



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

2006 Awards

National Awards for Museum and Library Service

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These outstanding museums and libraries exemplify great community service. They lead efforts to promote literacy, science education, environmental conservation, and good health. Like many libraries and museums around the country, these six have made themselves indispensable to the communities they serve.

— Mrs. Laura Bush



These award-winning institutions are centers of excellence that connect people to information and ideas.

— Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice

From the Director

The National Awards for Museum and Library Service are the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums that make their communities better places to live.

These award-winning institutions are centers of excellence that connect people to information and ideas. They use innovative and effective methods that allow them to attain a level of public service well beyond expectations, demonstrating the boundless potential of museums and libraries to improve the lives of the people they serve.

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 Awards 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 institutions for their generous support of the National Awards celebration:



04 Artrain USA

Ann Arbor, MI

When Artrain USA chugs into town, communities are changed. Housed in vintage train cars and pulled by locomotives, the traveling museum brings world-class art exhibitions to communities across the country that may have little or no access to art museums.

Artrain USA is a nonprofit organization that educates people about art and exposes them to the ways it can enrich lives. Its audience includes individuals of all ages, circumstances, and educational backgrounds who lack access to the arts and who do not travel to large museums or seek out cultural experiences. Typically a third of the 25–30 communities Artrain USA visits annually are small towns of fewer than 10,000 people. In these communities Artrain USA usually reaches roughly *half* the population, including children, adults, families, teachers, artists, art enthusiasts, train buffs, and people with disabilities.

Prior to an Artrain USA visit, the museum provides a variety of tools and assistance to the host organization to ensure that the exhibition will be a community-wide success. The preparation experience itself has important benefits that last long after the train has left town. The lead organization, whether a local government, art museum, or volunteer group, defines the goals of the visit and works one-on-one with Artrain USA staff to plan programs around these goals. In planning that can take as many as 18 months and involve as many as 100 volunteers, the host organization learns to organize a steering committee, fundraise, coordinate volunteers, and collaborate with diverse community organizations. Artrain USA works with the host organization every step of the way, providing valuable guidance to individuals who often have no formal arts or nonprofit training.

The 4,200 residents of Pelham, Georgia organized PELHAM 2000 to plan a visit of Artrain USA's *Artistry of Space* exhibition six years ago. The town's only cultural event is an annual wildlife arts festival. The residents, therefore, were excited about the idea of having an exhibition with original artwork by such artists as Norman Rockwell, James Wyeth, and Andy Warhol. The elementary school held an art poster contest, the high school English classes held space-themed poetry slams, the railroad station community center hosted a large exhibit from the Johnson Space Center on the science of the International Space Station, and the Kennedy Space Center sent a NASA engineer from the space station project to speak at area high schools. More than \$25,000 was raised by PELHAM 2000 for the *Artistry of Space* exhibition and related programming, and the experience garnered high praise from its many participants. The legacy of the event is a can-do attitude in Pelham. The town has undertaken a million-dollar streetscape project for its downtown, and volunteers from PELHAM 2000 helped form the new Flint River Arts Council.

Ada, Oklahoma hosted two Artrain USA visits, including the current exhibition on tour: *Native Views: Influences of the Modern Culture*. After the first Artrain USA visit, the city of 16,000 began to discuss the idea of a city museum. By the time of the second visit, plans were well under way to convert the city's old armory.

A three-day visit by Artrain USA's *Native Views* exhibition to Jesup, Iowa helped the community's Arts in the Park organization reach out to the nearby Meskwaki Indian Nation. Organizers said, "Words cannot express the positive outcome of the entire [Artrain USA] experience; it has



been overwhelming.” It stretched the Arts in the Park capabilities, proving that the organization could write grants and find financial assistance; it paved the way for a new dialogue with Native American neighbors; and it exposed 2,000 residents to a world-class exhibition.

With each new national tour, Artrain USA leaves in its tracks special art encounters for underserved individuals and new know-how for small-town arts organizations to continue thinking big.

