



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2017

Alaska State Museums Recognized as One of Nation's Outstanding Libraries, Museums with Top Honor Awarded at Washington, D.C. Ceremony

Noted Journalist Cokie Roberts, National Archivist, among ceremony presenters

WHAT: The Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew, will honor outstanding museums and libraries with the 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Service in a ceremony at the National Archives Museum in Washington, D.C., on July 17. She will be joined by journalist and author Cokie Roberts. Ten institutions representing cities from across the country will receive the highest recognition awarded by the federal government to museums and libraries for service to their communities. A member of the community of each recognized institution will join the museum and library directors in the ceremony and share how the institution has impacted his or her life. This year's National Medal winners are:

- Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (Alaska State Museums) (Juneau, Alaska)
- Aspen Art Museum (Aspen, Colorado)
- Cedar Rapids Public Library (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)
- Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center (Skokie, Illinois)
- Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum (Wausau, Wisconsin)
- Long Beach Public Library (Long Beach, California)
- Peralta Hacienda Historical Park (Oakland, California)
- Richland Library (Columbia, South Carolina)
- University of Minnesota Libraries (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- Waterville Public Library (Waterville, Maine)

WHO: [Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew, director of Institute of Museum and Library Services](#)
[Cokie Roberts, Journalist and Commentator for NPR and ABC News](#)
[David S. Ferriero, 10th Archivist of the United States](#)
2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Services Recipient Institution Directors and Community Members
[National Museum and Library Services Board](#)

WHEN: Monday, July 17, 3:00 p.m. (Media must check in by 2:30 p.m. and be in place by 2:45 p.m.) **The ceremony will start at 11 a.m. Alaska time. If you want to watch it, follow this link:** <https://youtu.be/xI9GpRnOzKc>.

WHERE: National Archives Museum, William G. McGowan Theater
Media covering the event should use the Special Events entrance on Constitution Avenue at 7th Street, NW. Media check in will be at the tables immediately past security.

MEDIA NOTE: To coordinate advance or on-site interviews and ceremony coverage, please contact Katie Haswell at 202-414-0799 or khaswell@susandavis.com.

ABOUT THE MEDAL: The National Medal for Museum and Library Service is the nation's highest honor conferred on museums and libraries, recognizing the outstanding and significant contributions these institutions have made to their communities. Selected institutions demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service, exceeding the expected levels of community outreach. In 23 years, the National Medal has celebrated 172 institutions that have responded to societal needs in innovative ways, making a difference for individuals, families, and their communities. Learn more about the National Medal at www.ims.gov/2017-medals.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's approximately [123,000 libraries](#) and [35,000 museums](#). Their mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Their 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 them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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