

Ten NYC Neighborhood Library Award Winners

Library leaders, staff, Friends, and council members gathered May 20 in a grand celebration for the second NYC Neighborhood Library Awards. This year, the Charles H. Revson Foundation and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation teamed up to make the awards even more impactful, doubling the total award amounts and creating strong engagement with library users along the way.

The ten winning branch libraries were selected from more than 13,000 nominations. The five grand prize winners, which each received \$20,000, are Langston Hughes Library, Corona (Queens); Mott Haven Library (the Bronx); New Lots Library, East New York (Brooklyn); Parkchester Library (the Bronx); and Stapleton Library (Staten Island).

Finalists Cambria Heights Library (Queens); Clinton Hill Library (Brooklyn); Jefferson Market Library, Greenwich Village (Manhattan); Sunnyside Library (Queens); and Windsor Terrace Library (Brooklyn) each received \$10,000.

The panel of judges was composed of notable New Yorkers—authors Maira Kalman, Jonathan Safran Foer, and Jacqueline Woodson; Dutton Children’s Books publisher Julie Strauss-Gabel, and Maya Wiley, counsel to Mayor Bill de Blasio—and ad-

was joined by the Niarchos Foundation, an international philanthropic organization. The partnership enabled the expansion of the award’s outreach and the doubling of the grand prize money. New York City’s three library systems posted electronic nomination

forms on their websites. Promotional materials and paper forms translated into Spanish, Russian, Korean, Chinese, and French Creole were sent to each of the city’s 207 branches. The number of nominations more than tripled.

Revson president Julie Sandorf, the staff, and friends of the foundation



ministrator Susan Hildreth, former director of the national Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The NYC Neighborhood Library Awards were launched in summer 2013 by the Revson Foundation, inviting New York City residents to tell the world about the unique ways their local branch libraries worked to meet the needs of their neighborhoods. Out of 4,310 nominations, a panel of judges selected five winning branches, each of which received \$10,000.

In 2014, the Revson Foundation

read every nomination, in some cases more than once. Criteria for choosing the finalists included not only the range of programs and services provided by the branches nominated, said Sandorf, but “the quality and the passion with which [the nominations] were written.”

Winners and runners-up were delighted at their windfalls, given to each library to use at its discretion. Grand prize winners and finalists alike also received a unique two-minute video by filmmakers Juliane

Photo by Rebecca T. Miller.

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Interview

Stacey Aldrich

Stacey Aldrich was named state librarian of Hawaii on February 18 by the Hawaii Board of Education. Aldrich, a 2003 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker, served as state librarian for California from 2009 to 2012 and as deputy secretary for the Office of Commonwealth Libraries of Pennsylvania from 2012 until this year.



How is the structure of this library system different from others with which you've worked?

Hawaii is the only system in the country that's statewide, so the state librarian is also the director. In other states the state library can be an office in a Department of Education that's purely library development, or it can be a real state library that has a collection and all kinds of services and programs. In our case...all 50 libraries are part of one system, and [the Hawaii State Library in Honolulu] is one of our flagship libraries.

In 2003, you were very forward-thinking in terms of libraries' digital shift. What do you think will be business as usual in another dozen years?

The future's like a spring. We move a little bit forward, but then we bounce back, and oftentimes we don't know that we're bouncing back, we think it's something completely new.... There have been changes in technology, but we're still talking about the same things: people don't know what we have, we don't have enough funding, we're about education. I think... there's a big role for us in areas of convening and being leaders in conversation. That's happening across the country in some of our larger libraries, where you can see the libraries bringing people together to have conversations about concerns or opportunities for the community.

Dressner and Jesse Hicks. The videos celebrate the character and importance of each branch, highlighting a gamut of users: high school volunteers, job seekers, book groups, English learners, and many more.

