

2009

National Medal for  
Museum and Library Service





#### **INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES**

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#### **CREDITS**

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Congratulations to the winners of the 2009 National Medal for Museum and Library Services. These libraries and museums don't just invite the community in; they are deeply engaged in community life.

—First Lady  
Michelle Obama

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## 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. The award celebrates libraries and museums that make a difference for individuals, families, and communities.

Medal winners are selected from nationwide nominations for institutions that demonstrate innovative approaches to public service, exceeding the expected levels of community outreach. This year five libraries and five museums have been selected to receive the award.

The ten institutions honored this year serve communities in both large cities and small towns, with users of all ages. The winners are representative of the great diversity of U.S. libraries and museums and include history, children's, art, and science museums, an aquarium, and public and special libraries. They all share the common bond of having achieved extraordinary success at reaching out to the communities they serve in effective and inventive ways.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, together with the National Museum and Library Services Board, is proud to congratulate the winners of the 2009 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 History Channel for their generous support of the National Medals celebration.

## 02 Braille Institute Library Services

### Los Angeles, CA

In 1912, an accidental gunshot wound left former cowboy J. Robert Atkinson blind but not without hope. Turning his personal tragedy into a crusade for the visually impaired of Southern California and beyond, Atkinson began transcribing books into Braille for his personal library, eventually transcribing nearly one million words of print into Braille and establishing the Universal Braille Press (later the Braille Institute). Today, the Braille Institute Library operates under these same basic beliefs in equal access and rights, fulfilling the reading needs of its blind, visually impaired, physically handicapped, and reading-disabled patrons.

Since its inception, the library has worked to offer its community the same materials and experiences afforded to sighted library visitors. As a result, in 1999, the Los Angeles Book of the Month Club was instituted at the library as a venue for avid adult readers to engage in discussions about a monthly book selection. Starting off with just eight members, the club has blossomed into a 92-member group that incorporates technology, including conference calls and e-mail, to include anyone, anywhere, who might want to voice their opinions about the book.

The success of the book club inspired the library to offer children a similar community-building experience. The Book of the Month Club for Children kicked off its first meeting in 2003 at the Frances Blend School, a local elementary school for blind and visually impaired children. Sensing a perfect opportunity to bring children into the library, staff shifted the monthly meetings from the school to the Braille Institute Library so that the students would have a chance to learn outside of their classrooms and familiarize themselves with the

almost 1.3 million holdings at the library. The library has received numerous letters of appreciation from these young bookworms, including one that states, “Thank you for bringing the world of books back to me! It is so much more exciting than TV.”

Blind and visually impaired people often encounter barriers to the timely access of news that covers local, national, and international events. Instead of leaving their patrons bound to television news, waiting for information that is relevant to their lives and interests, the library instituted the Telephone Reader and the Spanish Telephone Reader programs. The programs bring together volunteers, including a number of voice-over actors based in Los Angeles, who record *USA Today's* and *La Opinion's* articles and sales ads every morning. These recordings are accessible to all library patrons over the phone, and offer their audience the flexibility of calling in at any time to catch up on current events or the latest shopping deals.

Connecting the visually impaired community with the sighted population is a top priority of the Braille Institute Library. Its partnerships with local health care facilities, public libraries, blind centers, and schools help an estimated 350,000 blind, visually impaired, and physically handicapped people residing in Southern California and are celebrated annually at the library's Open House. The event draws several hundred attendees from the community and showcases performances from groups such as the LA Opera Young Artist Program, as well as discussions with prominent writers, popular National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) narrators, and notable actors. To date, the library has fostered relationships with a total



*Left: Library Director Dr. Henry C. Chang speaks to summer reading program participants.*

*Middle: A reader preparing to record articles for the Telephone Reader Program.*

*Right: A library staff member demonstrates the NLS Digital Talking Book Machine to a patron.*

of 1,593 facilities within the community to extend the scope of the library and empower others to take an active role in serving the blind in their own communities.

The Braille Institute Library is very much aware of its role as a great equalizer in its community. By offering its patrons opportunities to stay involved, keep up with current events, share their opinions, and have access to the same materials sighted library-goers enjoy, the library is able to contribute to the independence that its community continually strives for.

#### **Address**

Braille Institute Library  
741 North Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90029

**Web site:** [www.braillelibrary.org](http://www.braillelibrary.org)

**Phone:** 323-660-3880

**Annual Budget:** \$2,839,000

**Full-time Staff:** 34

**Part-time Staff:** 8

**Director:** Henry C. Chang, Ph.D.

#### **Community Partners**

Blind Children's Center, Burbank Public Library, Frances Blend School, Hemet Public Library, NFB, Leisure World, CCB, Country Villa, Veterans Administration, Pasadena Public Library, Verdugo Life Council Members, Long Beach Public Library, Irving Middle School, San Bernardino Lighthouse for the Blind, St Mary's Medical Center, LACC, San Diego Public Library, Santa Barbara City College, Hesperia Public Library, Blindness Support Services, Windsor Gardens, Jewish Home for the Aging, Kingsley Manor, Center for the Partially Sighted, California Department of Rehabilitation, Jules Stein Eye Institute

# 04 Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

## Pittsburgh, PA

On Pittsburgh's Northside, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh welcomes kids from the city and beyond into its 80,000 square feet of learning and exploration. Today, the area surrounding the museum is an evolving landscape of urban renewal and growth; this, however, wasn't always the case. In the 1960s, more than 500 buildings in the Northside were bulldozed in the name of urban renewal, and the culturally rich and diverse neighborhood still struggles with high unemployment and poverty. In response to these challenges, the Children's Museum has been a leader in its community, offering local youth and area residents opportunities to succeed and thrive.