Address

Artrain USA
1100 North Main Street, Suite 106
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1059

Web site: www.ArtrainUSA.org

Phone: 734-747-8300

Annual Budget: \$1,237,600

Full-time staff: 10

Part-time staff: 6

Director: Debra Polich

Community Partners

Generally one local organization, whether a local government, chamber of commerce, art center, or art or railroad museum, takes the lead in partnering with Artrain USA. Exhibitions often involve several community groups, as many as 100 volunteers, and local artists and educators.

*Left: Artrain exterior.
Center: Artrain interior.
Right: A school group
tours Artrain. Photos
courtesy of Artrain USA.*

06 Frankfort Community Public Library

Frankfort, IN

Many public libraries across the country serve as community centers by offering space for community arts and cultural classes. The Frankfort Community Public Library not only serves as host to such classes, it also sponsors a “school of living” and many free and low-cost fine art, crafts, music, theater, cooking, and gardening classes for children and adults. With its free classes, art exhibitions, Hispanic and Japanese cultural festivals, free live music events, and theater presentations, the library has truly become a cultural hub for Frankfort.

The town of Frankfort is 45 miles from Indianapolis in a county that supports agriculture and a large industrial park. The county wanted more, however, in the way of arts and culture. The Frankfort Community Public Library has been filling that void since 1988, when ground was broken for a new wing with a theater, music room, and art gallery. The library expanded its offerings when it added the Anna and Harlan Hubbard School of Living, which provides a steady stream of classes for adults and children and fosters the idea, “We can make our life a work of art.” Over the years, the library has become the source of enrichment experiences that would simply not be available otherwise.

In 2005 the Frankfort Community Public Library hosted more than 120 programs and 15 art exhibitions, drawing in 18,000 people for its enrichment programs alone. The library has the only public art space in town. Art exhibits, such as the Friends Christmas Art Exhibition, attract 150 artists and 500 patrons. In just three days the 2006 show garnered over \$58,000 in sales. The public library’s art displays reach an audience that includes residents who may not have the opportunity to visit a museum or gallery, as well as patrons

who have come for story hour or to check out a book. The Hubbard School provides free art classes for children, allowing them to interact with professional artists and teachers and to create works that might also be displayed.

The school also provides the community with free live music events, including a free monthly presentation of local musicians in the library’s coffee shop. The Friends of the Library host, and the hospital and local businesses co-host, a ticket-based concert series in the library theater. With the aim to expand children’s minds and expose children to the world of music, the library offers free voice and piano lessons. The classes culminate in a public recital where children play the library’s new Yamaha grand piano in the theater and gain valuable performing experience.

The Frankfort Library has recently expanded its cultural programming to include the rapidly growing Hispanic population. In 2004, the library joined the city, the local newspaper, Hispanic Community Services, and other groups to present the first Hispanic Cultural Arts Festival. The library hosted an art exhibition by Hispanic artists, a children’s cultural arts program, and a reception featuring traditional guitar music and food. During the rest of the year, the library works to attract the Hispanic audience by providing ESL classes, bilingual story times, bilingual directional signage and Spanish language materials.

In cooperation with three of the city’s four Japanese-owned industries, the library also hosts a biannual Japanese Festival. The event cultivates understanding of Japanese culture with traditional tea ceremonies; live entertainment, such as Koto players; Japanese art exhibits; and traditional Japanese foods.



The Frankfort Community Public Library is committed to addressing the needs of the whole individual and fostering a lifelong love of learning and an appreciation of the arts.

Address

Frankfort Community Public Library
208 West Clinton Street
Frankfort, IN 46041

Web site: www.accs.net/fcpl

Phone: 765-654-8746

Annual budget: \$1,873,150

Full-time staff: 14

Part-time staff: 30

Director: Claude W. "Bill" Caddell

Community Partners

The Friends of the Frankfort Library, City and County Government, Clinton County Public Schools, Zonta International, Clinton County Community Foundation, Indiana Arts Commission, the Genealogical Society, Frankfort Garden Club, the Frankfort Quilt Guild, the Art League, Clinton County Civic Theatre, Ivy Tech Community College, Clinton County Adult Literacy Program, The Boys and Girls Club, Extension Educations, Head Start, Hispanic Community Services, St. Vincent Hospital, and the four Japanese-owned local industries.

