



INSTITUTE *of*
Museum and Library
SERVICES



2019 NATIONAL MEDAL
for
MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE



THE IMLS NATIONAL MEDAL IS THE NATION'S HIGHEST HONOR FOR LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS,

a tribute to how they are making a
difference in the lives of children, families,
and communities around the country.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

955 L'Enfant Plaza North, SW, Suite 4000 | Washington, DC 20024-2135

202-653-IMLS (4657) | www.imls.gov

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Credits: Writer: Susan Davis International | Editors: Elizabeth Holtan and Erica Jaros | Designer: A.DELAROCHE DESIGNS



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From the IMLS DIRECTOR

"I AM PLEASED TO PRESENT
THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2019
NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM
AND LIBRARY SERVICE."



The ten recipients of the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service embody in the best of museums and libraries nationwide. They shape our thinking and motivate what we do at IMLS. They encourage us to promote lifelong learning, build the capacity to improve community well-being, increase public access, and achieve excellence. IMLS's pursuit of our strategic plan is built on these pillars and made real by the outstanding work of these medalists.

As American communities evolve, libraries and museums are responding with innovative programs and services. They bring us together to build understanding and community momentum, and offer us endless learning exploration and reflection. We may not recognize the irreplaceable support libraries and museums provide until we need them most. Museums and libraries serve as places of refuge in our communities, offering support during everything from natural disasters to unanticipated personal transitions. The connections they inspire and the knowledge they share makes a real difference in our lives.

YOU CAN HEAR THEIR IMPACT IN THE STORIES OF THOSE WHO KNOW THEM BEST:

"The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Library is a true gem, working every day to not only preserve tribal history but bring it to life in the community and enrich the lives of the families it serves."

“The South Carolina Aquarium inspires visitors and encourages them to become lifelong learners, to share and multiply what they have learned, to conserve the natural world, and to be welcomed back into the aquarium family with each and every visit.”

“Meridian Library District has not only made the library relevant again, but has created an entirely new entity for the community. I have been so inspired that I not only bring my grandchildren often, to let them ‘play at the library,’ but I have volunteered to share what I learned. The Meridian Library District has altered the arc of my life and I believe will change the lives of others, and help make my community a better place to live.”

“Since it was established in 1991, the National Civil Rights Museum has been an important national institution for telling America’s civil rights history. Steadily improving its exhibits over the years, what was once a rundown motel and a site of momentous injustice is now a showcase attracting presidents and heads of state from around the world.”

And there are countless more stories. As in the past 25 years, these National Medalists and finalists exemplify the profound and continuing impact museums and libraries have on our lives. By providing lifelong learning opportunities and sparking our imaginations, they build the capacity of their communities to improve and grow. But most of all, they strive for excellence and inspire us all to reach higher and further together.

On behalf of the staff, the IMLS Board, and all of our community partners and supporters, we congratulate the finalists and 10 winners of this year’s National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

Sincerely,

Kathryn K. Matthew

DR. KATHRYN K. MATTHEW
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES



BARONA CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

Throughout their long history in what is now San Diego County, the *'Iipay/Diegueño* People have adapted to changing circumstances while maintaining their own identity and succeeding as an indigenous nation. The Barona Band of Mission Indians' Barona Cultural Center & Museum seeks to educate audiences about the history and traditions of the *'Iipay/Diegueño* People, and to preserve their cultural heritage.

SHARING AND PRESERVING BARONA CULTURE

When the museum opened in 2000, it became the first Native museum in San Diego County. Early on, museum staff established programs and events for tribal members and the public and worked to solidify their relationship with both communities. The museum sought to grow their collection with artifacts donated by community members. Initially, tribal members were reluctant to share personal materials, but after the reservation suffered devastating wildfires in 2003 and 2007, tribal members realized that they could bring their photographs and heirlooms to the museum for safe keeping.

ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE TO ALL

The Barona Cultural Center & Museum was the first Native museum to join the 43-member San Diego Museum Council. This created new opportunities for the museum staff to grow its outreach to the non-Native community. Membership in the council helps bring the general public into the Barona museum, and gives tribal members access to other member museums at discounted rates, sometimes for free.

FOSTERING LIFELONG LEARNING

A key part of the museum's mission is to educate the non-Native community about *'Iipay/Diegueño* culture and history. Its classes and events are open to the general public, and Museum staffers frequently host school field trips and travel the area, teaching people about everything from the nation's history to its expertise in ethnobotany, basketry, and pottery. Their work educating students about the *'Iipay/Diegueño* People fills a major gap in the educational curriculum, augmenting teachings about the arrival of Spanish missionaries. Through educational programs and outreach, the museum staff work to counter existing stereotypes that surround Native culture.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Each summer, the museum hosts a “Culture Camp” for native youth, encouraging them to grow in the richness of their heritage through learning about cultural traditions and the practices of their people. The three-day camp culminates in the Annual Traditional Gathering, a weekend of traditional singing, dancing, activities, and games steeped in tradition.



