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Contact: Sara Englert | Marketing Assistant
412/622-6915, ext. 3702 | senglert@phipps.conservatory.org

Institute of Museum and Library Services Announces Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens as Finalist for the 2015 National Medal for Museum and Library Service

Public Encouraged to Visit IMLS Facebook Page to Share Their Phipps Stories

Pittsburgh, Pa. — The [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS) has named [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) of Pittsburgh, Pa., as one of 30 National Medal for Museum and Library Service finalists. The National Medal is the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the community. For 21 years, the award has celebrated institutions that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service to make a difference for individuals, families and communities.

“Museums and libraries are the lifeblood of our communities, serving as trusted providers of critical resources, educational training, skills development, and civic and cultural enrichment,” says Maura Marx, acting director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. “We salute Phipps for exemplary leadership in promoting lifelong learning while engaging and inspiring the public.”

“Museums are in a unique position to create change, a role that we take to heart at Phipps in 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, [Let’s Move Pittsburgh](#) and [Homegrown](#) 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 IMLS.”

Finalists are chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. IMLS is encouraging community members who have visited Phipps to share their stories at www.facebook.com/USIMLS. National Medal for Museum and Library Service winners will be announced this spring, and representatives from winning institutions will travel to Washington, D.C. to be honored at the National Medal award ceremony. Winners also receive a visit from StoryCorps, a national nonprofit dedicated to recording, preserving and sharing the stories of Americans of diverse backgrounds. Learn more about the award and the finalists at www.imls.gov/medals.

About Phipps: Founded 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.

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