The museum's largest initiative is its Charm Bracelet Project, which has been connecting cultural, recreational, and educational organizations on the Northside since 2006. The project engages institutions, or "charms," from diverse sectors to discuss ideas, implement projects, and collaborate on initiatives, forging the links in the "bracelet." These collaborations are working to change the Northside from a neglected and isolated urban area into a vibrant city neighborhood. The project's mantra is "everyday urbanism," which is the expression participating institutions have given their belief that many small interventions can add up to a huge impact. Recent Charm Bracelet successes include the reopening of the New Hazlett Theater, a collaboration between the Andy Warhol Museum, the City of Pittsburgh, and the Children's Museum to renovate and restore the previously closed theater; and the Neighborhood Microgrant Program, which supports collaborative projects that strengthen the broader community. These grants have also funded projects such as the Charm School Initiative, a program that integrates the 17 Charm

Bracelet institutions' offerings with local schools' curriculums, as well as kayaking lessons on a man-made lake, Northside bike tours, and "Allegheny Voices," a project that resulted in students from a local charter school creating a youth magazine and CD recordings about the Northside. Through these and other neighborhood-centered programs, Pittsburgh's Northside organizations have stepped beyond their thresholds to be an integral part of their community.

Within the museum's walls, six child-oriented nonprofit organizations work together to provide joint programming to Pittsburgh's youth. The groups meet monthly to coordinate events and activities, discuss common problems, and generate ideas to better serve children and families. Representatives from the nonprofits, which include Child Watch, The Saturday Light Brigade, Reading Is FUNDamental Pittsburgh, an office of the University of Pittsburgh Center for Out-of-School Environments (UPCLOSE), the ToonSeum, and two Pittsburgh Public Schools' Pre-K/Head Start classrooms, have the opportunity to meet over coffee to discuss new ideas. One such idea blossomed into a kids' book club, which encouraged children to read books and then discuss their impressions of the works on the radio during the family-oriented Saturday Light Brigade program.

Always a trailblazer in its community and beyond, the Children's Museum became the largest Silver LEED-certified museum in the country in March 2006. This designation by the U.S. Green Building Council recognizes that the museum's new expansion was designed and constructed using sustainable practices, with particular attention to site water conservation, energy management, using recycled materials, waste management, and indoor air quality. To use the new green building as a valuable teaching tool, the



*Left:* Exterior view of the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

*Middle:* Paper-making in the Studio, photos © Albert Vecerka/Esto.

*Right:* Children experience an interactive art piece created with artist/toy maker Dick Esterle.

museum has left many of the building's original structural systems intact, including marble walls, terrazzo floors, and structural terra cotta, inspiring a sense of preservation and wonder in visiting children and adults.

When the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh put down roots in 1983, it was one of the only vibrant institutions in a community that seemed to be on an irreversible downturn. Today, partnerships both inside and outside the museum have spurred economic growth that has translated into booming attendance at the museum and growing interest in moving to, working in, and experiencing Pittsburgh's Northside.

#### **Address**

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh  
10 Children's Way  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**Web site:** [www.pittsburghkids.org](http://www.pittsburghkids.org)

**Phone:** 412-322-5058

**Annual Budget:** \$4,127,699

**Full-time Staff:** 31

**Part-time Staff:** 90

**Director:** Jane Werner

#### **Community Partners**

Carnegie Libraries of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Child Watch, Family Communications, Inc., Grable Foundation, Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, Heinz Endowments, National Aviary, New Hazlett Theater, Northside Charm Bracelet participating organizations, Northside Leadership Conference, Pittsburgh Public School District and Head Start programs, Reading Is FUNDamental Pittsburgh, The Saturday Light Brigade, The Andy Warhol Museum, ToonSeum, United Way, University of Pittsburgh Center for Learning in Out-of-School Environments, YouthALIVE!, YouthWorks, and a number of universities, hospitals, museums, and cultural venues in and around Pittsburgh

## 06 Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal

### Cincinnati, OH

In 1933, the Art Deco masterpiece known as Union Terminal opened in Cincinnati, Ohio, and began transporting millions of people by train across the United States. Travelers, soldiers, and presidents basked in the colorful mosaics of the center's rotunda, and blacks and whites worked side by side as porters, waiters, and busboys. Today, connections are still being made, between families, visitors, students, and children, all of whom look to Cincinnati Museum Center (CMC) at Union Terminal as their hub for lifelong learning.

Cincinnati Museum Center houses five of the city's premier cultural offerings: Duke Energy Children's Museum, Museum of Natural History & Science, Cincinnati History Museum, Cincinnati Historical Society Library, and Robert D. Lindner Family OMNIMAX® Theater. The merger of these legacy institutions is recognized as a unique and important cultural experiment. Now, in its 20th anniversary year, CMC is a national model of success, creating \$87 million in annual economic impact and stimulating 1,100 jobs. Today, it is celebrated as the most visited museum in Ohio, welcoming 1.4 million visitors last year.