Left: Building exterior. Center: David Nern is Aladdin in a Children's Theatre Production of "Aladdin Jr." Right: Watercolorist Jerry Smith demonstrates techniques for a workshop. Photos by Flo Caddell.

08 John G. Shedd Aquarium

Chicago, IL

The John G. Shedd Aquarium wants residents of Chicago to know more about the immense and beautiful body of water in their backyard. The Great Lakes supply 37 million residents with water, but the lakes' ecosystem is vulnerable and needs protection. Spreading conservation awareness messages is one way the 75-year-old Shedd Aquarium is realizing its vision: "Animals connect you to the living world, inspiring you to make a difference."

The Great Lakes Initiative is the Shedd's largest conservation program. It is a conservation awareness campaign conducted in collaboration with other nonprofits to educate people in the region about the value and vulnerability of the Great Lakes' ecosystem and inspire them to take action to protect this precious resource. The Shedd launched its campaign in 2005, partnering with the Biodiversity Project in Wisconsin. Since then, the Shedd has participated in advertising, promotional, and evaluative activities to ensure the messages are reaching Great Lakes basin residents. Print and broadcast public relations efforts have reached more than 3,485,400 people, and online advertising and public service announcements have reached at least 2,931,600.

The Shedd also integrates the messages of this campaign into education, outreach programs, special events, and exhibits. The aquarium's Invasive Species exhibit brings the public face-to-face with such non-native species as the zebra mussel and the Asian carp. The exhibit describes the harm caused by these non-native species and explains what people can do to prevent introducing or spreading invasive species.

The Shedd's Right Bite program is another conservation awareness effort involving multiple partners. The program aims to inform the public of a connection between their

seafood purchases and the health of the world's oceans and that by buying the right fish, consumers can help protect the ocean habitats. The Shedd introduces these sustainable seafood concepts to its 2 million annual visitors during programs and in cooking demonstrations. By working with local chefs and seafood purveyors at retail stores, the Shedd is aligning restaurants and seafood markets in the community with the program's objectives. Restaurants that participate are promoted in Shedd publications and in *Chicago Magazine* and receive professional staff development and other benefits. Even the aquarium's foundation organization, Shedd's Auxiliary Society, is involved. It hosts annual dinners at participating restaurants to promote sustainable seafood choices to donor audiences.

The Shedd also fulfills its mission through education programs, such as its Floor Programs and its South Chicago Initiative. Floor Programs help create a dynamic connection between aquarium visitors and the collections with friendly staff members who engage visitors in a variety of activities. The more than 300,000 school-age children who visit the aquarium each year have much to gain from this program that encourages critical thinking and science processing skills. For the aquarium's temporary exhibit, Crabs!, for example, visitors can engage in the activities "Shell Scramble," "Crab Grab," "Build a Crab," and "Crab Corner." The majority of visitors to Shedd participate in at least one Floor Program. It is a vital part of the visitor experience.

By working in partnership with underserved communities, the John G. Shedd Aquarium is bringing its programs and services to new audiences. The Shedd's Education Department seeks to serve multigenerational audiences



in low-income neighborhoods by developing community relationships. One such relationship is with the El Valor Guadalupe A. Reyes Children and Family Center in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. As a result of a series of meetings with El Valor, aquarium educators have been able to organize six special aquatic science workshop presentations and two field trips for 150 students and 20 teachers from the center.

The John G. Shedd Aquarium's conservation awareness campaigns and its multifaceted educational programs reflect its strong leadership in the field and ensure its place as one of the most popular attractions in Chicago.

Address

John G. Shedd Aquarium
1200 South Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605

Web site: www.sheddaquarium.org

Phone: 312-939-2438

Budget: \$29,806,790

Full-time staff: 232

Part-time staff: 40

Director: Ted A. Beattie

Community Partners

Major educational partner: Chicago Public Schools. Museums in the Park partners: Field Museum, DuSable Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, Adler Planetarium, Chicago Historical Society, the Art Institute of Chicago, Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, the Notebaert Nature Museum, and the Museum of Science and Industry. Great Lakes Initiatives partners: the Biodiversity Project in Wisconsin, Joyce Foundation, Alliance for the Great Lakes, Chicago Wilderness, and more than 50 other partner organizations. Right Bite program partners: various Chicago restaurants.

