



March 5, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Erin Sullivan
407-835-7480, sullivan.erin@ocls.info

Orange County Library System a finalist for IMLS National Medal for Museum and Library Service

ORLANDO, Fla. (March 5, 2018) – The Institute of Museum and Library Services today announced that the Orange County Library is among the 29 finalist for the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

The National Medal is the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to their communities. For 24 years, the award has celebrated institutions that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service and are making a difference for individuals, families, and communities.

“The 29 National Medal finalists showcase the tremendous ability of libraries and museums to serve as vital community resources,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. “The Institute of Museum and Library Services is honored to recognize these leading institutions. We congratulate them on the work they are doing across the United States.”

Finalists are chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities.

“Our goal is to help change the lives of people in our community by offering meaningful opportunities to learn and grow,” said Orange County Library System Director/CEO Mary Anne Hodel. “We work hard to ensure that the resources we offer are relevant and useful to those that we serve. For us, winning a National Medal would be more than just an honor – it would be a testament to our organization’s commitment to excellence and our desire to be a transformative force in our region.”

IMLS is encouraging community members who have visited the Orange County Library System to share their story on social media. To #ShareYourStory, visit www.facebook.com/USIMLS or www.twitter.com/us_imls and use #IMLSmedals.

National Medal winners will be announced later this spring. Representatives from winning institutions will be honored for their extraordinary contributions at the National Medal Ceremony on May 24 in Washington, D.C.

To see the full list of finalists and learn more about the National Medal, visit the [IMLS website](#). To learn more about the Orange County Library System, visit ocls.info or follow the library on Facebook at facebook.com/oclslib.

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 approximately [120,000 libraries](#) and [35,000 museums](#) and related organizations. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the Orange County Library System

The Orange County Library System is a public library system that serves its patrons by providing access to collections, facilities, events and services that connect our community to the evolving world of ideas, information and technology. For more information on the Orange County Library system, visit ocls.info.

###