“At Barona Cultural Center & Museum, we serve two populations, the Native community on the reservation—and by extension the entire *’Iipay/Diegueño* nation—and the general public. We have a strong outreach program and host numerous classes to educate people of all ages. We feel very strongly that the Museum be a leader in the museum industry and a primary resource in educating our diverse communities.”

– LAURIE EGAN-HEDLEY, DIRECTOR, BARONA CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

BARONA CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

Address: 1095 Barona Road,
Lakeside, CA 92040

Phone: (619) 443-7003 ext. 219

Web: <https://www.baronamuseum.com/>

Director: Laurie Egan-Hedley

GULFPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Gulfport Public Library is a small institution serving a small community, but its attendance numbers tell a different story. Imagine hosting a library event attended not by a handful of library devotees, but by a hundred, even two hundred community members. That's a regular occurrence for Gulfport Library programs, and it's all because of the novel ways the library is meeting the needs of its diverse community.

INVESTING IN THE TOWN'S YOUTH

From teen clubs to reading and tutoring programs, the Gulfport Public Library offers the town's youth a safe space to gather and learn. During summers, when library staff noticed many kids were spending the entire day at the library while their parents were at work, they partnered with the local school district and the Juvenile Welfare Board to institute a lunch program, similar to those offered at school. Now, children whose parents cannot afford summer childcare have not only a safe place to learn, but also a meal and snacks to get them through the day. In the last few years, the library has hired a dedicated fulltime youth librarian and has seen attendance at story times increase from just a few to more than 50 participants.

A HOME FOR ALL GULFPORT RESIDENTS

Though Gulfport is a town of approximately 12,000 residents, it is home to relatively large LGBTQ population. The Gulfport Public Library has made serving this community a top priority through its LGBTQ Resource Center, the only of its kind in the state. The center has a LGBTQ film series and various LGBTQ-centered collections and archives, produces a newsletter, and holds numerous well attended events throughout the year—from an annual Pride flag raising and weekly Pride events to monthly programming. Powered by a committee of highly engaged community members, the LGBTQ Resource Center is integral to the fabric of Gulfport.

A COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACE

The library's excellent event and program attendance are a testament to the strategic thought that goes into its programming. Like its other offerings, the library's adult programming is designed to serve the needs of Gulfport—from a partnership with the local senior center for technology courses to dynamic programming including author talks, musical performances, and classes. The library also partners with AARP to assist with tax preparation for those in need.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Last year alone, the library hosted seventeen LGBTQ-related programs with 1400 attendees. One of the library's many events featured teenagers from the "Out of the Shadows" program who were invited to speak about their experiences as homeless LGBTQ teens. Events such as this led to the library winning the 2018 Newlen-Symons Award for Excellence in Serving the GLBT Community, an award sponsored by the American Library Association.

GULFPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Address: 5501 28th Ave S
Gulfport, Florida 33707
Phone: (727) 893-1074
Web: <https://mygulfport.us/gpl/>
Director: David Mather



"We may not be a very large library, but when we started targeting the right programming, people started visiting in large numbers, particularly for the LGBTQ Resource Center. We all pitch in, and we're very fortunate to have a robust 'Circle of Friends' and LGBTQ committee. Almost all of our programming is paid for with funds the group raises selling books for a quarter or fifty cents each."

– DAVID MATHER, DIRECTOR, GULFPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

INTER-UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

In 1962, long before the widespread adoption of the Internet, a group of twenty-two universities led by the University of Michigan came together to form the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). The goal: to break down information silos by sharing data across institutions. Today, ICPSR boasts nearly 800 member institutions and has become a national leader in the collection, preservation, and curation of large datasets, and empowers people to explore its data in responsible and novel ways.

MANAGING BIG DATA

With an archive of more than a quarter million files and ten thousand studies in the social and behavioral sciences, ICPSR holds the largest collection of its kind—everything from surveys and census data to social media datasets, geospatial data, and crime statistics. But ICPSR is not just an archive. It's also committed to educating people on methods and best practices for exploring its troves of information. Among its many efforts in this area is its Summer Program in Quantitative Methods which brings in a thousand scholars, both at the junior and experienced levels, for rigorous, hands-on training in statistical techniques, research methodologies, and data analysis.

REPRESENTING THE UNDERREPRESENTED

Thanks in part to a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ICPSR demonstrates its commitment to diversity through its Summer Program Diversity Initiative. The grant provides scholarships to graduate students from underrepresented groups to work in an area that has historically been off-limits for many of them. "We want to broaden who academic researchers are and to make sure that academic research includes people with diverse experiences," said ICPSR Director Maggie Levenstein.

