellent customer service, an inclusive environment, innovation, and vision, Ocean County Library seeks to be the place where every resident uses and champions the library.

Address

Ocean County Library
101 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08753

Web site: www.theoceancountylibrary.org

Phone: 732-349-6200

Annual budget: \$32,731,000

Full-time staff: 279

Part-time staff: 329

Director: Elaine H. McConnell

Community Partners

Community Medical Center, Daybreak Kiwanis Club, Girl Scouts of America, Harbor House, Kiwanis Club of Jackson, Kiwanis Club of Toms River, Lakewood NAACP, Toms River NAACP, Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission, Ocean County Health Department, Ocean County Human Rights Commission, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Ocean County Superior Court Juvenile Intake Unit, Municipal Alliance Program, Ocean County Youth Services Commission, PFLAG.

Left: Exterior view of the Toms River Branch at night. Center: Ugandan singer, dancer, and storyteller Ssuuna performs at the library. Right: Children visiting the library create craft projects.

22 Oregon Museum of Science and Industry

Portland, OR

Part brain-powered playground for kids and adults, part cutting-edge classroom for communities across the state, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry seeks to inspire wonder in each of its visitors.

Today, OMSI is one of the largest and most successful campuses of its kind in the country, offering 219,000 square feet of interactive exhibits, hands-on demonstrations, a big-screen OMNIMAX® Theater, the Northwest's largest planetarium, and the USS Blueback—the last fast-attack, diesel-powered submarine built by the U.S. Navy, now decommissioned. Visitors to the museum can touch a tornado, uncover a fossil, surf the Internet, enter the world of virtual reality, experience an earthquake, or simply experiment on their own in one of the many hands-on labs.

But just as OMSI bills itself as destination tourism for the science wizard in each of its visitors, it is equally passionate about bringing the love of science to thousands of classrooms and students who can't always make the trip to Portland. Each year, OMSI reaches millions of people through direct visits, outreach programs, camps, classes, afterschool science clubs, traveling exhibits, and fairs—among the largest outreach of its kind in the nation.

With a range that reaches more than 200,000 students in six western states, including Alaska, OMSI is able to bring the museum experience directly to them through traveling programs and fairs—programs that include interactive presentations on forensics, live animal demonstrations, and the popular Discovery Dome Portable Planetarium.

A partnership with NASA known as STARS (Science, Technology, and Rural Students) delivers hands-on training to 250–300 teachers and librarians in more than 70 schools and 13 libraries, giving them special tools to engage students, curriculum help, direct access to science experts, and access to digital labs and live video to extend learning.

Another program, known as Facilitated Activities-based Videoconferencing, allows OMSI to conduct hands-on, interactive teacher professional development and classroom programs. Teachers and students use supplies brought to them that day by a museum representative with videoconference support available from the entire museum education staff.

OMSI also places much of its focus on reaching out to underserved and minority populations. The Salmon Camp Research Team, for example, recruits Native American youth interested in protecting natural resources for future generations. Students from 46 tribes have taken part so far, paired with professional mentors—rangers, ecologists, and university researchers—and using the latest professional field equipment and lab software for activities such as habitat surveys and stream modeling.

To serve inner-city young people, OMSI has created a Boys and Girls Science Club for low-income youth in north and northeast Portland. Each year this program—offered for free to the 10,000 children enrolled in local Boys and Girls Clubs—supplies students with a safe, stable, and supportive environment, while providing an on-site



science educator, equipment, hands-on activities, and monthly field trips to the museum and other science-related sites.

As educators recognize a national need to engage children in science learning, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry is innovating, finding new ways to reach students, teachers, and communities and show them that science, math, and technology are not only relevant, but fun, and truly inspirational.

Address

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry
1945 SE Water Avenue
Portland, OR 97214

Web site: www.oms.edu

Phone: 503-797-4000

Annual budget: \$19,116,761

Full-time staff: 146

Part-time staff: 50

Director: Nancy Stueber

Community Partners

City of Portland, Collins Foundation, Comcast, Lemelson Foundation, Libraries of Eastern Oregon, Meyer Memorial Trust, James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation, Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, Oregon Health & Science University, Oregon Public Schools, Oregon State University, Portland Business Alliance, Portland Community College, Portland Oregon Visitors Association, Portland State University, University of Oregon.

Left: Students explore OMSI's USS Blueback submarine. Right: Exterior view of the OMSI Plaza at night.