Left: Building exterior, photo by Craig Tews. Center: Underwater viewing gallery. Right: mussel survey in a northern Illinois river. Photos by Brenna Hernandez.

10 Lincoln Children's Zoo

Lincoln, NE

Lincoln Children's Zoo is a natural oasis in the heart of Lincoln, Nebraska. The institution has seen great changes in the city and its demographics during its 40-year existence and has responded with a range of programs that make the natural world accessible to even the most underserved groups.

The 10 acres of animal exhibits and gardens are within walking distance of three elementary inner-city schools and the city's largest public high school. The Children's Zoo also supports the Lincoln Public School's Science Focus High School, which is located on zoo grounds. This proximity to schools naturally led to educational partnerships for the zoo.

An annual Bug Bash, offered in partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Entomology, involves fourth-grade students from city schools who conduct experiments at 10 learning stations that reveal basic information about insects. Animals in the Classroom is a program with a regional reach to elementary and middle schools to teach life science concepts with inquiry-based activities involving live animals in the classroom. For the neighborhood schools, the Children's Zoo offers Zoo Through the Seasons, a program of guided tours led by Science Focus students and integrated classroom activities, including storytelling, graphing animal and plant numbers, research, reading, and writing about animals.

In response to an influx of immigrants into the city, the Lincoln Children's Zoo has augmented its successful educational outreach to extend a hand to newcomers and other groups who might otherwise be excluded. Lincoln's non-white population more than doubled in the 1990s. The zoo responded four years ago with a program called Opening the Gates. It began with free evening tours

in Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, Russian, and Chinese with guides from neighborhood schools. It then led to the development of a network of cultural community centers, ethnic grocery stores, churches, and social service agencies; awareness training for staff and board members; and annual community workshops bringing together more than 60 community organizations to explore ways to meet the needs of a culturally diverse audience.

At the recommendation of the public schools—where children speak 32 different languages—the zoo translated its animal identification signs and made new recordings of its verbal announcements and seal show presentations in Vietnamese, Spanish, Arabic, and Russian.

The Children's Zoo also instituted ZooPlay, an on-site program for preschool children and their caregivers, to introduce youngsters to the diversity in living things and to teach tolerance. A collaboration with the Lincoln Action Program and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, the program has proven to be an effective way to bring people from different cultures together in a fun, neutral environment.

The Children's Zoo strives to be accessible to all. The Sensory Safari was developed in conjunction with the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. One day a year, after the zoo is closed to the public in October, the zoo and its partners host an all-day event for individuals of all ages to experience the zoo through skins, animal mounts, feathers, feet, skulls, bones, antlers, horns, and hooves. Animal sounds, smells, and foods are available to further explain the animal concepts to those who cannot experience them visually.



The Lincoln Children's Zoo has grown and evolved along with its community, and today it sets a high standard for other Lincoln cultural and educational institutions by making the most of the city's rich diversity.

Address

Lincoln Children's Zoo
1222 South 27th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502-1832

Web site: www.lincolnzoo.org

Phone: 402-475-6741

Annual budget: \$1,620,000

Full-time staff: 17

Part-time staff: 45

CEO: John Chapo

Education Director: Mimi Wickless

Community Partners

Partners include local public schools and University of Nebraska departments in the education community; Faces of Middle East and First Presbyterian Church-South Sudanese Peace Forum and other agencies that support cultural diversity; the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and other organizations that serve students with special needs; and agencies and businesses providing services for seniors, including Teldyne-ISCO Corporation and several retirement and assisted living centers.

Community members participate in three zoo programs. Left to right: Zoo Through the Seasons, Zoo to You, and Opening the Gates. Photos courtesy of the Lincoln Children's Zoo.

12 Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County

Charlotte, NC

The Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County strives to expand minds, empower individuals, and enrich its community. As the largest public library system in the Carolinas, the library serves a diverse population. It manages 24 library locations, numerous outreach programs, a family facility in collaboration with the Children's Theatre of Charlotte, and 18 Web sites serving more than 850,000 county residents, 26,000 area users, and Web visitors from all over the world.