Cincinnati Museum Center sparks community interest, dialogue, and understanding through thought provoking exhibits. In April 2001, when rioting made Cincinnati the nation's focal point of race relations, CMC launched *Civil Unrest in Cincinnati: Voices of our Community*. The exhibit examined the history of Cincinnati's racial confrontations from the early 1800s forward. This quick response to a crisis gave voice to the fractured Cincinnati community, and inspired comments such as, "the exhibit gives the community a chance to come and sort through the events and begin the healing process."

Responding to its community's need for an engaging way to learn about science, CMC created Beakman's World™ On Tour. Based on the wildly popular children's television show, *Beakman's World™ On Tour* took visitors on a journey of discovery with Beakman and his friends from 1996 through 2008. In the 3,000- square-foot-space, kids participated in challenges, demonstrations, and experiments that focused on fantastic experiences with a rainforest, the universe, dinosaur bones, and how we look at ourselves. During its 12-year run, *Beakman's World™ On Tour* visited 46 venues, reaching more than 2.3 million people across the country. CMC has a strong enterprise of building and traveling exhibits to share with children, families and communities. A current collaboration with Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services and Ford Motor Company Fund, is *Freedom's Sisters*. This celebration of women of the civil rights movement is touring the United States through 2011.

To inspire local students to make a positive impact on their own community, CMC's Youth Program connects 150 teens from diverse backgrounds with peers across the city, suburbs, and region. Through its job opportunities, life-skills training, and sense of family, the program is an important foundation for many students, including one young participant who thanks the museum for being "a constant" in her life and "showing me how to live... showing me what it means to be a true woman – knowledgeable, confident and strong, ready to conquer the world." All program participants have graduated from high school and gone on to college, technical schools, or the military.

Under the great half-dome of Union Terminal, the Cincinnati Museum Center is a crossroad of community



*Left:* The Center welcomes more than 2,000 people for a viewing of the 2009 presidential inauguration.  
*Middle:* Hands-on activities during the annual Passport to the World series of culture festivals, photo by Scott Bowers.  
*Right:* A volunteer in the Center's "Paleo Lab" engages in active research, photo by Robert Webber.

interaction and learning; a place where exhibits and programs converge for the enjoyment and education of its millions of visitors each year.

#### **Address**

Cincinnati Museum Center  
1301 Western Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45203

**Web site:** [www.cincymuseum.org](http://www.cincymuseum.org)

**Phone:** 513-287-7000

**Annual Budget:** \$18.1 million

**Full-time Staff:** 155

**Part-time Staff:** 141

**Director:** Douglass W. McDonald

#### **Community Partners**

Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile/U.S. Bank Foundation, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Empowerment Corporation, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati Reds, Cincinnati USA Regional Tourism Network, City of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, Fifth Third Bank, Ford Motor Company Fund, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Hamilton County Voters and Officials, Local 12 TV, Macy's, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, PNC Bank, Procter & Gamble, Sisters of Charity, Cincinnati, State of Ohio, Woodward Trust, our generous individual volunteers and donors

## 08 Gail Borden Public Library

### Elgin, IL

The community of Elgin, Illinois, fondly remembers the day a rearing, 33-foot dinosaur took over the front lobby of the Gail Borden Public Library (GBPL). Technically a sauropod, this prehistoric beast and six of its life-size, skeletal comrades stampeded into the library in 2005 as part of the *GIANTS: African Dinosaurs* exhibit, sparking the interest of the community's young and old. Eventually the dinosaurs had to move on, but they left in their wake spikes in circulation and library card registration and an interest in more blockbuster exhibits that would appeal to some of the library's 3,000 daily visitors.

The success of *GIANTS* led to *SPACE: Dare to Dream*, a project linking schoolchildren live to an astronaut orbiting the earth in the International Space Station. In keeping with the astral theme, the library presented a model Saturn V rocket gantry (a multistory frame which encloses a rocket on its launch pad), a mini-theater featuring films about space, and a reproduction of Galileo's studio. Like *GIANTS*, *SPACE* piqued community curiosity, stimulating patrons' desires to learn about our solar system and beyond.

Having focused on prehistory and far-flung galaxies, GBPL decided to look closer to home with a project that highlighted the ethnically diverse Elgin community. *A Tapestry of Freedom*, an IMLS-funded project, encouraged Elgin citizens to join together and make the library reflect their own cultures and interests. People brought in historically and culturally significant personal effects, such as letters home from soldiers during wartime; made Laotian, Polish, and other ethnic

foods; and gathered at GBPL to share their own stories of freedom. The program, later recognized by the Illinois State Library as its all-time best IMLS-funded project, continues to resonate with the community, invigorating programming and building cultural awareness among Elgin's residents.

In Elgin, school-aged children were an underrepresented group at the library, so library and school leaders launched the *Dr. Torres Library Card Challenge*, named for its creator Dr. Jose Torres, U-46 school district superintendent. An impressive 8,000 children signed up for library cards and are now checking out books in record numbers because of the one-month challenge.

With more kids in the library, staff saw a fantastic opportunity to engage this group in a fun, interactive program based on their common love of reading. From this idea came *Storypalooza*, a contest encouraging entrants to write, direct, star in, and submit creative short videos about their favorite books. *Storypalooza* was later renamed *StoryTubes*, and today participants vie for prizes from major publishers like Simon & Schuster and Scholastic. GBPL has partnered with libraries across the country, from Centereach, NY, to Pasadena, CA, to bring *StoryTubes* to their patrons, and continues to inspire creativity and a love for reading in children across the United States.