PRIVACY, SECURITY, STANDARDS

Through its training and meticulous data curation work behind the scenes, ICPSR has become not only a partner in the development of international standards like the Data Documentation Initiative, but also a leader in data privacy and security. ICPSR operates secure data enclaves for researchers and reviews research analyses to ensure they follow privacy protocols. "We want people's life experiences to matter for research without exposing information about the individual," said Levenstein.





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

In response to the Flint, Michigan water crisis, ICPSR assembled data resources about the community that were gathered over 50 years, and made them openly available to researchers, health professionals, and the Flint community. The resulting project, Open Data Flint, exposes election data, behavioral health studies, crime statistics, and much more to everyone interested in making Flint a healthier and more informed community.

ICPSR

Address: P.O. Box 1248
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248
Phone: (734) 615-8400
Web: <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu>
Director: Maggie Levenstein

“People today realize that we’re in a data driven world. Data is a resource, but it’s often controlled by entities with little interest in providing access to it. ICPSR is about empowering people by making data broadly available and by giving people the skills to understand and analyze that data — and to understand the research that is produced from that data.”

– MAGGIE LEVENSTEIN, ICPSR DIRECTOR

JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM LIBRARY

The rise of the Jamestown S'Klallam Library as a lynchpin of the S'Klallam Tribe's social and cultural environment began humbly. First housed in a small area of the community center, the library now occupies the entire building. Despite having few financial resources, the library gradually formed its collection thanks to a dedicated and passionate group of tribal cultural preservationists.

TRANSFORMING THE COMMUNITY

"In the early 90s, the high school dropout rate and teen pregnancy rates were abysmal," said Liz Mueller, a member of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Culture Committee and the early head of the library and its research. With so much S'Klallam history recovered through early research efforts, the library started an educational campaign to help restore tribal pride, especially for tribal youth. The library set out to inspire young people by educating them about their heritage through history, art, dances, songs, and stories. "With these efforts, we made a big turnaround," said Mueller. "Most of our youth now graduate and go on to college."

SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE

The S'Klallam language was almost entirely lost, so the library engaged with partners to recover that important aspect of the Tribe's culture. Working with linguist Dr. Timothy Montler, sister Tribes Lower Elwha Klallam and Port Gamble S'Klallam, and the Tribe's Community Services department, the library started weekly language classes. Attendance has grown, with many attendees obtaining certification in the tribal language. The library created S'Klallam language cards with images of food and plant species and partnered with the traditional food program to identify their S'Klallam names. Class members now play card games and take plant walks, bringing the language into everyday life.

LOOKING BACKWARD AND FORWARD

From robotics classes to ethnobotany, the library's program offerings aim to bring the Tribe's history into the present and the future. The after-school STEM programming gives students a chance to learn about map making, electronic circuits, and ways to employ robots to count fish in a stream restoration project. Coupled with visits to nearby schools as well as field trips to the library from schools as far away as Seattle, the library's reach is far-ranging.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Unlike many libraries that acquire collection materials, the Jamestown S'Klallam library collection was largely created with the help of the community. With the support of an anthropologist and the leadership of Tribal citizens, the library collected and digitized family photographs from the community, shot videos of Tribal Elders, and researched archives at nearby universities. The result was a renaissance of knowledge about the Tribe's history and culture that continues today.

JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM LIBRARY

Address: 1033 Old Blyn Hwy
Sequim, WA 98382

Phone: (360) 582-5783

Web: <http://library.jamestowntribe.org>

Director: Bonnie Roos



"We're a public library, we're a tribal library, and we're a family library. I think that's what makes us unique. We try to help Tribal citizens and descendants connect with their culture, but we also reach out to the broader community and try to increase their understanding of tribal culture and lifeways—so that there's more acceptance and understanding."

– BONNIE ROOS, TRIBAL LIBRARIAN, JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM LIBRARY

MERIDIAN LIBRARY DISTRICT

At the Meridian Library District, books are just the beginning, and branches aren't just quiet places for learning. Serving the fastest-growing city in Idaho, the libraries focus their efforts on enriching lives, igniting curiosity, and cultivating connections. MLD's programming includes a shipping container turned Tiny Library, a bicycle lending program, a bookmobile, and a full-featured maker space. Its branches are dynamic community centers that allow Meridian residents to come together around shared goals and interests.

HOLD DOORS OPEN

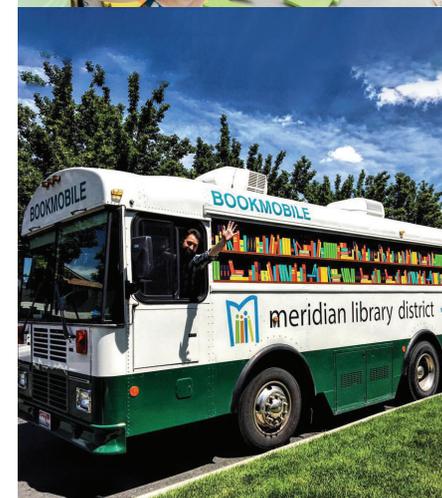
When Library Director Gretchen Caserotti came aboard five years ago, she engaged her staff in the development of a strategic plan. The result was a “hold doors open” service philosophy, a practical framework for getting things done with minimal red tape and for serving patrons with an agile approach to policies and rules. The library staff also develops its programming around the community feedback to create a well-rounded and targeted set of programs—for youth, seniors, small businesses, and those who want to learn unique skills, such as the art of beekeeping.

