

2011 National Medal for Museum and Library Service video transcript

Voiceover: The Institute of Museum and Library Services honors ten of the nation's museums and libraries for their extraordinary contributions to the communities they serve. IMLS is the nation's primary source of federal support for museums and libraries. We congratulate the winners of the 2011 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

Graphic: Brooklyn Museum Brooklyn, NY

Voiceover: Located in the heart of a dynamic and diverse community, the Brooklyn Museum greets some 400,000 visitors each year who explore the connections between the collections and their lives, traditions, and cultures. Through exhibitions such as *American Identities*, a multicultural view of American origins, and fun, interactive programs like *First Saturdays*, which invites visitors to enjoy music and dance surrounded by great art, and *Click! A Crowd-Curated Exhibit*, the Brooklyn Museum is a community engagement innovator.

Graphic: EdVenture Children's Museum Columbia, SC

Voiceover: Children learn a lot of things about their world when at play—a concept that's employed at EdVenture Children's Museum in every exhibit and program and one that extends to parents, caregivers, and museum partners. From learning anatomy by scrambling through EDDIE, a 40-foot high molded plastic child; to practicing a possible future career on a full-size fire engine or John Deere tractor; to learning practical money management using EDDIE bucks, children run, climb, slide, laugh, and play all the while learning important skills they can use now and when they grow up.

Graphic: Alachua County Library District Gainesville, FL

Voiceover: For the staff and community partners of Alachua County Library in Gainesville, Florida, the concept of "community librarianship" is all about thinking outside the book and pooling resources to provide much-needed community services. Library staff parlay their E-Government expertise to assist visitors with job skill development, testing, resume writing, and basic computer skills, while library partners offer mobile health clinics and assistance with legal matters—offering a valuable one-stop service.

Graphic: Columbus Metropolitan Library Columbus, OH

Voiceover: When customers can't get to the Columbus Metropolitan Library, staff from its *Ready to Read Corps* take the library to them, carrying out the library's mission to meet customers wherever they are and providing early literacy training for parents. From a base of solid community support, the library helps high school students improve reading, writing, and math scores through its Homework Help Centers and takes a proactive role in the local economy

through its Job Help Centers—initiatives that are having positive impacts on the lives of Columbus, Ohio, residents.

Graphic: Erie Art Museum
Erie, PA

Voiceover: Erie Art Museum embraces the arts—all of them—and through its innovative programs invites its community to do the same. Street art programs *LeapFrog* and *GoFish* are re-energizing and beautifying downtown streets and kindling new interest in public art forms; for the large refugee population, *Old Songs: New Opportunities* provides both job opportunities and a way to share important traditions and culture; and *Kids as Curators* has middle-school children and their teachers seeing the museum like they've never seen it before.

Graphic: Hill Museum & Manuscript Library
Collegeville, MN

Voiceover: Books and manuscripts—many of them rare or ancient—meet high tech in complete harmony at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library where Benedictine monks work to preserve and catalog fragile collections using digital photography.

Father Columba Stewart: The only way the past has come down to us is in the form of these writings.

Voiceover: Through its website, the library offers digital copies of thousands of medieval, renaissance, and early-modern manuscripts from Europe, Africa, India, and most recently, the Middle East, working in partnership worldwide with local libraries and archives to preserve records from wars, political turmoil, and even fraud in some of the most-unsettled spots on the planet.

Graphic: Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Richmond, VA

Voiceover: Visitors to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden love the peaceful refreshing atmosphere. Each visitor has the opportunity to learn more about the natural world and their role in helping to conserve precious resources. Beautiful and intriguing plantings—much loved by amateur and professional photographers—share the 60-acre space with an education and library complex, greenhouses, a glass-domed conservatory, and a vegetable garden that annually supplies some 9,000 tons of fresh, nutritious food to community food banks, making these gardens a place that feeds both body and soul.

Graphic: San José Public Library
San Jose, CA

Voiceover: With more than 15 million items checked out annually, San Jose Public Library has earned its title as one of the busiest libraries in the country and serves customers from richly diverse backgrounds in more than 19 branches. Library patrons are the focus of the design of its

facilities, which welcome visitors to its programs like *Stay and Play*, which engages preschool and elementary children and their caregivers to learn through play; and in its commitment to lifelong learning with programs in early literacy, online homework help, and hands-on science and math activities designed especially for use in libraries.

**Graphic: Weippe Public Library & Discovery Center
Weippe, ID**

Voiceover: In this remote, mountainous region, the library is a valued community resource, which, through imaginative partnerships, brought high-speed Internet service to the tiny town of Weippe and will soon expand the current library-centered cell phone service to the entire community. Offering employment assistance to residents; engaging children from preschool to teen years in projects ranging from high-tech computer games to team challenges using LEGOs bricks; or helping a resident learn basic computer skills—it's all in a day's work for the four staff members who though they work part-time, manage to make a big impact on their community.

**Graphic: Madison Children's Museum
Madison, WI**

Voiceover: Madison Children's Museum believes in local talent. Its historic building was redesigned by a local architect using local products, and some 15,000 local volunteers donated time, money, and even some of the objects used in exhibits.

Young boy: Cool!

Voiceover: In an overscheduled world, children, parents, grandparents, and caregivers are encouraged to take part in open-ended play, a freewheeling experience that creates intergenerational conversations, provides fertile ground for learning, and sparks the imagination in sometimes unpredictable but always delightful ways.

Voiceover: The Institute of Museum and Library Services is proud to honor the outstanding winners of the 2011 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. This presentation was created for the Institute of Museum and Library Services by HISTORY.