

2010 National Medals for Museum and Library Service

Speakers: Host and Children

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>> HOST: Innovation, information, ideas. The Institute of Museum and Library Services honors ten of the nation's extraordinary museums and libraries that are helping citizens build 21st century skills and global awareness.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the nation's primary source of federal support for museums and libraries, serving communities across the nation.

We congratulate the winners of the 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

At Conner Prairie Interactive History Park in Indiana, visitors have the unique opportunity to walk a mile in the shoes of people who lived in the 19th century. Whether it's experiencing the fight for freedom as a runaway slave on the Underground Railroad or celebrating the diverse customs and cultures of their modern day neighbors, visitors are given new insights about the past and its impact on the present.

On any given day at Explora in Albuquerque, New Mexico a visitor may come across children mixing colors, a father showing his child the mechanics of construction, or teenage friends tinkering with electricity. With the transfer of information and the development of thought, Explora offers its community more than 550 inquiry based programs and exhibits that encourage critical thinking and foster lifelong science learning.

Established in 1985, the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles explores American history through the lens of Japanese American experiences. Through its programs like fighting for democracy, who is the "we" in We the People and enduring communities, the Japanese American experience in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Utah the museum interprets and teaches the complex issues of democracy, pluralism and civil liberties.

The Mississippi Museum of Art is not just an art museum but an art museum that embodies the cultural identity of Mississippi. This distinction is the basis for all of the work at the museum from its permanent Mississippi story exhibition to its Life Shards Art Program for families displaced by Katrina. These programs continually ground the museum in a sense of place and community.

In Nashville Tennessee the question isn't if the public library should be included in new initiatives. The question is how. Deeply involved in the needs of its city, the Nashville Public Library uses this support to improve local public school libraries, host literacy based marionette shows for youth and educates its community about cultures close to home and far away.

In the heart of the Bronx, thousands of plants, herbs, fruits, vegetables and trees thrive on 250 acres of preserved green space carefully cultivated and maintained by the New York Botanical Garden. First and foremost, an advocate for the plant kingdom the Garden uses its expertise and unparalleled facilities to strengthen community life and reach out with programs, events, exhibitions and classes that emphasize the importance of environmental conservation, healthy living and science education.

Basic literacy, information literacy and life skills literacy drive the programming at the Patchogue-Medford Library in Patchogue New York. Today the library focuses its efforts on educating and uniting its Spanish and English speaking populations with shared learning opportunities.

If it's happening, it's happening here. This is the sentiment shared by residents of Marquette Michigan about the Peter White Public Library. They have the numbers to prove it. Even with a modest budget, the library boasts circulation and attendance figures three times that of other libraries its size in Michigan. Through its programs that challenge patrons to expand their knowledge and open their minds, the library has secured a special place in its community.

The Anythink way of operating at the Rangeview Library District in Adams County Colorado has not only increased programs but also doubled attendance and tripled the circulation of materials. Known as the revolution of Rangeview Libraries, Anythink throws out longstanding conventions and encourages

patrons to join in innovative ways to make the library their own.

>> CHILDREN: I think it's awesome!

>> HOST: Anything is possible.

At the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, strategic partnerships with parents, nonprofits and local government agencies guarantee that even with limited funds the library is able to meet the needs of its Michigan community with interactive spaces for families to play and learn, verbal development screenings for children and employment related programming. The library works tirelessly to enrich the lives of the surrounding community.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is proud to honor the exemplary winners of the 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Services. This presentation was created for the Institute of Museum and Library Services by the History Channel.