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Long Branch Free Public Library Recognized as a 2023 Recipient of Nation's Highest Museum and Library Honor

*National Medal for Museum and Library Service Recognizes Long Branch, NJ
Long Branch Free Public Library's Community Contributions*

LONG BRANCH, NJ—The Institute of Museum and Library Services announced the **Long Branch Free Public Library** of **Long Branch, NJ** today as one of eight recipients of the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Over the past 29 years, the award has celebrated institutions that are making a difference for individuals, families, and communities.

"IMLS is delighted to announce the eight worthy recipients of the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, including Long Branch Free Public Library," said IMLS Director Crosby Kemper "Long Branch has redefined its relation to and services for the community in imaginative, engaging, and uplifting ways."

The Long Branch Free Public Library is a vital institution of the City of Long Branch with a mission to meet the needs of a wide range of users, from toddlers to seniors, and ensuring inclusivity and engagement for all. The library recognizes the ever-evolving characteristics of the city it serves by creating relevant services and programs, including the Back to Business Initiative, Fade to Books Literacy Program, Fresh Start Reentry Service, and Community Connects Social Services, making LBFPL the first NJ public library to hire a full-time social worker.

Selected from 30 national finalists, the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winners represent institutions that provide dynamic programming and services that exceed expected levels of service. Through their community outreach, these institutions bring about change that touches the lives of individuals and helps communities thrive.

"This prestigious award is a testament to the impactful work of the Long Branch Free Public Library staff, volunteers, and trustees who work tirelessly to create a space that fosters lifelong learning and strengthens the social fabric of our community. It underscores the vital role that libraries play in transforming lives and empowering individuals to achieve their full potential. With renewed determination, we will continue to serve as a beacon of knowledge, a catalyst for creativity, and a pillar of support for all. We are extremely grateful for this incredible recognition and honored to bring the National Medal of Museum and Library Service home to the great state of New Jersey and the city of Long Branch," says Tonya Garcia, Library Director of the Long Branch Free Public Library.

The award will be presented at a ceremony this summer in Washington, DC. For a complete list of 2023 recipients and to learn more about the National Medal winners, visit the [IMLS website](#).

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 libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the Long Branch Free Public Library

The Long Branch Free Public Library has served as a community anchor for over 100 years. Located on the beautiful Jersey Shore, the library consists of both the Main Carnegie Library and Elberon Branch. LBFPL is where innovation and tradition meet, creating nationally recognized services and programs to help individuals achieve their full potential.

For more information, please visit www.longbranchlib.org or contact Tonya Garcia at tgarcia@longbranchlib.org or 732.222.3900 x2240

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