The library achieved its pervasive reach through community partnerships, both large and small, that address changing community needs. The library focuses on lifelong learning and literacy initiatives, relevant customer-driven services, and facilities and Web sites that are preferred destinations.

The library's literacy projects include emergent literacy initiatives. Storytimes to Go! is the library's largest outreach effort, reaching more than 6,500 children annually with pre-reading and school readiness activities and themed kits. More than 1,100 teachers from 320 preschools and home-based daycares have been trained in the use of the kits and in the importance of reading aloud to young children. Connections that Count/Conexiones que Cuentan helps prepare Hispanic preschool children for school success through weekly story time sessions in apartments and centers in Hispanic neighborhoods. The library cultivates "neighborhood teachers" to help bridge the gap that exists in delivering library services to these neighborhoods. And one of their newest initiatives, Charlotte Reads, is a dedicated literacy-advocacy program that focuses on reading abilities and interest in both adults and young people.

The literacy initiatives become reading and lifelong learning opportunities for older patrons of the library. Teens are drawn to the library's summer reading program, Train Your Brain, because it is all online. They participate via the program Web site, where they can learn about the prizes and the library's on-site teen programs and reserve books online. The Novello Festival of Reading, begun 17 years ago, is an annual community-wide celebration of books and reading. The festival's partners, including the public schools, local bookstores and newspapers, and numerous corporations, sponsor free and low-cost activities, such as authors' readings and a street festival. The Novello Festival Press is the nation's only public library-sponsored literary publisher. The Press has put the fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's literature of nearly 300 writers into print.

The college and career resources of the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County represent one of the ways the library actively addresses community needs. The ThinkCOLLEGE® and Career Center at its main branch are offered in partnership with a local stay-in-school organization. More than 3,500 students visited ThinkCOLLEGE® for counseling and preparation resources last year, and library staff at many other branches worked together to offer financial aid workshops, SAT preparation, and career fairs. In 2005, the library initiated Enterprising Teens, a young entrepreneurs program at its Freedom Regional Library located in a predominantly African American community. The 12-week program trains youth to navigate the process of planning and opening a business.

The Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County has been most innovative with its facility partnerships. These



joint-use facilities have been developed with transportation providers, schools, law enforcement, and retailers, among others. The Sugar Creek Branch Library, opened two years ago as part of the Sugar Creek Services Center in one of the city's most diverse neighborhoods, is shared by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and the JobLink Center. The library's most ambitious facility makes a library visit more like an interactive museum experience. *ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center™* is a 102,000-square-foot facility that provides traditional and unique library resources for children, teens, and families. There are drop-in programs, theater classes and productions, and community activities. A partnership effort with the Children's Theatre of Charlotte, *ImaginOn* helps children bring stories to life through literature and drama.

Whether in its new *ImaginOn* facility or one of its smaller neighborhood branches, the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County exemplifies an approach to service and programming that can transform lives.

Address

Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County
310 North Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202-2139

Web site: www.plcmc.org

Phone: 704-336-2801

Annual budget: \$34,391,220

Full-time staff: 431

Part-time staff: 108

Director: Charles Brown

Community Partners

Friends of the Public Library; Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools; Central Piedmont Community College; Children's Theatre of Charlotte; the Mint Museums; Opera Carolina; Charlotte Symphony; Levine Museum of the New South; Foundation for The Carolinas; Time Warner Cable; Bank of America; the Knight Foundation; Mayor's International Cabinet; Asian Chamber of Commerce; IBM; City of Charlotte; Charlotte Center City Partners; YMCA; and the Latin American Coalition.

Left: The Joe & Joan Martin Center™. Center: Jane and Michael Stern sign books at the 2006 Novello Festival. Right: Learning experiences at the festival's free WordPlay Saturday. Photos courtesy of the Public Library.

14 San Antonio Public Library

San Antonio, TX

The San Antonio Public Library is striving to make its city of 1.2 million people a community of learning. It serves this largely Hispanic population by providing the building blocks of literacy. Each of its many programs and services, no matter the audience targeted, includes a component for the underserved Spanish-speaking population. It is a strategy that addresses the cultural mosaic of the San Antonio community and is helping to boost library usage. The San Antonio Public Library's programs and services attract approximately 11,000 people a day through the doors of its many branches.