The NYC Neighborhood Library Award is the largest in terms of money given to community libraries in the United States. Sandorf sees the award not just as recognition, however, but as a strong tool of advocacy. "We could put out 20 awards," she told *Hotline*. "There are that many wonderful neighborhood libraries."

hoopla Adds Ebooks and Comics, "Action View"

On May 13, hoopla digital, the streaming media service for libraries developed by Midwest Tape, announced the addition of ebooks and comics to its platform. The initial selection features thousands of titles from publishers including IDW, RosettaBooks, Chicago Review Press, Dundurn Press, and Tyndale House, which will join hoopla's catalog of more than 300,000 streaming movies, television shows, music albums, and audiobooks. Jeff Jankowski, cofounder of Midwest Tape, said that hoopla is in negotiations with several other publishers and will be announcing additional ebook and comic content in the coming weeks.

Regardless of format, all content is discoverable and viewable through the hoopla app for Android, Apple iOS, and Kindle Fire tablets and mobile devices.

"What we're trying to do is give libraries a real competitive advantage" by offering patrons a single app to access multiple digital formats, Jankowski told *Hotline*. To enhance the reading experience of the new comics content, the app includes a new "Action View" feature that enables readers to view and navigate comics page by page or panel by panel.

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“With this [Action View] feature, you’ll be able to tap, screen by screen, and get each caption and graphic” for each individual panel, he said.

Other features for the in-app ebook and comic reader include personal bookmarks that persist if a title is borrowed and returned multiple times and customizable fonts, line spacing, columns, and background tints. Currently, comics and ebooks are grouped in their own browsable content categories, separate from the movies and TV shows available on hoopla.

As with all hoopla content, the comics and ebooks are available on a pay per circulation basis and can be viewed simultaneously by an unlimited number of library cardholders. Jankowski said that about 80 percent of the comics are priced under \$1.99 per circ, and many are priced between 49¢ to 99¢ per circ.

With hoopla parent company Midwest Tape long known as a library vendor of DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and other media, Jankowski said, “It’s a really good feeling to finally be in the book business.”

NOPL Foundation Board Members Resign

On May 5, an investigative report by correspondent David Hammer for local New Orleans station WWL-TV revealed that between 2012 and 2013, Irvin Mayfield and Ronald Markham, who then served on the board of the New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) Foundation as chair and president, respectively, gave the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra (NOJO) at least \$863,000 in funding originally donated to the NOPL Foundation. At that time, both Mayfield and Markham were also drawing annual salaries of \$100,000 apiece from the nonprofit NOJO, Mayfield as its founder and artistic director and Markham as president and CEO.

The money was redirected to NOJO as an investment in the Peoples Health New Orleans Jazz Market, a renovated retail building in New Orleans’s Central City neighborhood that opened in April 2015. The funds, Markham told Hammer, were earmarked for a satellite library installation within the Jazz Market.

Mayfield resigned from the foundation board at the end of April, and Markham followed suit on May 8, after the report was published; both continue to serve in their positions at NOJO. New Orleans mayor Mitch Landrieu issued a statement calling on NOJO to return the money and for the NOPL Foundation to revert to its original mission of support for the library system only.

In the days that followed, the NOJO Board of Directors agreed to pay back the money in full to the library foundation. Because the funds were spent on construction costs for the \$10 million Jazz Market space, NOJO will need to raise private donations of its own toward the refund.

While the NOPL Board of Directors is the municipal entity governing the entire branch system, the NOPL Foundation is an independent educational, charitable nonprofit fundraising organization. In late 2006, then New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin picked Mayfield, a Grammy Award-winning trumpeter, to replace city library board chair Tania Tetlow, whose term had expired that June. Mayfield served on both the city library board and the foundation board between 2007 and 2011.

Tetlow, currently a law professor and associate provost for international affairs at New Orleans’s Tulane University, planned to devote her energies to the foundation, where she expected to be nominated as chair. Instead, Mayfield was appointed to that position as well, and Tetlow left the foundation at the beginning of 2009. In 2011, NOPL and the foundation decided that membership on the two boards should not overlap, and Mayfield resigned his seat on the city library board.

In 2012, Mayfield—at that time the foundation’s board president—and Markham, together with three other board members, changed the language of the foundation’s articles of incorporation. While the foundation had previously existed exclusive-

People

Laura Donahue was appointed Archivist at American Public University System, Manassas, VA. She was previously Archivist at Progressive Technology Federal Systems.

James Ernest was named Editor in Chief at Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. He was previously Executive Editor at Baker Publishing Group’s Academic and Brazos Press.