With all of the fantastic programs and events at the Gail Borden Public Library, the members of the Elgin, Illinois, community ask just one question: "What's next?"



*Left: A young visitor asks a question during a live conversation with Clay Anderson, an astronaut aboard the International Space Station; photo courtesy of the Courier News. Middle: Installation of the GIANTS: African Dinosaurs exhibit. Right: Young visitors view an exhibit on display as part of the Tapestry of Freedom program.*

#### **Address**

Gail Borden Public Library District  
270 North Grove Avenue  
Elgin, IL 60120

**Web site:** [www.gailborden.info](http://www.gailborden.info)

**Phone:** 847-742-2411

**Annual Budget:** \$10,650,046

**Full-time Staff:** 68

**Part-time Staff:** 97

**Director:** Carole Medal

#### **Community Partners**

ALA, AAUW, Art for All, *Centro de Información*, Center for Economic Progress, City of Elgin, Crisis Center, Downtown Neighborhood Association, Elgin Community College, Elgin Historical Society, Elgin Public Museum, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Girl Scouts, Grand Victoria Foundation, Illinois Department of Employment Security, Judson University, Kiwanis, League of Women Voters, Literacy Connection, NASA, NEH, Project Exploration, Rotary, School District U-46, State Farm, Two Rivers Head Start, Veterans, YMCA, YWCA, and many more organizations and individuals.

## 10 Indianapolis Museum of Art Indianapolis, IN

On November 7, 1883, suffragist and educator May Wright Sewell, her husband Theodore, and a core group of art-minded citizens joined forces to bring 453 works by 137 artists to downtown Indianapolis. The Art Association of Indianapolis, as their group was called, was born to “cultivate and advance Art in all its branches; to provide means of instruction in the various branches of Art; to establish for that end a permanent gallery; and also to produce lectures upon subjects relevant to Art.” Since the association became the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) in 1969, the independent spirit of its founding principles has lived on through the museum’s community programming and exhibitions.

The IMA is investing in Indianapolis youth through the development of initiatives for the community like Viewfinders, an art viewing program that brings 9,000 students, representing diverse economic, social, and racial backgrounds, to the museum each year. These children visit the museum with their teachers, who employ Visual Thinking Strategies – a facilitated discussion method that uses visual art to stimulate conversation that leads to growth in critical thinking, observation, and other cognitive skills. An important professional development tool, Viewfinders also provides advanced training to the 271 teachers administering the program.

In the IMA’s Museum Apprentice Program, promising high school students are mentored by prominent artists while working as paid, part-time employees of the museum, developing leadership skills and sharpening job skills necessary for careers in the arts. Participants in this year’s program assisted award-winning filmmaker Julie Dash on a special installation in the IMA’s galleries called *Smuggling Daydreams into Reality: Yesterday, Today and*

*Forever*. The exhibition presents short films produced by the students, under Dash’s direction, that “explore the concept of dreams deferred and dreams realized.”

From the popular Diverse Film Series to the bilingual exhibit *Sacred Spain: Art and Belief in the Spanish World*, the IMA strives to engage all Indianapolis citizens in its work. The Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Celebration is another such program, drawing more than 3,000 visitors annually to festivities including art-making activities for children, guided tours, and health screenings. Special performances include “The Music, Martin and Me” by actor and musician William Myers, who uses still images, video, spoken word, and a mix of live music to celebrate the impact of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s work.

The IMA has been a leader in creating new communities through its innovative, collaborative Web site ArtBabble ([www.artbabble.org](http://www.artbabble.org)). Featuring art video from 20 different partners, ArtBabble allows visitors to watch video interviews with contemporary artists, marvel at behind-the-scenes art restoration, and appreciate hundreds of exhibitions and performances. Across the country and around the globe, students, professors, and art enthusiasts alike are checking out ArtBabble and sharing the site’s videos through Twitter, Facebook, and other social networking tools.

While the museum has been reaching beyond its walls through technology, it has also been thinking globally about its impact on the environment. Deeply committed to environmental sustainability, the IMA has reduced its carbon dioxide emissions by 7,058 tons since re-opening in 2005 and was the first museum to receive an ENERGY STAR award for energy efficiency. Additionally, the IMA hosts the *Planet Indy* series, invit-



*Left:* Students lean in for a closer look at a glass piece in the galleries.  
*Middle:* Visitors check out the museum's online offerings in The Davis LAB, equipped with four computer stations.  
*Right:* Buses drop off and pick up students at the Efrogmson Family Entrance Pavilion.

ing a renowned speaker to the museum annually to inspire audience with actionable ideas about creativity, environmental sustainability, and design.

From its humble beginnings as the brain child of a few culturally aware Hoosiers more than 100 years ago, the Indianapolis Museum of Art has grown into the state's largest and most comprehensive visual arts institution with community roots and international reach.

