



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ULC Press Contact

Paul Guequierre

(202) 750-8657

pguequierre@urbanlibraries.org

Race and Social Equity, Immigration and Civic Engagement to be Top Issues at Forum of North America's Urban Library Leaders

Over 200 Library Leaders to Gather at the Urban Libraries Council's Annual Forum in the Twin Cities to Discuss How Libraries Can Lead by Example

SAINT PAUL, MINN. – With democracy and race and social equity at the top of the agenda, library leaders from across North America will convene this week at the Urban Libraries Council's 2017 Annual Forum to showcase their capacity for community innovation and transformation. The forum, entitled *Leading in a Democracy*, will run from Wednesday, Oct. 11 to Friday, Oct. 13 in the Twin Cities. Library executives will participate in panel discussions, presentations and working sessions with the aim of bolstering community engagement, achieving greater equity within their communities and better understanding the role their libraries have to play in the immigration process.

Much of the forum will focus on race and social equity in today's turbulent times. RaceForward and its Government Alliance on Race and Equity will present a special workshop aimed at teaching participants how to eliminate racial inequities in their libraries and communities.

"No institution has evolved in today's world more than the public library. Libraries are accepting spaces for people whose voices are too often overlooked," said ULC President and CEO Susan Benton. "They work to eliminate social and economic barriers by providing safe environments for people of all backgrounds to learn, exchange ideas and grow both personally and professionally."

To highlight the progress that ULC member libraries are making across the country, ULC will also announce the winners of its 2017 Innovations Initiative at the conference. The ULC Innovations Initiative is judged by a panel of experts who considered over 250 cutting-edge submissions. This year's submissions focused on critical topics ranging from race and to social equity to civic and community engagement.

WHAT: 2017 Urban Libraries Council Annual Forum

WHEN: Oct. 11 – 13, 2017

WHERE: InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront
11 E Kellogg Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55101

The event is open to the press. Please RSVP to pguequierre@urbanlibraries.org.

About Urban Libraries Council

Urban Libraries Council (ULC), founded in 1971, is the voice for public libraries and the force that inspires them to evolve. ULC creates the tools, techniques and ideas to make ongoing improvements and upgrades in services and technology. ULC also speaks loudly and clearly about the value public libraries bring to communities, and secures funding for research that results in the development of new programs and services. And by serving as a forum for library leadership, ULC produces innovative ideas and best practices that ensure community impact.

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