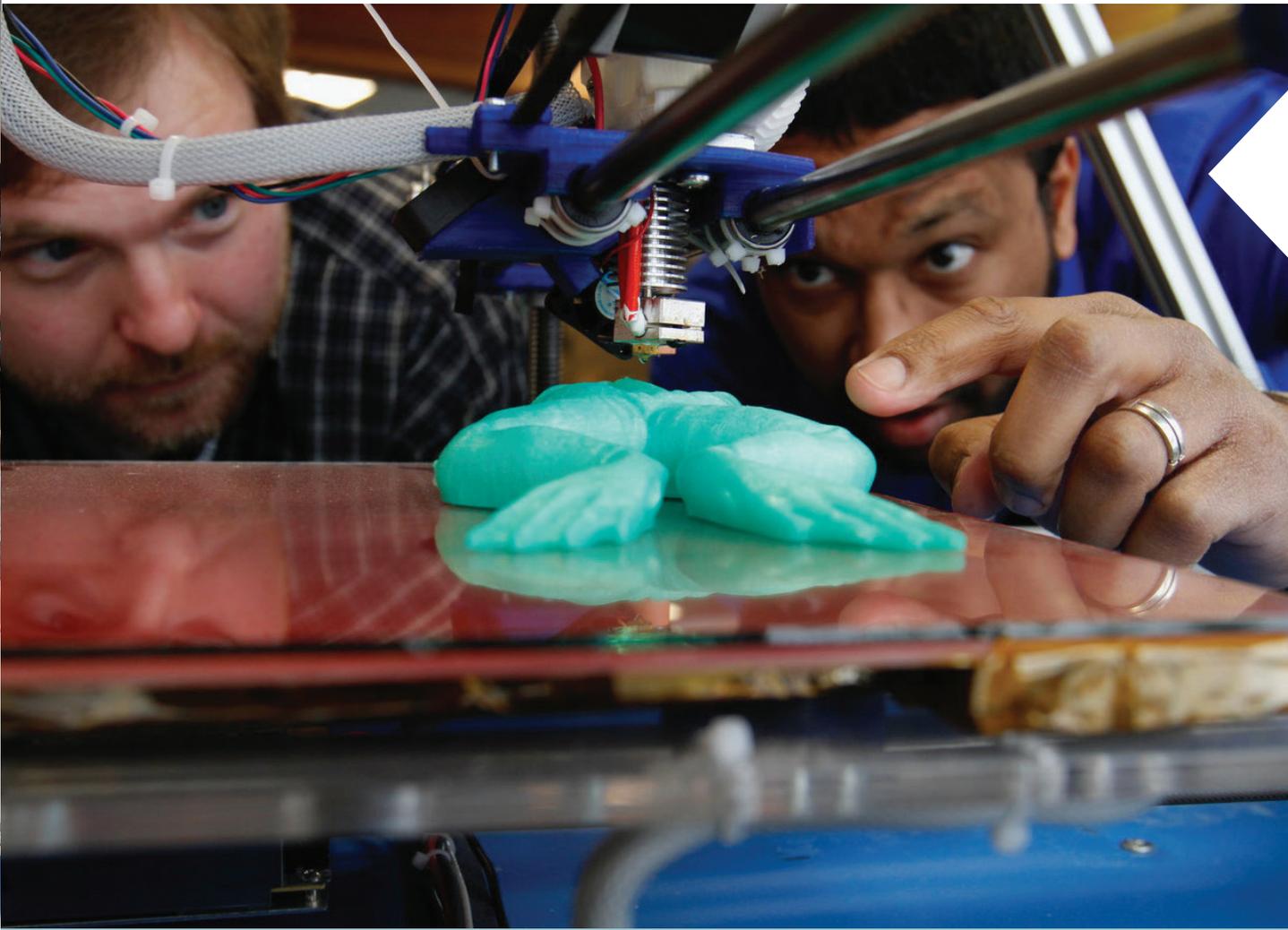
INNOVATION FROM CONSTRAINT

When a resident-supported funding measure to build a new library failed to reach the 67% approval necessary to pass, library staff remained dogged and used available funds to create an interactive childhood learning library inside a shipping container. The Meridian Tiny Library was inspired by the tiny home movement, and because of its size, does things a bit differently—the space itself is a program and is largely self-service. Whenever open, the location is staffed with librarians who foster the five early learning practices: talk, play, sing, write, and read.

