

The Institute of Museum and Library Services 2006 Award Winners

At the Institute of Museum and Library Services, we believe that personal and professional success hinges on access to *information* and *ideas*. As the federal leader for the nation's libraries and museums, it is our *mission* to support these institutions in their drive to empower Americans with knowledge.

The institutions we honor today are masters at communicating the wealth of their information. Their staff reach tirelessly into every corner of their communities, ensuring that a breadth of ideas and resources shine through to even the remotest resident. They have dedicated themselves to enriching and improving entire communities.

The Institute is proud to honor these six model libraries and museums with the 2006 National Awards for Museum and Library Service.

Graphic: Artrain USA, Ann Arbor, MI:

When your community hears this train chugging into town, it can mean only one thing: art has arrived! Housed in a vintage train, Artrain carries world-class exhibitions around the country to regions with little access to art.

After each national tour, Artrain USA leaves behind stirring art experiences, and sows the seeds for small-town arts groups to continue to think big and stimulate creativity.

Graphic: Frankfort Community Public Library, Frankfort, IN:

The Frankfort Community Public Library has become a cultural magnet, drawing in the entire community with an astonishing array of programs that encourage people to make their own lives a work of art. By expanding the definition of what a library can do, the minds behind Frankfort have created a true cultural hub for their community.

Graphic: John G. Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, IL:

Every day, the John G. Shedd Aquarium is powered by a rousing belief - that animals have the power to connect people to the living world and inspire them to make a difference. The wonders of the underwater world are presented in all their transformative glory – each experience providing a unique educational opportunity that connects the conservation of marine life to our own survival.

Graphic: Lincoln Children's Zoo, Lincoln, NE

For 40 courageous years, the Lincoln Children's Zoo has made it its mission to evolve in-tune with the city, adapting to the community every step of the way. It is a beloved civic partner, teaching science within the schools, welcoming new families who settle in Nebraska, and bringing cultural and community groups together.

Graphic: Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, NC

The Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County is driven by a singular belief -- that knowledge is power. Comprising 24 locations, numerous innovative programs, and a family of 18 websites, the people behind this massive system serve almost 900,000 area residents, all of whom have benefited from the powerful reach of their library.

Graphic: San Antonio Public Library, San Antonio, TX:

In a city of over 1.2 million people, San Antonio Public Library rises to the challenge every day, providing accessible learning to every resident, many of whom are just beginning to learn English.

By embracing the cultural diversity of their city, the driven team at this library have forged new paths that connect and empower their community like never before.

As the primary source of federal support for America's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums, the Institute of Museum and Library Services is proud to congratulate the esteemed honorees of 2006.

This presentation was created for the Institute of Museum and Library Services by the History Channel, where the past comes alive.