Mary Margaret Farrell was appointed Dean of Libraries at Clemson University, SC. She previously held the same title at the University of Wyoming, Laramie.

Debra Futa was promoted to Director of St. Joseph County Public Library, South Bend,

IN, effective July 1. She is currently its Assistant Director.

Sara Ortiz was named Communications & Marketing Specialist at the Texas Library Association, Austin. She was previously Manager of Education and Library Marketing at Scholastic.

Tim Shearer was promoted to Director of Library and Information Technology (LIT) at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He was previously Head of Software Development for LIT.

Beth Vandersteen, Director of West Baton Rouge Parish Library, Port Allen, LA, received the 2015 Essae M. Culver Distinguished Service Award from the Louisiana Library Association.

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ly to support NOPL, the new resolution expanded the board's mission to include other "literacy and community programs." In addition, the by-laws were adapted to give Mayfield "sole and uncontrolled" discretion over contracts and payments relating to foundation activities.

That year, the foundation board gave NOJO \$660,000 toward the Jazz Market project, which was being promoted as a "jazz-focused satellite branch of the library system," according to WWL-TV. The same year, according to public record, the foundation gave the library \$116,775—the foundation had raised between \$500,000 and \$900,000 for the library every year since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In 2013, the foundation gave NOJO another \$197,000.

According to the *New Orleans Advocate*, Bernard Charbonnet, current chair of the city library board, said he was unaware of the foundation's payments to NOJO. NOPL director Charles Brown concurred; he also did not know that Mayfield and Markham were drawing salaries from NOJO until he was informed by Hammer during the investigation.

In a May 14 WWL report, multiple anonymous sources revealed that a federal investigation into the matter has been initiated. According to WWL, the attorney general's office declined to confirm or deny any probe.

Tetlow commended WWL for not airing the report until after the May 2 library tax election. "I was very proud of WWL for doing that because, honestly, this issue had nothing to do with the property tax millage election and the use of public funds," Tetlow told *Hotline*. "Foundation money is never used—and could never be used—for [NOPL] operating expenses. So rather than report this at the last minute before the election, when there would be no time to explain those distinctions to the public, they chose to hold off on the story."

Study: Library Programs Tied to Student Success

The results of a study released by the Washington Library Media Associ-

ation (WMLA) join a growing body of evidence from other reports showing that certified teacher librarians and library programs have a significant and measurable impact on student success.

How Brooklyn Special Ed Students Built a Library

All students consider themselves Makers at P.S. 721K, a public school in Brooklyn—it's part of the educational mission. The school's 400 on-site 14- to 21-year-old special education students make their own soap, cook meals (often with vegetables grown in the school garden), and run coffee and bake shops. In a third-floor shop, they wield tools and assemble furniture from industrial-strength corrugated cardboard, glue, and wooden nails.

The young people at this facility, a vocational school/occupational training center, live with a range of disabilities. Some have mild autism, while others are wheelchair-bound, or do not speak. Yet "there's not a job done here that the kids were not a part of," said principal Barbara Tremblay.

Recently, shop students at the school built furniture for their new school library—colorfully painted stools and book return boxes (color-coded for students who don't read). Students work at the library, too, under the guidance of teacher Rizwan Malik.

"Not all of our kids are readers," said Tremblay. Still, having a school library was a top priority when she became principal three years ago. Then, the library space was mostly used for teacher meetings. That was before she overhauled it, knocking out a wall to make the space wheelchair accessible and enlisting Malik to oversee it.

While Tremblay's students won't be packing the library to cram for AP exams, many of them will likely become lifelong library users, said Melissa Jacobs, coordinator at the Office of Library Services in New York City's Department of Education (NYC DOE). "This is the population that needs [a school library] the most," she said.

Many students spend time building things in the shop with teacher Charles Brown, who guides them in making the sturdy chairs, book stands, and other items—all out of cardboard. Brown received training in this construction from the Adaptive Design Association (ADA), a New York City nonprofit dedicated to creating custom-designed furniture for disabled children out of industrial cardboard. In ADA's midtown Manhattan storefront location, staff teach these skills to volunteers, from high school and college students to educators and professional designers. ADA and the NYC DOE are in the process of setting up more shops in city high schools serving general education students.