GOING MOBILE

Like the Tiny Library, the district's bookmobile program is all about “embedded librarianship,” providing services to the community in the community. Seven full-time outreach department staff members run the bookmobile and other mobile programs. They take an informed approach to their work, serving the community by partnering with schools to increase access to resources, visiting farmers markets and community events, and making weekly stops at low-income apartment complexes to provide materials and programs.





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

With a 3D printer, CNC machine, sound studio, co-working space, media lab, and business meeting room, the district’s unBound branch is designed to demystify technology and encourage entrepreneurship. Patrons have used the downtown storefront space to create a successful podcast, a fidget spinner manufacturing operation, and small business websites. It’s a lab where patrons can tinker, with the support of dedicated tech-savvy staff members.

MERIDIAN LIBRARY DISTRICT

Address: 1326 W Cherry Lane
Meridian, ID 83642
Phone: (208) 888-4451
Web: <https://www.mld.org/>
Director: Gretchen Caserotti

“Our philosophy of service, and the way that informs our practice, is what makes us unique. Our library is a vibrant, dynamic place. When someone first visits one of our branches and is amazed by how much is going on, that’s because we’ve worked hard to offer something for everyone. By offering a wide array of programs, we are better fulfilling our commitment to the community.”

– GRETCHEN CASEROTTI, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL

Many people know Memphis, Tennessee's Lorraine Motel as the location of one of the most tragic events in U.S. history, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. From this tragedy rose the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, which chronicles key episodes of the American Civil Rights Movement and examines today's most pressing global civil and human rights issues. "What the museum does is record the journey to equality," said museum President Terri Lee Freeman.

THE PAST IN THE PRESENT

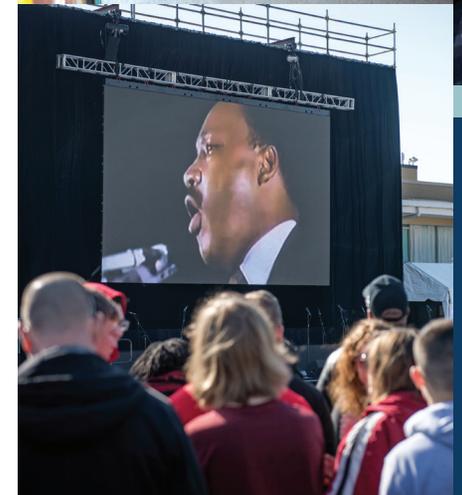
While a visit to the museum culminates at the location where Dr. King was shot, the museum's nearly 350,000 annual visitors encounter much more along the way. Throughout the museum's twenty-four permanent exhibits, visitors delve deep into the journey of Africans enslaved in America and plantation life, through post-Civil War reconstruction, Jim Crow, and the modern civil rights movement. Along the journey, the museum chronicles the movements of resistance and the unsung heroes who sought equality.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The museum brings visitors to the present day by highlighting today's most pressing civil and human rights issues—from human trafficking and immigration to movements such as Black Lives Matter, Occupy, the Arab Spring, and others. The museum engages youth as part of its educational mission by partnering with civil rights icon Ruby Bridges, one of the first African American children to integrate an elementary school in the South, to lead a day of storytelling, entertainment, and book donations.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

During last year's annual King Day street festival, the museum offered free admission in exchange for donations to a local food bank, collecting 12,000 pounds of food. This is one of the largest food drives benefiting that facility. The museum also brought in community partners with a focus on health and wellness to offer the Memphis community free medical screenings, cooking demonstrations, and more.





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

To mark the 50-year anniversary of Dr. King's assassination last year, the museum organized MLK50, a year-long reflection on Dr. King's legacy, around the theme "Where do we go from here?" Throughout the year, community partners held town hall meetings, roundtables, and other programming culminating in a three-day series of events featuring notable figures including former Attorney General Eric Holder, NPR's Michele Norris, Congressman John Lewis, Rev. James Lawson, historian Taylor Branch, and professor Michael Eric Dyson.

"We try to present the King that few people talk about and help people understand the complexity and depth of both the man and the movement. We hope people come away from a visit to the museum with an understanding that just like those individuals documented on the walls of the Museum, we all have not only the ability to create positive change, but are challenged to do so in order to preserve freedom."

– TERRI LEE FREEMAN, PRESIDENT, NCRM AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL

**NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM
AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL**

Address: 450 Mulberry St.
Memphis, TN 38103

Phone: (901) 527-1213

Web: <https://www.civilrightsmuseum.org>

President: Terri Lee Freeman

NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Saying the New Haven Free Public Library is steeped in local history is an understatement. Twenty-five years after its 1886 establishment by city legislation, the library became an anchor, along with the train station, in the 1910 Plan for New Haven, as envisioned by renowned architects Cass Gilbert and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. The Ives Memorial Library, strategically situated on the historic New Haven Green, was dedicated in 1911 and is recognized as one of the city's most practical assets, the people's university.

