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**New Haven Free Public Library Recognized as a 2019 Recipient of Nation's Highest
Museum and Library Honor**
*National Medal for Museum and Library Service Recognizes New Haven, Connecticut's
New Haven Free Public Library's Community Contributions*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 7, 2019) – The Institute of Museum and Library Services today announced New Haven Free Public Library (NHFPL) of New Haven, Connecticut as one of 10 recipients of the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Over the past 25 years, the award has celebrated institutions that are making a difference for individuals, families, and communities. The award will be presented at an event in Washington, D.C., on June 12.

The New Haven Free Public Library first opened its doors to all in 1887 as a community pillar of learning, exploration and inspiration. Through citizen engagement, inclusive growth, and equity of access to resources and opportunities, NHFPL welcomes more than 850,000 visitors annually through our front doors and digital portals. Together with the Mayor, Board of Alders, Board of Directors, NHFPL Foundation, scores of partners and our community, NHFPL proudly builds connections as one city with one future.

"It is a pleasure to recognize the 10 distinctive recipients of the National Medal of Museum and Library Service," said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. "Through their programs, services, and partnerships, these institutions exemplify the many ways that libraries and museums are positively transforming communities across the nation."

Selected from 30 national finalists, the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winners represent institutions that provide dynamic programming and services that exceed expected levels of service. Through their community outreach, these institutions bring about change that touches the lives of individuals and helps communities thrive.

"We are thrilled to receive this award, which honors our 132-year legacy and early attributes that still ring true today: a welcoming front door for all, a fighting spirit to serve as the people's university, a catalyst for civic improvement, a drive to innovate tempered by fiscal restraint, and a love of humanity," said Martha Brogan, City Librarian and Director of NHFPL.

As part of the ceremony and celebration, New Haven, CT's community member Nilda Aponte will travel to Washington, D.C. with Martha Brogan and Shana Schneider, NHFPL Board President, to accept the National Medal on behalf of the New Haven Free Public Library and provide a personal account of the power NHFPL has had in the community. Ms. Aponte serves as a community ambassador in the Fair Haven neighborhood for NHFPL's signature partnership program with the Long Wharf Theatre.

Having nominated NHFPL for this honor, U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy of Connecticut declared, "This is great news. This award is a true testament to the innovative work the New Haven Free Public Library (NHFPL) is providing for the New Haven community. I nominated NHFPL for this award because of their unmatched commitment and service to Connecticut residents, and for going above and beyond to offer 21st century programming to fit the diverse needs of the New Haven community. I'm excited that the Institute of Museum and Library Services has recognized them with the 2019 National Medal they rightfully deserve."

Following the June 12th ceremony in Washington, D.C., [StoryCorps](#)—a national nonprofit dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of Americans—will visit NHFPL and provide an opportunity for New Haven, CT community members to share stories of how NHFPL has affected their lives. These stories are preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

For a complete list of 2019 recipients and to learn more about the National Medal winners, visit <https://www.ims.gov/news-events/news-releases/ims-announces-10-recipients-nations-top-award-museums-and-libraries>.

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 libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the New Haven Free Public Library

Established by city charter in 1886, the New Haven Free Public Library welcomes more than 500,000 library users through its doors each year, realizing its mission to foster lifelong learning, inspire curiosity, and build community through shared access to resources, experiences, and opportunities for all. The library system includes the Ives Memorial Library, a community treasure, strategically located on the historic New Haven Green; four neighborhood libraries; 24/7 digital resources; and the Readmobile, bringing books to early childhood learning centers and festivals around the City. Now and tomorrow, the New Haven Free Public Library will transform lives and contribute to creating a strong, resilient, and informed community where everyone can thrive. For more information, visit nhfpl.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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