ADA shares its building with DIYAbility, a group dedicated to assistive technology and promoting equal access to Maker tech tools. Among the organization's initiatives is a summer Maker program for teenagers with physical disabilities. DIYAbility is also developing an affordable Morse code communication system for people who don't speak, ADA executive director Alex Truesdel said. "People with disabilities are the largest minority worldwide," she added, "and the most underperforming in schools."



Adaptive Design teacher Charles Brown with a reading easel in progress.

According to the April 1 report, “The Washington State School Library Impact Study: Certified Teacher-Librarians, Library Quality and Student Achievement in Washington State Public Schools,” students who attend schools with certified teacher librarians (CTLs) and quality library facilities perform better on standardized tests and are far more likely to graduate. Facilities

with CTLs had an 85 percent five-year graduation rate vs. 79 percent for those without. The study drew results from 1,486 K–12 public schools across the state.

The impact of high-quality CTL instruction is further heightened among students in high-poverty schools: the five-year graduation rate is 78.8 percent in schools with CTLs and 43.2 percent at those without.

“The impact of well-staffed, better-stocked, and better-funded libraries cannot be explained away by poverty, race/ethnicity, or other school and community factors known to impact student success,” said Keith Curry Lance, a research consultant who has been involved with impact studies in 15 states.

The Washington study was written by Elizabeth Coker, a senior research scientist for the University of Washington–Tacoma Center for Strong Schools and developed from conversations with WLMA president-elect Craig Seasholes and other WMLA members. It received input from Debra E. Kachel, cochair of the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association, who edited the 2011 impact study “How Pennsylvania School Libraries Pay Off: Investments in Student Achievement and Academic Standards.”

The Washington study takes this work a step further, incorporating analysis regarding the quality of library services. While 96.7 percent of the survey respondents reported having an on-site library facility, just having a library facility is not enough, according to the report. The library must have a high-quality program, determined by specific factors, and related instructional services in order to influence student achievement positively.

Achievement indicators (five-year graduation rate and reading and math test scores) were examined alongside the quality of the library facility and services offered by the school, via the Library Quality Scale (LQS), newly developed by Coker. The LQS score is based on data from nine questions sent out in a statewide poll. They include the hours a school library is open, the number of group or class visits to the library per week, inventory of books and informational databases available, and the number of computers available for direct instruction and use.

Branching Out



Love is all around Palo Alto, CA, as the renovated **Rinconada Library** (pictured) opened on Valentine’s Day. The 56-year-old building, formerly the 26,300 square foot Main Library, gained a 3,716 square foot addition during the \$18 million project. Designed by Group 4 Architecture, Research & Planning, the facility now houses four group-study rooms, the Embarcadero program/community room, new restrooms, a vending machine space, and a skylit lobby. Funded through the 2008 Measure N referendum, the library upped its sustainability through the installation of a ground source heat pump system, structural brace frames, a radiant heating floor slab, low-flow plumbing fixtures, and an ecological bioretention area. Even more love went to the renovated and enlarged **Mitchell Park Library and Community Center** (*Hotline* 1/26/15), which achieved Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Plati-

num certification, the highest rating available from the U.S. Green Building Council for sustainability and green practices.

After a year of construction, the new **Anna P. Tooke Memorial Library**, Bossier Parish Library System, Elm Grove, LA, opened for business. Measuring 3,600 square feet, costing \$1.9 million, and designed by Prevot Design Services, the new facility

sits on three acres of farmland in a grove of trees, according to NPR. With floor-to-ceiling windows, the building is the seventh branch in the system. The property was donated by the family of schoolteacher Tooke, who taught in the area for 36 years.

Ground was finally broken in May for the new **Queens Library at Hunters Point** (*Hotline* 2/23/15). The 22,000 square foot branch, designed by Steven Holl Architects and to be built by the New York City Department of Design and Construction, will stress environmental education and encompass dedicated areas for children, teens, and adults; a reading garden; and public art as part of the Percent for Art Program. The \$39.5 million project is seeking Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification. Funding came from an amalgam of state, city, and local politicians and agencies.

