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Los Angeles Public Library Named Finalist for National Medal for Museum and Library Service Award

People encouraged to visit the IMLS Facebook page and share their story about the library's impact on their life

Los Angeles, February 24, 2015 - The Los Angeles Public Library has been named a finalist for the National Medal award, the nation's highest honor given to a library or museum by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The award is given to institutions in recognition of service to the community and for making a difference in the lives of individuals, families and communities.

IMLS is encouraging people to share their story about how the Los Angeles Public Library makes an impact on their lives by posting their story on the IMLS Facebook page, www.facebook.com/USIMLS. People are encouraged to post their stories on March 13 when the Los Angeles Public Library will be featured on the IMLS Facebook page or anytime from February 24 through April 7. People without access to Facebook can share their story by emailing it to the library at pubinfo@lapl.org.

The Los Angeles Public Library is among 30 finalists that were chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Medal finalists are selected from nationwide nominations of institutions that demonstrate innovative approaches to public service, exceeding the expected levels of community outreach. IMLS will announce 10 National Medal winners for 2014 this spring.

"The Los Angeles Public Library is honored to be selected as a finalist for this prestigious award," said City Librarian John F. Szabo, "and to be recognized by IMLS for the library's success in empowering our diverse communities and delivering innovative services that help all residents of Los Angeles reach their goals."

(more)

Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse population in the nation—more than 4 million people—through its Central Library, 72 branches, collection of more than 6 million books, web-based resources at www.lapl.org and more than 18,000 public programs a year.

The library is recognized for its innovative programs including those that help people manage their personal finances, earn their high school diploma, take the first step on their path to citizenship, and access information about health and well-being including understanding the options and enrolling in the Affordable Care Act. Other notable programs build early literacy, provide live homework help, and offer job assistance.

Through these and many other programs and services, the Los Angeles Public Library is meeting the needs of Los Angeles residents and providing a level of social, cultural and educational services unmatched by any other public institution in the city.

IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Its mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning and cultural and civic engagement.

For more information about the Los Angeles Public Library visit www.lapl.org.

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