

Roll-In Video Script

The Institute of Museum and Library Services honors the extraordinary community contributions of museums and libraries throughout our nation, through the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. And through grant making, policy development, and research, it inspires them to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement.

This year, the highest honor for museum and library services recognizes the contributions of five museum and five libraries across the United States. From the tundra of Alaska to the coastal plains of South Carolina, this year's winners represent exemplary standards in service to America's diverse communities.

Cedar Rapids Public Library

Cedar Rapids, IA

Opened in 1897, the Cedar Rapids Public Library has grown, learned, laughed, and lived with its residents. Even after a tragic and destructive flood devastated the library in 2008, the library rebuilt its programs better than ever. The library spearheaded the creation of an ongoing learning outreach program to help underserved youth. Through MICRO, a loan program partnership with local government, librarians meet one-on-one with aspiring small business owners to review documents, discuss their business plans, and prepare them for meetings with lenders.

University of Minnesota Libraries

Minneapolis, MN

Located in the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes, the University of Minnesota Libraries provides services to an extraordinary Minnesota community. The research-driven Libraries offers students a state-of-the-art network called SMART Learning Commons, which delivers tutorial services, peer consultations, and media creation opportunities. The Libraries supports researchers through workshops and individual data management plan development and assists academic departments by assigning a library liaison to each.

Alaska State Museums

Juneau, AK

The congressionally-created Alaska State Museums continues to blaze new trails in the state. Established in 1900, the Alaska State Museums weaves the state's Native history into its core programming, by providing technical support to smaller museums and tribal cultural centers. The Museums' support comes in the form of training, sharing resources, and funding. Each year, the Museums host nearly 175,000 visitors, who learn about Alaska's native people, Gold Rush miners, Scandinavian fishermen and others who make up the rich history of Alaska.

Waterville Public Library

Waterville, ME

Located on the banks of Maine's Kennebec River in a town of about 16,000 people, the Waterville Public Library has served as an anchor for the economically distressed area. After Waterville's career center closed in 2005, the library recognized the vacuum left by the center's closure and founded the Business, Career, & Creativity Center. The library leveraged its resources and began hosting job fairs as well as recruiting events for new and existing businesses. The library also hosts a weekly Job Search Lab where experts from regional career development organizations provide resume consultations for residents.

**Richland Library
Columbia, SC**

Richland Library brings to life the charm and hospitality many associate with the South. Located in Richland County, South Carolina, the Library engages parents, students, and children of all ages. From *Here Comes Kindergarten*, a family engagement and school readiness program, to the Teen Center designed to help high school students prepare for college, the library has been a shelter to many, a trusted institution to most, and a purpose- and compassion-driven library.

**Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center
Skokie, IL**

The state-of-the-art Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center devotes its time and resources to transforming knowledge into action, teaching about the power each individual has to create change. The Museum empowers people to speak out against injustice and genocide wherever it occurs. The Museum successfully worked with state legislators to make Illinois the first state in the country to mandate instruction of the Holocaust, and subsequently genocide, in school classrooms.

**Peralta Hacienda Historical Park
Oakland, CA**

To the staff of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, the saying “every human makes history,” is something they know from daily reality. The organization supports refugees, recent immigrants, Native Americans, African Americans and at-risk youth, by inspiring them to participate actively in their community through books, exhibits, audio productions and films. Located in Oakland, California, the organization is known as an embracing leader, working to represent these communities to the wider public in ways they themselves choose.

**Long Beach Public Library
Long Beach, CA**

This southern California coastal city library helps its residents meet their personal and educational goals. The Long Beach Public Library provides STEM workshops to the community through their creative, digital lab, “The Studio” and its counterpart, “Mobile Studio.” The Studio is a community workspace where people meet and collaborate to use technology that helps develop intellectual curiosity and inspire academic success. The Mobile Studio allows the library to deliver resources to the Long Beach community beyond its walls.

**Aspen Art Museum
Aspen, CO**

In the heart of the majestic Rocky Mountains of Colorado, the Aspen Art Museum uses art as a vehicle to identify, understand, and address the challenges of Western Slope residents. The ever-growing Hispanic community of Aspen led the Museum to partner with a local Spanish radio station, La Tricolor, to develop *Arte en Español*, quarterly events at the museum to engage diverse groups in cross-cultural exchanges. Museum staff and educators drive roughly 5,000 miles annually to bring art to K-12 students, community-based organizations, working adults, and people with special needs.

**Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum
Wausau, WI**

Located in the rural, picturesque town of Wausau, Wisconsin, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum is committed to barrier-free access for all. Home to the internationally renowned *Birds in Art* exhibition and programs such as Art Babies and Toddler Tuesday’s the Museum’s mission is to “enhance lives

through art.” Art Park, the Museum’s interactive family gallery, offers visitors beautiful, clever and ever-changing “learn-and-play” opportunities for children and the young at heart.