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THE CENTER
FOR THE BOOK

March 11, 2013

Hello Amy:

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress is pleased to approve the continuation of the affiliate status of the Ohio Center for the Book for another three years, through the year 2015. And congratulations on the steady and excellent progress in the past three years. I am especially impressed with the wide range of new partnerships which has led, quite naturally, to a greater statewide presence for the Ohio Center for the Book.

Obviously the administrative transfer of the Ohio Center to Cleveland Public's Literature Department has been an important reason for these positive changes, and thanks very much for your leadership in this effort. Having a specific location—and now a collection as well—makes a big difference. Thanks for the detailed descriptions of the Ohio Letters About Literature programs during the past three years. Everything you report reinforces the importance of LAL to our network of state centers, and I'm happy to be able to tell you that we seem to be getting back on track regarding continuing and future support. And Cathy Gourley has some new and excellent ideas about ways of involving our youngest participants (grades 4 and 5) that we'll be discussing at our May 6-7 idea exchange. So glad you can join us.

The Ohio Center's website and use of social media improve every year. One point: it would be appreciated if you would say, in the basic description on your home page, that the Ohio CFB is an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress—and give a link to our website. This would be useful to us—and I trust to you as well. Thanks.


The center's leadership in Octavofest, beginning in 2011, is terrific. Outside of Idaho—and, at least in the past, Utah—few state centers for the book have done much to promote bookmaking, papermaking, and the book and paper arts. When it happens, as you now know, it opens up a whole new world of partnerships and statewide activities. Good work!

Finally, I've attached a Library of Congress news release that describes how to apply for a prize in a new program that we are just getting off the ground: the Library of Congress Literacy Awards. In spite of the rapidly looming (April 15) application deadline, I'm hoping you will consider nominating a project or two from Ohio—for example, how about Octavofest?—and/or a project from another organization?

Applying is easy (a 750-word essay and one-two outside references) and, I think worth the effort because of a recent decision by the Library: in addition to the three prize winners, we plan to recognize perhaps two to three dozen literacy and reading promotion projects from around the country that we think deserve “special mention”—an acknowledgement of “best practices” and good ideas from outstanding projects that we want to share. But to be eligible for “best practices” recognition, the project must first be submitted for an award. I’d be happy to discuss.

One of the reasons I’m pushing a bit on this is because, on his own initiative, Mr. Rubenstein has generously donated funds for this project for the next five years—and there also is room for flexibility and growth. It would be very good to be in on the ground floor with, for example, a project selected for “best practices” recognition. Of course I cannot guarantee or promise anything, but I see potential opportunities for both our state centers and for many of our literacy-oriented non-profit partners. Please give me a call if you could like to discuss.

In the meantime, thanks for a great job, and see you in May! Best wishes, John

John Y. Cole


Director

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

NEWS

January 24, 2013

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Applications Being Accepted for New Library of Congress Literacy Awards

April 15 Is Deadline for Awards Totaling \$250,000

Applications are now being accepted for the new Library of Congress Literacy Awards, which are made possible through the generosity of David M. Rubenstein.

The application rules and a downloadable application form may be accessed at www.read.gov/literacyawards/. **Applications must be received no later than midnight on April 15, 2013.**

These awards will be conferred for the first time in October 2013 to recognize and support outstanding achievements in the field of literacy, both in the United States and abroad.

Three prizes will be awarded annually:

- **The David M. Rubenstein Prize (\$150,000)**, for a groundbreaking or sustained record of advancement of literacy by any individual or entity worldwide;
- **The American Prize (\$50,000)**, for a project developed and implemented successfully during the past decade for combating illiteracy and/or aliteracy;
- **The International Prize (\$50,000)**, for the work of an individual, nation or nongovernmental organization working in a specific country or region.

“The Library of Congress’s mission to ‘further the progress of knowledge and creativity for the benefit of the American people’ is inextricably linked to the nation’s literacy rates,” said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. “Thanks to the generosity of David Rubenstein, the Library is able to formally acknowledge those individuals and

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organizations making a difference in the United States and around the world in increasing literacy.”

David M. Rubenstein, co-founder of The Carlyle Group, is a major donor to the Library of Congress, including its annual National Book Festival.

“Literacy spurs innovation and creativity,” said Rubenstein. “Literacy is one of the basic tools for making progress in life and can open doors to many joys and wonders. I am pleased to support the work of groups that help people become literate and successfully convince those who can read to read more.”

The literacy awards program is administered by the Library’s Center for the Book. Final selection of prizewinners will be made by the Librarian of Congress, who will solicit recommendations from literacy experts on an advisory board.

Since its creation by Congress in 1977 to “stimulate public interest in books and reading,” the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress (www.read.gov/cfb/) has become a national force for reading and literacy promotion. A public-private partnership, it sponsors educational programs that reach readers of all ages, nationally and internationally. The center provides leadership for affiliated state centers for the book (including the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and nonprofit reading- promotion partners and plays a key role in the Library’s annual National Book Festival. It also oversees the Library’s Read.gov website and administers the Library’s Young Readers Center.

The Library of Congress, the nation’s oldest federal cultural institution and the largest library in the world, holds more than 151 million items in various languages, disciplines and formats. The Library seeks to spark imagination and creativity and to further human understanding and wisdom by providing access to knowledge through its magnificent collections, programs, publications and exhibitions. Many of the Library’s rich resources can be accessed through its website at www.loc.gov.

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