



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2018

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The Public Library is an Essential Institution in Every Community. Leaders from Across North America Coming to Baltimore

Over 200 Library Leaders to Gather at the Urban Libraries Council's Annual Forum in Charm City to Discuss Community Leadership Strategies

BALTIMORE – Libraries are cornerstones of democracy, putting into action the belief that all people should have unmitigated access to resources to aid in their education, economic stability and civic participation. They serve as the beating heart of their communities and are always looking to better provide for the millions that depend on the library's commitment to supporting the goals of its users and the jurisdiction's priorities.

Library leaders from across North America will convene in Baltimore next week at the Urban Libraries Council's 2018 Annual Forum to share and discuss how public libraries can continuously enhance their role as valuable partners and leaders within the community. The forum, entitled *Leading Forward*, is from Wednesday, Sept. 5 to Friday, Sept. 7 in Baltimore and is co-hosted by Baltimore County Public Library and Enoch Pratt Free Library. Library executives will participate in presentations and working sessions led by the Center for Creative Leadership, an organization that is internationally recognized for its groundbreaking research on leadership in the 21st century.

"The public library is essential for addressing complex opportunities and challenges in our communities. It supports individual and city/county-wide education goals, serves as a hub for emerging entrepreneurs and assists the public in discerning information that is real and not

manipulated by algorithmic newsfeeds,” said ULC President and CEO Susan Benton. “Libraries are democratic community cornerstones, technological hubs and education centers. More importantly, libraries serve all, leveling the playing field and ensuring everyone has a chance for achieving their highest aspirations.”

To showcase the groundbreaking work that ULC member libraries are doing across North America, ULC will also announce the winners of its 2018 Top Innovator Awards at the conference. The ULC Innovations Initiative is judged by a panel of experts who considered over 250 cutting-edge submissions. Submissions focus on critical topics ranging from race and social equity to civic engagement to entrepreneurship and more.

WHAT: 2018 Urban Libraries Council Annual Forum

WHEN: Sept. 5-7, 2018

WHERE: Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, 202 E Pratt St., Baltimore, Md.

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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