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Urban Libraries Council to Launch New Project Focused on STEM in Middle Schools with Grant from IMLS

WASHINGTON – The Urban Libraries Council today announced the formation of Partners for Middle School STEM, a new project funded by a Leadership Grant for nearly \$500,000 from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Partners for Middle School STEM is a two-year project focused on low-income middle school students in urban areas and designed to build community partnerships that result in increased science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning opportunities. ULC will lead the project and partner with the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute.

“Middle school is a critical time in a child’s education process and the perfect time to introduce STEM to underserved, low-income students,” said ULC President and CEO Susan Benton. “We want to bridge any gaps to ensure all students are building their STEM skills.”

The project will build on leading practices to create multi-sector partnerships among public library, school, business and local government leaders in six pilot communities. The pilot projects are developing programs that engage low-income middle school youth in STEM education programs and catalyze the adoption of new partnerships, approaches and STEM activities.

This project is funded by a National Leadership Grant by IMLS. National Leadership Grants for Libraries support projects that address challenges faced by the library and archive fields. These

projects have the potential to advance library practice with new tools, research findings, models, services or alliances that can be widely replicated.

“We are pleased to be awarded this grant from IMLS. We will work with our partners and community collaborators to serve low-income middle school youth, giving them the chances at success they deserve,” added Benton.

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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