#### **Address**

Indianapolis Museum of Art, Inc.  
4000 Michigan Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

**Web site:** [www.imamuseum.org](http://www.imamuseum.org)

**Phone:** 317-923-1331

**Annual Budget:** \$23.8 million

**Full-time Staff:** 225

**Part-time Staff:** 52

**Director:** Dr. Maxwell L. Anderson

#### **Community Partners**

Indianapolis Public Schools, Metropolitan School District of Washington Township, Indiana Black Expo, Latino Youth Collective/Campecine Program, Indiana Department of Education, Ball State University, Butler University, Herron School of Art & Design, IUPUI, Marian University, Indiana University, Visual Thinking Strategies, Spirit & Place Festival, Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Indiana School for the Deaf, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Big Car and The 48 Hour Film Project, Indianapolis International Film Festival, LGBT Film Festival, Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, American Institute of Architecture, Indianapolis Chapter, VSAI (formerly Very Special Arts), Indiana Humanities Council, Confucius Institute, Pecha Kucha Indy, Eiteljorg Museum, Indiana Historical Society

## 12 Multnomah County Library

### Portland, OR

At 145 years old, the Multnomah County Library has seen its fair share of changes. Originally a subscription library and reading room organized under the name “Library Association of Portland,” today the library is the largest in Oregon, boasting the third highest circulation rate in the country. It is also a place where the diverse Portland community is celebrated, and opportunities to gather, read, learn, and connect are fostered.

Multnomah County is comprised of almost 14 percent foreign-born citizens, who are predominately Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, and Hispanic. Many of these patrons speak limited English and find it difficult to navigate government forms, fill out job applications, and stay on top of local events. To answer these community members’ need for literacy development, the library created *Talk Time*, a series of English conversation practice sessions held in several neighborhood libraries. Not a class, *Talk Time* is instead an opportunity to interact with new people and embrace different cultures. Speakers of other languages also benefit from a new information orientation DVD called *Welcome to the Library*, which reviews library services and how to access them in Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, and Spanish. Organized in brief video chapters, such as “How to get a library card,” these instructional sessions also are available on the library’s Web site and YouTube. In addition, a copy of each DVD has been provided to every library in Oregon for their own outreach efforts.

Spanish speakers have the benefit of a Spanish language version of the Multnomah County Library Web site and the Intercambio/Language Exchange, a weekly get-together where both English and Spanish are

practiced by attendees. For all foreign-born residents, the library sponsors citizenship courses on the process of becoming a U.S. citizen, and on American history and government in preparation for citizenship interviews. In 2004, only 13 programs were offered to Multnomah County’s immigrant population; today, 162 programs draw thousands of participants a year to the library’s bilingual programming and events.

Multnomah County children have their special niche via library programs that emphasize play, literacy, and family togetherness. To support parents and caregivers in the process of building the experiential and linguistic foundations necessary for future reading and academic success, the library offers *Raising a Reader*, a program that reaches at-risk families with literacy services, offering materials in four languages. For children who are too intimidated to read aloud, the library sponsors *Read to the Dogs*, a program where kids read to therapy dogs to overcome their shyness.

Older Oregonians benefit from the library’s participation in the nationwide *Lifelong Access Program*, which supports the development of libraries as centers for progressive aging, lifelong learning, and civic engagement. This year, the library was awarded an IMLS grant to help with this work, which will result in the creation of a distinct specialty within adult services, focusing on active older people.

Like its diverse community, the Multnomah County Library is continually growing and evolving, bursting with opportunities that fulfill community members’ needs for knowledge, community interaction, and fun.



*Left: The Central Library is located in downtown Portland and is on the National Register of Historic Places.  
Middle: Spanish language storytime is a popular Multnomah County Library program, photo by Kristin Beadle.  
Right: The library's collection features newspapers in various languages, photo by Kristin Beadle.*

#### **Address**

Multnomah County Library  
205 N.E. Russell Street  
Portland, OR 97212

**Web site:** [www.multcolib.org](http://www.multcolib.org)

**Phone:** 503-988-5403

**Annual Budget:** \$60,176,479

**Full-time Staff:** 327

**Part-time Staff:** 240

**Director:** Vailey Oehlke

#### **Community Partners**

Asian Health and Services Center, Boys and Girls Clubs, Children's Museum, City of Portland, El Programa Hispano, Friends of the Library, Head Start, Housing Authority of Portland, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Library Advisory Board, Migrant Head Start, Multnomah County Health Department, Native American Rehabilitation Association, Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Oregon Symphony, Portland Art Museum, Portland Opera, Portland Public Schools, Self Enhancement Inc., Slavic Coalition of Oregon, SUN Community Schools, The Library Foundation.

# 14 Museum of Science & Industry

## Tampa, FL

Over its 50-year history, the Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) has grown from a small two-room museum into a 74-acre facility and the most visited museum in Florida. The museum is strategic, entrepreneurial, and committed to reflecting and serving its diverse community, giving each visitor a personal stake in MOSI's success.

Since the very beginning, MOSI has dedicated its work to “making science real” for its community, especially at-risk youth. MOSI's Y.E.S. (Youth Enriched by Science) Team is a program that empowers these youths to improve their interpersonal skills and develop their professional demeanors as docents at the museum. More than 200 youths have become part of the MOSI family through the Y.E.S. Team program, and, in turn, have reached out to other at-risk teens through community service activities and peer mentoring opportunities. Today, the Y.E.S. Team's program coordinator is a former team member, and 90 percent of participants go on to college, the military, or technical trade schools.

Serving a large Hispanic population, MOSI decided to institute *Meet the Scientist Days* through its National Hispanic Scientist Program. Speakers, including Fernando “Frank” Caldeiro, NASA astronaut; Dr. Antonia Coello Novello, U.S. Surgeon General 1990–1993; and Dr. Mario Molina, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, share their stories of triumphing over poverty and hardship with more than 1,200 local disadvantaged students each year.

