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**Institute of Museum and Library Services Announces Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens as Finalist for the 2013 National Medal for Museum and Library Service**

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**Pittsburgh, Pa.** — The Institute of Museum and Library Services today announced [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) of Pittsburgh, Pa., as a National Medal for Museum and Library Service finalist. The National Medal is the nation’s highest honor conferred on museums and libraries for service to the community and celebrates institutions that make a difference for individuals, families, and communities.

Medal finalists are selected from nationwide nominations of institutions that demonstrate innovative approaches to public service, exceeding the expected levels of community outreach. This year’s finalists exemplify the nation’s great diversity of libraries and museums and include an aquarium and marine science center, conservatory and botanical gardens, county library systems, individual libraries, children’s museums, an art museum, science centers, and more, hailing from across the country.

“Museums and libraries serve as community gathering places and centers for lifelong learning, and we are very proud to announce Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens as a finalist for the 2013 National Medal,” said Susan Hildreth, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. “This year’s finalists exemplify the many wonderful ways museums and libraries can respond to the needs and wants of the communities they serve.”

“Museums are in a unique position to create change, a role that we take to heart at Phipps with everything we do—from our operations and guest services to the sustainable ways we build and manage our gardens,” says Richard V. Piacentini, executive director of Phipps. “With our mission to promote the well-being of people and the planet, grassroots [Let’s Move Pittsburgh](#) initiatives for families, and green, healthy living education programs, we are deeply committed to bettering our community and the world. We are very honored to be recognized for these efforts by the IMLS.”

Finalists are chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. IMLS is encouraging community members who have visited Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens to share their story on the IMLS Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/USIMLS](http://www.facebook.com/USIMLS). Visit the IMLS Facebook page to learn more about how these institutions make an impact. National Medal for Museum and Library Service winners will be announced this spring. To *Share Your Story*, please visit [www.facebook.com/USIMLS](http://www.facebook.com/USIMLS) and learn more about the finalists at [www.ims.gov/medals](http://www.ims.gov/medals).

**About Phipps:** Built in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: [phipps.conservatory.org](http://phipps.conservatory.org).

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