24 Vermont Historical Society

Barre, VT

For 170 years, the Vermont Historical Society has set the standard for connecting Green Mountain state residents, scholars, educators, and students with their rich heritage and with one another.

Vermonters share an inherent pride in their history. But as a state whose population is dispersed in rural communities, often isolated from one another, it can be a challenge to create programming that reaches and relates to diverse audiences and interests. With that in mind, the Vermont Historical Society has done something no other institution has been able to: it has become the only institution with a collection that reflects the entire history of every geographical area and time period in Vermont.

Headquartered in Barre, with its museum near the state house in Montpelier, the Vermont Historical Society is the only organization of its kind to partner with all 192 of the state's small public libraries and 200 local museums and heritage organizations, providing free consultation on collections care and using technology to enhance rural access to historical information.

With a special focus on outreach to students and teachers, the Historical Society library offers access to 50,000 catalogued books and serial titles, 1,500 linear feet of manuscripts, 30,000 photographs, 8,700 broadsides, more than 1,000 maps, and an online public access catalogue.

Last year, schools from 92 towns brought more than 6,000 students to the Historical Society museum for guided tours.

Residents from 117 towns, 31 states, and 23 countries also visited. Holdings include more than 20,000 artifacts from pre-contact period to present, fine arts, crafts, household goods, clothing, agricultural tools, and industrial products.

The award-winning exhibition *Freedom and Unity: One Ideal, Many Stories* chronicles 350 years of Vermont history, allowing visitors to walk through time, from the recreation of a 16th century Abenaki wigwam to contemporary oral history interviews. This exhibit is also presented online, accompanied by five teachers' guides with curriculum materials.

The Historical Society's educational outreach program, meanwhile, serves thousands of students, educators, and families each year through learning and development workshops, genealogy courses, history lending kits, curriculum guides, and field trips.

Since 2001, the Community History Partnership has created cross-generational partnerships in 34 communities, joining elementary and secondary school students with their local historical societies and town libraries. Through these partnerships, students of all backgrounds research their communities, learn to use and interpret primary sources, gather oral histories, study architecture and artifacts, and then document and present their findings to the public.

Still, it is perhaps the Vermont History Expo for which the Historical Society most proudly bills itself as a truly statewide institution. An annual summer event since 2000, it is the only statewide exhibition



of local historical societies in the country. Each year the historic town of Tunbridge draws more than 6,000 visitors, as 100 local historical societies and dozens of heritage groups, museums, and performers take part in the weekend festival, each showcasing a distinctive exhibit and offering reenactments, living history presentations, plays, readings by Vermont authors, genealogical presentations, and craft demonstrations.

Through its extensive partnerships, its intense focus on schools and families, and its commitment to connecting all Vermont communities to their state's history, the Vermont Historical Society lives up to its mission: to engage both Vermonters and Vermonters at heart in the exploration of their state's rich heritage, and in turn set the standard for statewide work in Vermont history.

Address

Vermont Historical Society
60 Washington Street
Barre, VT 05641

Web site: www.vermonthistory.org

Phone: 802-479-8500

Annual budget: \$2,100,847

Full-time staff: 17

Part-time staff: 7

Director: J. Kevin Graffagnino

Community Partners

The Vermont Historical Society partners with hundreds of K–12 schools and local historical societies, public libraries, museums, and heritage organizations throughout the state. VHS collaborates on programs and projects with the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance, Vermont Humanities Council, Vermont Arts Council, New England Archivists, Vermont State Archives, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the Vermont Department of Education, local civic groups, and various business and tourism associations.

Left: A student gets hands-on with an item from the society's collection. Center: Building exterior. Right: Fife and drum performers at the Vermont History Expo.

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

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 (2000 was 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

Brukner Nature Center, Troy, OH

The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Jacksonville, FL

Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, MO

28 About the Institute

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.

Museums and libraries are America's leading public institutions, making knowledge available to millions at little or no cost. As public institutions they must meet a very high threshold of mission accountability and use resources wisely for public good.

Through grants and information resources, we annually reach thousands of museums and libraries in myriad ways—from providing much needed technical assistance for small institutions to establishing national and replicable models, strengthening state networks,



and supporting professional development. To aid institutions in program design, we also provide tools for strategic planning and evaluation. Funding from the Institute helps museums and libraries operate effectively and give value to their communities. It also leverages additional public and private support.

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.

Contact Info

To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.

Institute of Museum and Library Services

1800 M Street NW, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20036-5802
(202) 653-IMLS
imsinfo@ims.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 Awards. 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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