When surveys showed that the community wanted a children's museum, MOSI responded with the Kids In Charge! Children's Science Center, which was developed with input from hundreds of families and school children. The success of Kids In Charge! (KIC) is credited in large

part to its active youth board, the only one of its kind to oversee a large children's museum in the United States. The members, who range from 9 to 17 years old, are involved in conducting audience research on different exhibits; planning and hosting special events; becoming ambassadors for KIC to present information to the community; and fundraising, all the while keeping the interests of their young audiences in mind.

Out in the community, MOSI has implemented a multifaceted approach to public education on water and resource conservation, addressing different learning styles and varying age groups and cultures throughout the Tampa Bay area. For children, MOSI created “The Marine Gang,” a troupe of oversize marine characters played by educator actors who reinforce the Florida curriculum and have carried these conservation messages to more than 28,000 school-aged youth and teachers over the past three years. Senior citizens learn about conservation efforts through programs such as the Garden on the Road initiative, which assists older adults with setting up butterfly gardens while learning about drought-tolerant and “Florida-friendly” plants, as well as native Florida butterflies. People of all ages appreciate the witty Southwest Florida Water Management District commercials before each IMAX movie, which have reached more than 758,000 movie-goers since 2006.

The museum's sustainability is grounded in its dedication to listening to the community and is ensured through a commitment to research and evaluation. With more than 100,000 contributed volunteer hours over the past three years and deeply rooted community partnerships, MOSI provides an outstanding example of bringing community service to life.



*Left: MOSI offers a wide array of enrichment programs and classes for students.  
Right: Inside the MOSI entryway.*

#### **Address**

Museum of Science & Industry  
4801 East Fowler Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33617

**Web site:** [www.mosi.org](http://www.mosi.org)

**Phone:** 813-987-6000

**Annual Budget:** \$9,940,000

**Full-time Staff:** 55

**Part-time Staff:** 86

**Director:** Witold Ostrenko

#### **Community Partners**

AAA Auto Club South, Aetna, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Bright House Networks, City of Tampa, Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, Gulf Ridge Council Boy Scouts of America, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Hillsborough County Public Library, JPMorgan Chase, MetLife Foundation, Mosaic, The Saunders Foundation, School District of Hillsborough County, Southwest Florida Water Management District, State Farm, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Tourist Development Council, University of South Florida, University of Tampa, Villa Rosa Distinctive Linens, The William Stamps Farish Foundation, public and private school systems that use the science center as an educational resource

# 16 Pritzker Military Library

## Chicago, IL

At the Pritzker Military Library (PML) in Chicago, as you browse the stacks or settle in for a program, it's not uncommon to meet a hero: real American servicemen and servicewomen, whose stories of courage and sacrifice are chronicled in the library's holdings and celebrated in its programming.

When the PML opened its doors in October 2003, its mission was clear: help people understand the role of America's Citizen Soldier in the preservation of democracy, and provide an open forum to discuss the military's past, present, and future. Starting with a donation of 7,500 books on military history from COL (IL) James N. Pritzker IL ARNG (Ret.), the library's holdings have grown to more than 53,000 books, posters, prints, photographs, audiovisuals, and realia that tell the story of American military history.

The PML, a nongovernmental library, is free to the public and welcomes thousands of visitors each year. Researchers, veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and the general public sit side by side in the library's leather reading chairs, poring over materials that cover all branches of the military and every American war since the Revolution. Most of the PML's vast collection sits on the shelves, not behind glass, and is available five days a week.

In keeping with this hands-on philosophy, the PML welcomes men, women, and children from the Chicago community and beyond into its McHenry Atrium for dozens of programs each year, including commissioning and citizenship ceremonies; *Pritzker Military Library Presents*, a showcase of today's foremost military

authors and historians; *Medal of Honor with Ed Tracy*, a series of in-depth interviews with recipients of America's highest award for valor in combat; and, until the recent, untimely death of its host, the Emmy-nominated *Front & Center with John Callaway*, which was Chicago's only monthly panel on military affairs. These events are always free, and offer guests a chance to engage with important figures in the military world and real American heroes.

The PML has consistently incorporated technology into its work. Its events are webcast live on the library's Web site, turned into podcasts (beloved by listeners with long commutes), and rebroadcast on the local PBS station. All events encourage audience participation, regardless of whether the audience member is sitting in the library or at a computer miles away, which brings tens of thousands more into the conversation. The library has begun to digitize its collection, so its vintage military posters, prints, and photographs, as well as related archival documents, will be available to online visitors. The PML is also expanding its online offerings to educators, scholars, parents, and students, helping them learn, via the Web, about the library and its holdings.

In its short six-year history, the Pritzker Military Library has filled the gap left by other military libraries, many of which focus on a single branch or war, are accessible only to military families, or charge admission fees. Through its varied collection and dynamic programs, the library successfully tells the story of our nation's Citizen Soldiers and their history of courage, valor, and sacrifice.