STRATEGY BECOMES PRACTICE

In 2017, the library began a year-long exploration to uncover the community's aspirations and motivations, while training the staff in empathy mapping and giving them the tools to facilitate community conversations — engaging everyone from individuals experiencing homelessness and multi-generational Chinese families to teens, entrepreneurs, and seniors. Out of those conversations, seven strategic initiatives emerged that inform the library's direction for programming and community engagement.

TEACHING PRACTICAL SKILLS

At any of the library's five locations, people can attend events where they learn how to reclaim their digital footprint, plant a tree, or ready a bike for spring. Series like "Talk with Docs" and "Parenting 101" focus on practical skills to connect community members with each other and resources needed in daily life. The library's digital literacy classes and one-on-one tech assistance, where patrons learn basic computer skills and access resources for small business, among others, complement its practical education goals.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The library enjoys numerous signature partnerships. The Community Ambassador Program with the Long Wharf Theatre draws on library patrons across city neighborhoods to enrich dialog and build an inclusive audience through programs such as participatory story slams, coupled with free tickets to Long Wharf performances. In one of its most powerful projects in recent years, the library partnered with a broad coalition of community organizations and activists, now recognized as "Stop Solitary Connecticut." This project is one of the first public library exhibitions of a replica solitary confinement cell, giving the public the opportunity to experience isolation and learn about its impact.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Ives Squared opened last year as the welcoming front door and anchor in New Haven's CTNext Innovation Places ecosystem. Visitors to the historic main library might be surprised by the transformation of an iconic quadrant of the main floor into a luminous, buzzing hub featuring services for entrepreneurs, creatives, and nonprofit leaders with white boards, interactive technology, creative software, business databases, makerspace equipment, and a curated collection of pertinent books.

NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Address: 133 Elm Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Phone: (203) 946-8139

Web: <http://nhfpl.org/>

City Librarian: Martha Brogan



"Ives Squared provides a socially inclusive, trusted 'third place' that fosters a culture of innovation and promotes an entrepreneurial mindset by connecting residents with the people, tools, and resources to advance their ideas. We see this space as a way to activate the community and introduce people to new ways of working, attuned with the 21st-century economy."

– MARTHA BROGAN, CITY LIBRARIAN

ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

Opened in 2000, the Orange County Regional History Center occupies the former Orange County Courthouse in the heart of downtown Orlando. Operating in that historic space provides the foundation for the History Center's dedication to telling the story of a region that can seem dominated by the tourism industry. Community members and visitors who make their way into downtown Orlando encounter an institution devoted to engaging its diverse community in local culture, past and present.

TELLING UNTOLD STORIES

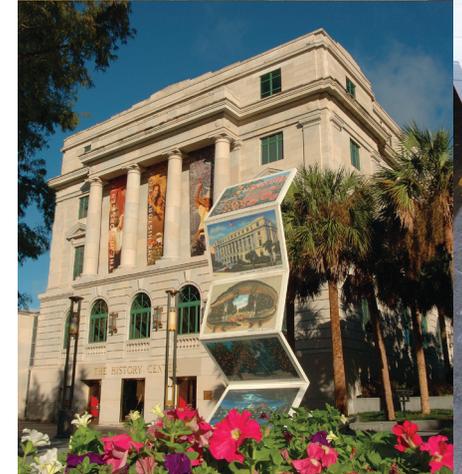
In one of many examples of its efforts to shine a light on the history of the region, the History Center created an exhibit around The Highwaymen, a group of twenty-six self-taught African American artists working in the 1950s and '60s. Facing limited job opportunities and strict segregation, the Highwaymen would sell their landscape paintings door-to-door and from the trunks of their cars along Florida roadways. The Highwaymen are now recognized as an important part of Florida's cultural and artistic history. "Stories such as these help connect Orlando's residents to their local history and foster a sense of community," said Executive Director Michael Perkins.

GROUNDING THE COMMUNITY

Orlando has a highly diverse and ever-changing population, and the History Center aims to make local history a connector. Among its numerous program offerings is the "History in a Glass" series, where local bartenders create a unique cocktail inspired by an item in the center's collection. Other events and exhibits target particular sectors of the Orlando community, such as a recent exhibit on the roots of Orlando's large Vietnamese community, with materials translated into Vietnamese by the History Center, a harbinger of their ongoing efforts to make the center more multilingual.

CONNECTING WITH KIDS

The more than fifteen thousand youth who visit the center every year encounter a space carefully adapted to bring history alive for them. Local actors portray characters from history and guest speakers from the local zoo and NASA connect students with their community. The center holds a summer camp program, brings the "History on the Go" program to the local schools, and in its largest event of the year, hosts a trick-or-treat safe zone each Halloween, bringing in some 3,000 kids from the community.