Much of the library's success lies in its accessibility. With a downtown Central Library, 22 branches, and nine bookmobile stops, every neighborhood has library service nearby. During the past three years, the library has opened three new branches, each with its own distinctive character. The new Semmes branch, for example, is adjacent to the 96-acre Comanche Lookout Park and incorporates hiking trails, courtyards, outdoor reading areas, a children's discovery garden, and energy and water conservation systems. All the library branches function as community centers, voting locations, workforce/job centers, and homes to various community literacy initiatives.

The strength of the library's commitment to literacy is demonstrated in its large-scale Born to Read program. Designed to develop a generation of readers, the program currently reaches each of the 25,000 babies born annually in San Antonio, 50 percent of whom are born to mothers receiving Medicaid and 30 percent to mothers with less than a 12th-grade education. Through partnerships with hospitals and pediatric offices, the new mothers receive literacy kits filled with bicultural books, a library card

application, a map showing the library branch locations, and coupons redeemable for a CD of lullabies and books from an area bookstore. For the past three years, corporate sponsors, volunteers, and individual donors have supported the program with donations of money, books, and time, making the initiative a true community effort.

A partnership with childcare organizations, preschools, community centers, and detention centers has resulted in Little Read Wagon, an emergent literacy program that encourages parents (some of whom are in detention centers) and childcare workers to read to children and provides them with the skills to inspire children to love reading. In 2006, the library, the Library Foundation, and the AT&T Foundation partnered in a project to be sure that all second-graders in the San Antonio Independent School District got an opportunity to receive their own library cards.

The library offers many learning opportunities for the general population. It supports the public school system with services for students, including live online homework help in real time, the teen Youth(wired) Web site, and special events. To ignite children's curiosity about the world, it hosted a free Discover the Library: Explore the World lecture series, featuring National Geographic explorers Wade Davis, Sylvia Earle, and Jane Goodall. In 2000, the library instituted *¡Tamalada!*, a day-long celebration of the Mexican tradition of preparing tamales for the holidays. For Hispanic Heritage Month 2006, the library added *¡Vámonos a la Biblioteca!*, an awareness program targeted to Latinos, to its already extensive programming. San Antonio's Martin Luther King Day March is the largest in the U.S., and the library supports the observance with a wide range of activities and events.



The library also works to make art and art education accessible to all, both within and beyond the library walls. When the library acquired a glass sculpture, artist Dale Chihuly's Fiesta Tower, as the centerpiece for the library's centennial display at its Central Library lobby, it used the opportunity to collaborate with area museums. At the encouragement of the library, both the San Antonio Museum of Art and the Southwest School of Art and Craft mounted exhibitions of Chihuly's works. The library assisted by identifying sources of grants and funding for the exhibitions, and all the institutions benefited from the increased exposure and excitement generated in the community. The Central Library's gallery showcases works by local, regional, and even national and international artists. Recently, the library partnered with the San Antonio Children's Museum, the San Antonio Museum of Art, the Southwest School of Art and Craft, and the Witte Museum in a pilot project called the Explore More Pass. With the pass, San Antonio residents and their families had access to these renowned cultural institutions absolutely free.

From the youngest of residents to the area's seniors, the San Antonio Public Library is known as a place for literacy and lifelong learning.

Address

San Antonio Public Library
600 Soledad
San Antonio, TX 78205-1208

Web site: www.sanantonio.gov/library

Phone: 210-207-2500

Annual budget: \$24,981,185

Full-time staff: 446

Part-time staff: 94

Director: Ramiro Salazar

Community Partners

Area hospitals, pediatric offices, and Book Cellar bookstore for the Born to Read project; City Public Service, the electric utility, for fund-raising; childcare organizations, community centers, and detention centers for the Little Read Wagon project; and the San Antonio public schools for various projects.

Left: San Antonio's Central Library. Photo by Mark Roddenberry. Center and right photos courtesy of the San Antonio Public Library.

16 Previous Winners

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

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.

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

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.

