

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

March 20, 2018

LA County Library (Library) has been selected as a finalist for the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Services. This prestigious award is given annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and considered to be the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. The winners will be honored at a ceremony held in Washington, D.C. in May.

The fact that our Library is a finalist for the IMLS award is a clear recognition of the good work they perform to make a difference in our communities. They have embraced national initiatives such as iCount, which aims to remove barriers to access, promotes equity of services to library customers and proactively addresses implicit bias issues. They offer a wide array of robust programming at our libraries: early literacy and tutoring services for at-risk families; programming for youth including DJ courses, mobile maker spaces, and employment partnerships; weekend business courses for adults; specialized programs for system involved youth, former foster youth, and older adults; citizenship resources for immigrants and both Spanish and English

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language-learners; resource centers for veterans; service provider partnerships to assist the homeless; and free diplomas and career certificates for those looking for new job opportunities.

IMLS will launch a social media campaign #ShareYourStory to feature the works of this year's finalists and ask community members to share how these institutions have impacted their lives and made a difference in their communities. We should encourage the Library and all of our County departments to ensure the residents they serve have the opportunity to participate in the campaign through social media. Being honored by IMLS not only puts LA County Library in the national spotlight, it also serves as an affirmation to LA County Library's purpose: to give all of our County's residents the freedom to connect, explore and create – whatever your needs or dreams.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the County Librarian to execute documents and agreements related to LA County Library's participation in the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Services, with County Counsel review and approval as to form; and
2. Encourage the County Librarian to work with other County Departments in support of LA County Library's nomination as a IMLS National Medal Finalist.

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