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Following the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting, Orlando residents began creating memorials across the city. In partnership with the city, History Center staffers began carefully collecting fragile notes, flags, candles, and other pieces that made up the powerful memorials to preserve them as a part of Orlando's history. The resulting annual exhibit memorializes victims of the tragic shooting, along with first responders, family members, and the larger community. Since then, the History Center has become widely recognized for its rapid-response collecting techniques.

"We're really making the effort to serve as much of the community as we possibly can in as many different ways as we can. Our amazing staff has accomplished incredible things, not only in their work memorializing the Pulse story, but getting out into the community and working with our many community partners."

- MUSEUM MANAGER MICHAEL PERKINS

ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

Address: 65 E Central Blvd
Orlando, FL 32801

Phone: (407) 836-8591

Web: <http://www.thehistorycenter.org/>

Director: Michael Perkins

SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM

The South Carolina Aquarium sets itself apart, not for having a massive living collection of exotic species from around the world, but for keeping its collection's focus local. Among the thousands of species in the living collection, almost all are native to South Carolina, and that gives the Aquarium a chance to educate the public about the biodiversity of the region and replicate native aquatic ecosystems.

LEARNING UP CLOSE

The Aquarium has become an integral part of South Carolina's science education curriculum, partnering with teachers around the state to offer field trips for the state's students. To keep students' time at the Aquarium fun and engaging, the Aquarium has created resource kits for teachers organized around activities such as scavenger hunts, exhibit-specific exploration activities, and discovery bins. Through its outreach efforts, Aquarium staffers are also on the road almost three hundred days a year visiting schools, hospitals, and other locations with their conservation-driven educational message.

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

The Aquarium extends its educational outreach with a series of partnerships with conservation organizations devoted to taking on tough environmental issues such as coastal erosion due to sea level rise. Its Resilience Initiative for Coastal Education seeks to educate coastal communities about the impacts of sea level rise and proposes ways to mitigate them. The Aquarium produced a documentary on the subject with its local PBS affiliate and partnered with the Medical University of South Carolina to inform coastal residents about changes happening in their communities.

AN ECOSYSTEM EXPOSED

Another of the Aquarium's standout offerings is the deepest tank in North America, the two-story Great Ocean Tank, which harbors species found off the South Carolina coast, including sharks, moray eels, grouper, and a 220-pound loggerhead sea turtle named Caretta. The aquarium is an ecosystem guests can view up close, along with educational presentations delivered throughout the day by divers from inside the tank. "It's a great example of our commitment to an exceptional guest experience," said Aquarium President and CEO Kevin Mills.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

With four endangered species of sea turtles native to South Carolina's coast, the Aquarium partnered with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to become a leader in the rehabilitation of injured and diseased sea turtles. Arriving at the center with shark bites, boat propeller injuries, plastic ingestion, or any number of diseases, the turtles receive care in the Sea Turtle Care Center™, the first rehabilitation center of its kind to be open for guests to view. The public is invited to witness the release of rehabilitated turtles back to the ocean.

SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM

Address: 100 Aquarium Wharf
Charleston, SC 29401

Phone: (843) 579-8626

Web: <https://scaquarium.org/>

President and CEO: Kevin Mills



"Education has been, from the beginning, one of our core mission tenets. The second is conservation, both in terms of our understanding of species through our care of them at the aquarium and in terms of rehabilitation, primarily with sea turtles. When you visit the aquarium, you might see kids mesmerized by the sea turtle rehab and adults engaged in environmental discussion. It's an inspiring place for all ages."

– PRESIDENT AND CEO KEVIN MILLS

THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The New Children's Museum in San Diego, California, combines two elements you don't often see together—commissioned contemporary art and a place for children to learn and play. The New Children's Museum seeks to innovate and expand boundaries, all in the interest of sparking the imaginations of its young visitors.

ART YOU CAN TOUCH

The New Children's Museum encourages its quarter million annual visitors to touch the original artwork—even to climb and jump on them. Partnering with widely recognized contemporary artists, the Museum commissions immersive works. For example, *No Rules... Except 2001/2018*, an installation by Allan Kaprow/reinvented by artist Brian Dick is a room lined with mattresses and pillow tires that encourages kids to jump, crawl, and bounce to their hearts' content.

THE MUSEUM GOES MOBILE

The Museum sets up events throughout San Diego County, offering workshops that engage kids and families with hands-on art-making activities. As part of its programs *Mi Familia*, *Mi Historia* and *Comunidad*, the Museum took its community outreach team to the border neighborhood of San Ysidro to help Latino kids make audio recordings of family stories and create self-portraits that were then transferred to fabric dolls. Through the *Mass Creativity* and *Comunidad* programs, the Museum went to seven communities to explore new ways to become a stronger community resource by providing workshops, free admission, transportation, and professional development opportunities. The Museum's yearlong collaboration with the *People + Places* project sought to provide an inclusive space for communities to share stories through artist-led workshops at community partner organizations.