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While the LQS strongly correlates to student achievement within this particular study, Coker emphasized it “only addresses facilities and resources” and does not include factors such as services provided by CTLs.

Facilities with CTLs have larger collections of print books (67 percent have 10,000 or more, compared to 44 percent without CTLs), higher total circulation, and more computers available for student use (61 percent have at least 11–20 available computers for student use; 37 percent of libraries staffed by non-CTL personnel have fewer than five). Those CTL-staffed libraries also teach online literacy skills at a markedly higher rate than those without, including using databases for research.

The study began as a conversation among WMLA colleagues and took roughly three years to complete, said Seasholes. He added that the school library impact study builds a strong argument for funding certified teacher librarians, which should be a priority to improve student success, graduation rates, and information literacy and to close the opportunity gap.

Latinitas and DIY Girls for Latina Makers

The rise of Maker culture and new media-focused initiatives has not gone unnoticed in the Latino community. Two nonprofit organizations, Latinitas and DIY Girls, are working with Latina teens and tweens to promote tech- and media-related skills.

Luz Rivas, founder of DIY (“Do-It-Yourself”) Girls, was inspired to start an organization “to increase girls’ interest and success in technology, engineering, and Making through innovative educational experiences and mentor relationships,” she said, when she revisited her elementary school in Los Angeles and noticed the lack of technology programs for girls.

Perseus Academic, a division of the **Perseus Books Group**, and **Brookings Institution Press** entered a sales and distribution agreement for both print and digital books in the United States and Canada. It will begin in January 2016.

Middlesex County Library, Ont., Canada, selected **Innovative’s Sierra Library Services Platform**. It migrated from Symphony, provided by SirsiDynix.

The medical library at **Morehouse School of Medicine**, Atlanta, was named in honor of the late M. Delmar Edwards, the first African American man to practice surgery in Columbus, GA.

Five Canadian academic institutions selected **OCLC WorldShare Management Services**

as their library management system: **Carey Theological College**, Vancouver, BC; **Portage College**, Lac La Biche, Alta.; **Regent College**, Vancouver; **St. Mark’s College**, Vancouver; and **Vancouver School of Theology**.

The **Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Rare Books and Manuscripts Section** chose five collections as winners of the 2015 Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab “American Book Prices Current” Exhibition Awards: **Grolier Club**; **Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library**, University of Toronto; **Saint Louis University Libraries, Archives and Records Management**; **Bruce Peel Special Collections Library at the University of Alberta**; and **Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library at Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA.

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DIY Girls develops and implements educational programs and events designed to encourage engagement with technology, promote self-confidence, and support aspiration to technical careers among tween girls in L.A.’s northeast San Fernando Valley, where the majority of students are Latino. Now in its fourth year, DIY Girls offers after-school programs to fifth grade girls in five area schools, bringing equipment and materials for projects such as coding, creating video games and a controller, and using the 3-D printer.

It has also branched out to middle school students, offering monthly programs and summer camps at the Los Angeles Public Library. The organization is currently fundraising on Indiegogo for a two-week Maker-themed summer camp.

Nonprofit Latinitas focuses on inspiring young Latinas to develop technology skills, with an added emphasis on media. It was founded by Laura Donnelly and Alicia Rascon in 2002.

Latinitas has expanded to include a nonprofit that hosts programs, clubs,

workshops, and summer camps in Austin and El Paso, TX. With an audience of 12- to 17-year-old girls, Latinitas aims to provide a creative outlet for expression, help participants learn about their culture, and foster career exploration in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields.

The organization has served more than 20,000 elementary, middle, and high school Latinas with after-school enrichment programs focused on media, technology, and cultural literacy. As the participants grow older, they serve as models for their younger program counterparts. Ninety-two percent of Latinitas alumni graduated from high school within four years. Latinitas has four full-time staff members and 20 volunteers.

The group has partnered with 12 libraries in Austin and El Paso to host events that are open to entire families, not just girls. A recent library workshop, Code Chica, which focused on video game design, took place at the Southeast Austin branch. Families came from as far as an hour away to attend.



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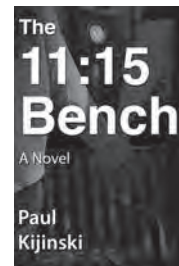
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