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Melrose Center Receives Endowment to Stay on the Cutting Edge

Endowment will allow for upgrades and new technology

(Orlando, Florida) The Dorothy Lumley Melrose Center for Technology, Innovation and Creativity has been chosen to receive a \$500,000 endowment from the Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation to upgrade and enhance its software and technology. The Melrose Center, originally funded by a gift from the foundation in 2013, will be celebrating its fifth anniversary in February 2019 with the Melrose Creative Expo.

The \$500,000 endowment will be used to keep the Melrose Center up to date with the latest hardware and software in its virtual reality, photography, video and audio studios, as well as the Fab Lab where the public is invited to get hands on with 3D printers, robotics and more. The good news about the endowment was delivered to Mary Anne Hodel, director of the Orange County Library System, by Kendrick B. Melrose, president and chair of the Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation, in October.

“We were quite pleasantly surprised and delighted to receive the very generous gift from the Melrose Family Foundation to the Melrose Center Endowment,” Hodel said upon receiving news of the endowment. “Since technology is constantly changing, this lovely gift will help us keep the Melrose Center up to date and enable us to provide new technologies to the Melrose Center in the future.”

The Dorothy Lumley Melrose Center for Technology, Innovation and Creativity officially opened on February 8, 2014. It was created after the Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation made a \$1,000,000 gift to the library in April 2013. Named for Mr. Melrose’s mother who had a strong interest in emerging technologies, the Center is located in 26,000 sq. ft. of space on the Orlando Public Library’s second floor. The Melrose Center offers access to hardware, equipment, software, support and programming to inspire and invigorate creativity and accomplishment. In October 2015 the Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation made an additional endowment in the amount of \$500,000 in support of the Melrose Center, allowing it to continue offering access to new technology and education.

The Melrose Creative Expo, celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Melrose Center, will take place on Saturday, February 16 at 1 p.m. The winners of the 2019 Melrose Awards will be announced in addition to numerous exhibitors from the community and fun activities for the whole family throughout the Melrose Center.

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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.