*Left: Authors Joseph L. Galloway and Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore, USA (Ret.) sign copies of their book *We Are Soldiers Still*. Middle: John Callaway interviews Shelby Westbrook, Quentin P. Smith, and Robert Martin of the Tuskegee Airmen, America's first African American military pilots. Right: Military artist Mort Künstler leads a tour through a gallery exhibit of his work.*

#### **Address**

Pritzker Military Library  
610 North Fairbanks Court, Second Floor  
Chicago, IL 60611

**Web site:** [www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org](http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org)

**Phone:** 312-587-0234

**Annual Budget:** \$2,592,643

**Full-time Staff:** 16

**Part-time Staff:** 1

**Director:** Ryan Yantis

#### **Community Partners**

All Citizen Soldiers—active, guard, reserves and veterans; the City of Chicago, Public Schools, Junior and Senior ROTC Programs; Tawani Foundation, Tawani Enterprises; McCormick Foundation, 1st Infantry Division Museum; Chicago History Museum, Union League Club Chicago, Congressional Medal of Honor Society, Art Institute of Chicago, Newberry Library, USO—Illinois, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., National Strategy Forum, CARLI, Field Museum, Illinois National Guard and Militia Historical Society; our sponsors, donors, and members who make us a vibrant organization

# 18 Stark County District Library

## Canton, OH

After the decline of manufacturing and heavy industry in Canton, Ohio, the community faced high unemployment and dropout rates, and a lack of programs to help residents succeed once more. The Stark County District Library (SCDL) has worked to fill this void with programs that help adults get back on their feet and keep children skipping on the path to success.

Because early readers are often lifelong readers, SCDL promotes early literacy with classes that help parents foster these important skills in their children. The Young Mom's Club shares tools like the Six Critical Early Literacy Skills flip chart, which details such literacy building blocks as vocabulary and letter knowledge, and invites them to bring their children along for quality learning time. When the program began, attendance was low and children hesitated to participate, or even speak, in the class. Over time, the children have become more confident readers and are actively engaging in story times, learning to read, checking out books, and thriving in school.

SCDL emphasizes the importance of play, a point that is embraced by the children of Stark County, who paint, sculpt, act, recite poetry, and listen to symphonic ensembles at their local SCDL locations. For the artistically inclined, the Madge Youtz Art Club offers a broad-based introduction to the visual arts that includes art history lessons and a focus on different art mediums, such as drawing, painting, and sculpting. Young thespians, aged 4–14, put on plays twice a year as part of the Little Theatre Troupe; budding poets compete in the Annual Youth Poetry Contest; and toddlers and adults alike enjoy afternoon concerts by professional musicians lending their musical talents to

readings of beloved childhood classics, like *Peter and the Wolf*. All of SCDL's programs are free—a relief to struggling families.

Adults in Stark County are also getting a leg up via job fairs held at the SCDL branches and free Job and Career Workshops. The workshops provide instruction to these job seekers on everything from using library resources to resume writing; from salary negotiations to dressing for success. For community members who lost their jobs when their employers left town and can no longer make a living doing the work they've done for years, SCDL offers the support and guidance they need to transition to a new career, including special courses for local entrepreneurs.

The library takes its work and materials to the streets with the Bookmobile and Kidmobile programs. For elementary school students and older, the Bookmobile makes thousands of stops each year and offers a wide selection of books for visitors to borrow. The Kidmobile was created in 1997, and is specifically designed and stocked for preschool and kindergarten-aged children. It currently makes 1,291 stops annually at 97 preschools, day-care centers, and kindergartens. Each classroom at a Kidmobile stop receives a visit that includes a 20-minute story time and the opportunity for the children to check out books. Over the past five years, the Kidmobile's circulation has increased by 11 percent, contributing to increased circulation for the entire library system.

Stark County District Library believes in “Inspiring Ideas, Enriching Lives, Creating Community.” For a county rebuilding after a widespread economic downturn, this mission—and the varied and effective pro-



*Left:* Adults enhance their job skills at the library's free computer classes.  
*Middle:* Kids' early literacy skills improve when they read to their canine friends through the library's Pups & Pages programs.  
*Right:* At the annual Opportunities Job Fair, job seekers and employers meet face-to-face, hoping to make the perfect match.

gramming it has spurred—is a promise that the library will remain a constant in Stark County, there to help the community recover and ultimately flourish.

**Address**

Stark County District Library  
715 Market Avenue North  
Canton, OH 44702

**Web site:** [www.starklibrary.org](http://www.starklibrary.org)

**Phone:** 330-452-0665

**Annual Budget:** \$14,900,000

**Full-time Staff:** 158

**Part-time Staff:** 57

**Director:** Kenton L. Oliver

**Community Partners**

Lake Local Schools, Plain Local Schools, Stark County Park District, Canton City Schools, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Arts in Stark, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Akron-Canton Regional Airport, Leadership Stark County, Stark County Department of Job and Family Services, Goodwill Industries, Mature Services, Inc., Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Canton Art Museum, United Way of Greater Stark County, the Foundation Center, Stark Metro Housing Authority, Early Childhood Resource Center, Mayor's Literacy Commission

## 20 Tennessee Aquarium

### Chattanooga, TN

In the early 1990s, downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee, was filled with empty streets and vacant buildings. Hoping to turn their community around, a group of forward-thinking Chattanoogaans decided that an aquarium could be the key to revitalizing their beloved city and bringing the community together to learn and grow. Seventeen years and 17 million visitors later, their vision has become a reality, and the Tennessee Aquarium is now the cornerstone of the rejuvenated Chattanooga.