Board Chairperson

Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director,
Institute of Museum and Library Services*

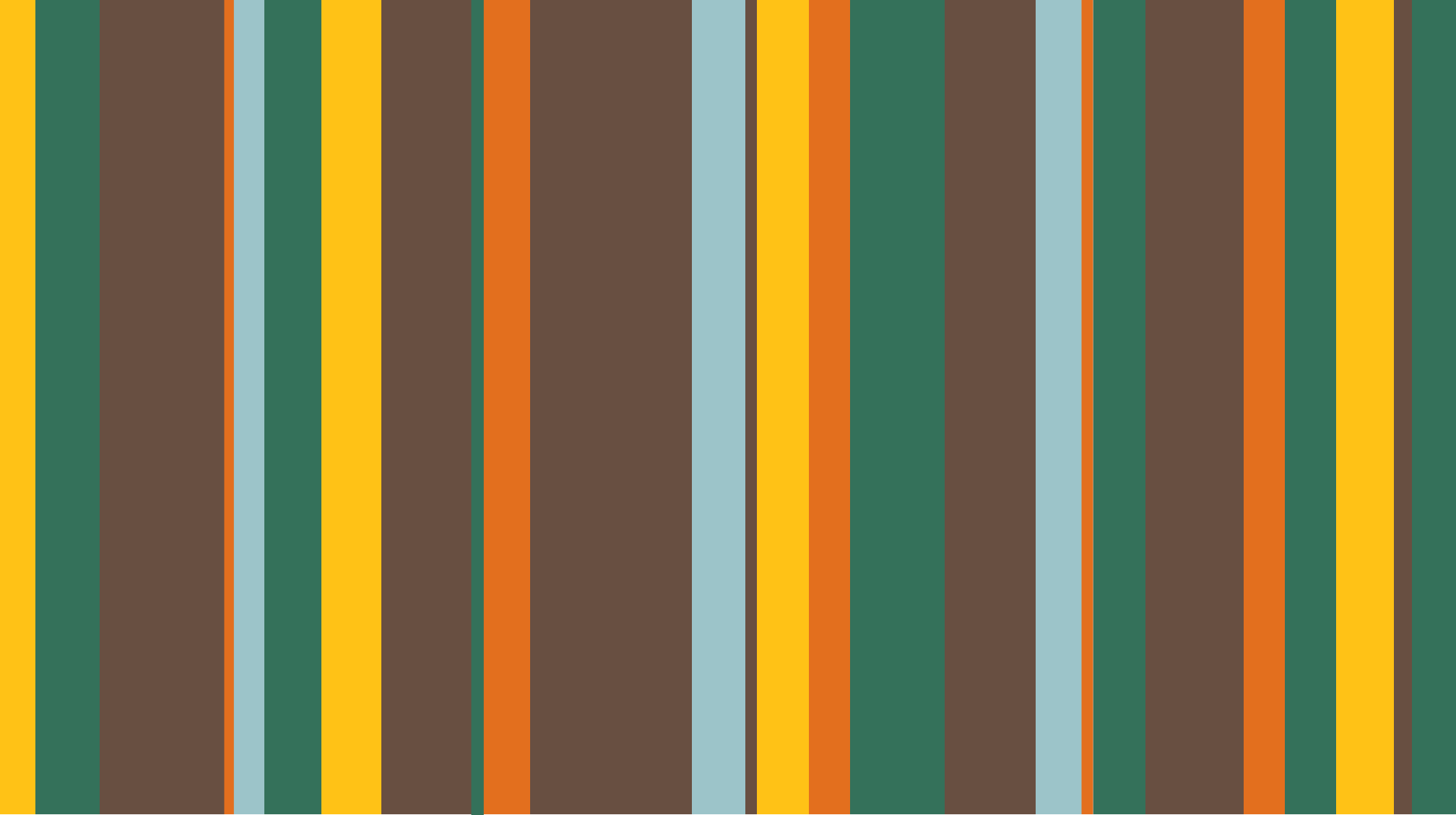
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Kim Wang, California

The following members assisted in the selection of the 2006 National Awardees and have since rotated off the Board:

Nancy S. Dwight, New Hampshire
Maria Mercedes Guillemard, Puerto Rico

**non-voting members*



www.imls.gov