WHY ART?

The Museum believes that exposure to art and creative play are increasingly important in a world that is evermore regimented and controlled, especially for children. Informed by the science of early childhood brain development and education research, the Museum's installations and activities help develop language and motor skills and foster creativity, problem solving, social skills, critical thinking, and resiliency. The Museum empowers kids to "think, play, and create."



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Their signature installation, *The Wonder Sound*, epitomizes the Museum's community approach. Artist Wes Sam-Bruce took a two-year residency with the Museum, working with diverse communities and families to develop a new installation informed by their stories. The result is part tree house, part village, and part undiscovered world, complete with an award-winning soundscape and its own original language. *The Wonder Sound* came out of a series of *Mass Creativity* art-making workshops around the county as well as at the Museum's annual *Mass Creativity* festival.

THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Address: 200 West Island Ave.
San Diego, CA

Phone: (619) 233-8792

Web: <https://thinkplaycreate.org>

Executive Director/CEO: Judy Forrester



"Artists are often at the cutting edge of new ideas. Sometimes they make waves, but we think that is really important in our society. As a Museum, we need to be forward-thinking and embrace diversity. Art is a great way for people to express themselves, to explore, to discover, to take risks, and to fail safely. We engage artists because they model these things, and the kids get to experience it all first-hand."

– JUDY FORRESTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO, THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

NATIONAL MEDAL finalists



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 FINALISTS

Thirty institutions were named finalists for the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. From them, this year's 10 winners were selected. Through the online *Share Your Story* initiative, museum and library community members highlighted ways these finalist institutions have transformed their lives.

LIBRARIES

AANIHH NAKODA COLLEGE LIBRARY (Harlem, MT)
BISMARCK VETERANS MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY (Bismarck, ND)
FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY (Flint, MI)
GULFPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY (Gulfport, FL)
ICPSR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH (Ann Arbor, MI)
JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBAL LIBRARY (Sequim, WA)
JANE STERN DORADO COMMUNITY LIBRARY (Dorado, Puerto Rico)
LA COUNTY LIBRARY (Los Angeles County, CA)
MCMILLAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY (Wisconsin Rapids, WI)
MERIDIAN LIBRARY DISTRICT (Meridian, ID)
NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY (New Haven, CT)
ROUTE 9 LIBRARY AND INNOVATION CENTER (New Castle, DE)
SPOKANE PUBLIC LIBRARY (Spokane, WA)
TEMPE PUBLIC LIBRARY (Tempe, AZ)
UNION COUNTY CARNEGIE LIBRARY (Union, SC)

MUSEUMS

9/11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM (New York, NY)
BARONA CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM (Lakeside, CA)
BROOKFIELD ZOO (Brookfield, IL)
EL PUEBLO HISTORY MUSEUM (Pueblo, CO)
KIMBELL ART MUSEUM (Fort Worth, TX)
MINNESOTA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM (Saint Paul, MN)
NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL (Memphis, TN)
NEW YORK AQUARIUM (Brooklyn, NY)
NORTHWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM (Seattle, WA)
ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER (Orlando, FL)
ORLANDO SCIENCE CENTER (Orlando, FL)
PEGGY NOTEBAERT NATURE MUSEUM (Chicago, IL)
SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM (Charleston, SC)
THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM (San Diego, CA)
TOWER HILL BOTANIC GARDEN (Boylston, MA)

THE NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE

Since 1994, the National Medal for Museum and Library Service has honored 172 outstanding institutions that have made significant contributions to their communities. Selected institutions demonstrate innovative approaches and a strong commitment to public service and community outreach. They are active in urban, rural, or tribal areas and engage with their communities in diverse ways, including by enhancing literacy, providing services to at risk populations, supporting digital connectivity, and curating community narratives. The winners are selected by the director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services in consultation with the National Museum and Library Services Board.

Beginning with the 2009 awardees, personal stories conveying the ongoing impact of these award-winning institutions are being documented through a cooperative agreement between IMLS and StoryCorps, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of Americans from all backgrounds and beliefs. These stories are preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

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 libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

The National Museum and Library Services Board is an advisory body that includes the IMLS director, deputy directors of museum and library services, and general counsel, and presidentially appointed members of the general public who have demonstrated expertise in, or commitment to, library or museum services. Informed by its collective experience and knowledge, the board advises the IMLS director on general policy and practices, and on selections for the National Medals for Museum and Library Service.

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The mission of IMLS is to advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. The agency's four strategic goals are to promote lifelong learning, build capacity, increase public access, and achieve excellence.

Learn more at www.imls.gov/about-us

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES
955 L'Enfant Plaza North, SW, Suite 4000
Washington, DC 20024-2135
202-653-IMLS (4657)
www.imls.gov