Education makes up the core of the day-to-day operations at the aquarium. Based on its community service goals of educating the next generation of environmental stewards, protecting and restoring wildlife through conservation and research, and providing community leadership through partnerships and collaborations, the aquarium has created a robust array of exhibits and programs. These include the national model for museum-school collaborations, *Magnifying the Museums*; badge-earning opportunities for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; and outreach programs for local schools and community centers, which are supplemented by an institutional commitment to provide access to all, regardless of ability to pay admission or other fees. Many of these educational opportunities can be found in the aquarium's *River Journey* and *Ocean Journey* buildings, both of which offer experiences that remind visitors of the interconnectivity of nature, from the mountains to the sea.

Beyond the aquarium's glass walls, nature and science enthusiasts have the opportunity to visit a protected habitat: the Tennessee River Gorge. Every day, aquarium visitors hit the open water aboard the *River Gorge Explorer*, a 70-passenger, high-speed catamaran that transports adventurers into a richly bio-diverse stretch of

the Tennessee River. There, a guide points out historic landmarks like Signal Mountain, the Civil War-era lookout point where troop and supply movements were observed in secrecy; and natural wonders, including bald eagles, kingfishers, and even the occasional bobcat. The Tennessee Aquarium inspired the next generation of environmental stewards by taking more than 1,200 fifth-graders from 19 schools in Hamilton County on excursions into the awe-inspiring River Gorge. The Chattanooga community is also encouraged to experience the natural world through fieldwork like butterfly and bird counts, family hiking adventures in preserved wilderness areas, and expeditions led by museum staff to conservation hot spots including the Galapagos Islands, Antarctica, and Kenya.

While education is the aquarium's most recognized form of service, its critical conservation work has also made a significant impact on communities across Tennessee. The Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute (TNACI) is one such program and has worked to restore local water ecosystems by reintroducing imperiled aquatic animals and monitoring their habitats. *Saving the Sturgeon*, one such initiative created to restore the Tennessee River lake sturgeon, stirred interest in one nine-year-old girl who, after learning about sturgeon at the aquarium, asked to help aquarium staff release the fish into the wild. TNACI conservationists have also helped manage and bolster existing populations of Barrens topminnow and Tennessee River Gorge turtles. Programs like these ensure the present community's quality of life, as well as the quality of life of future generations.

When the Tennessee Aquarium opened its doors in downtown Chattanooga in 1992, the city had fallen



*Left: The aquarium's eco-tour boat, the River Gorge Explorer, in front of one of the aquarium buildings.  
Middle: An aquarium staff member shows a shark jaw to Tennessee Aquarium summer campers.  
Right: The aquarium's Jellies: Living Art gallery, all photos by Todd Stailey.*

on hard times and was a shell of its former vibrant self. Since then, the aquarium has established itself as a leader in its community, helping to revitalize its city and demonstrating a sustainable, long-term contribution to the ecological well-being of the community and the education of those who live in the region.

#### **Address**

Tennessee Aquarium  
One Broad Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

**Web site:** [www.tennesseeaquarium.org](http://www.tennesseeaquarium.org)

**Phone:** 1-800-262-0695

**Annual Budget:** \$18,448,278

**Full-time Staff:** 149

**Part-time Staff:** 38

**Director:** Charlie Arant

#### **Community Partners**

Association of Chattanooga Museum Educators, Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Chattanooga, Calvin Donaldson Environmental Science Academy, Chattanooga African-American Museum, Chattanooga Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Chattanooga History Center, Chattanooga Nature Center, Chattanooga Zoo, Creative Discovery Museum, Girl Scouts of America, Hamilton County Department of Education, Hunter Museum of American Art, Normal Park Museum Magnet, Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute, Tennessee Lake Sturgeon Restoration Working Group, Tennessee River Gorge Trust, Tennessee River Rescue, Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, United Way of Greater Chattanooga

## 22 Previous Winners of the National Medal

(formerly the National Award)

### 2008

**Buffalo Bill Historical Center**, Cody, WY  
**The Franklin Institute**, Philadelphia, PA  
**General Lew Wallace Study and Museum**, Crawfordsville, IN  
**Jane Stern Dorado Community Library, Inc.**, Dorado, PR  
**Kansas City Public Library**, Kansas City, MO  
**Lower East Side Tenement Museum**, New York, NY  
**Miami-Dade Public Library System**, Miami, FL  
**Norton Museum of Art**, West Palm Beach, FL  
**Skidompha Library**, Damariscotta, ME  
**Skokie Public Library**, Skokie, IL

### 2007

**Birmingham Civil Rights Institute**, Birmingham, AL  
**Brookfield Zoo of the Chicago Zoological Society**,  
Brookfield, IL  
**Georgetown County Library**, Georgetown, SC  
**Kim Yerton Branch of the Humboldt County Library**,  
Hoopa, CA  
**Memphis Public Library & Information Center**,  
Memphis, TN  
**National Museum of Women in the Arts**, Washington, DC  
**The Newberry Library**, Chicago, IL  
**Ocean County Library**, Toms River, NJ  
**Oregon Museum of Science and Industry**, Portland, OR  
**Vermont Historical Society**, Barre, VT

### 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 (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

## 24 About 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 123,000 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.imls.gov](http://www.imls.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 among 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.

### **Address**

Institute of Museum and Library Services  
1800 M Street NW, 9th Floor  
Washington, DC 20036-5802

**Web site:** [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov)

**Phone:** 202-653-IMLS (4657)

**E-mail:** [imlsinfo@imls.gov](mailto:imlsinfo@imls.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 Medals. This Board is an 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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