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Cleveland Public Library wins Vibrant City Impact Award
Award to be presented at third annual Vibrant City Awards Lunch on May 24th

CLEVELAND – Cleveland Neighborhood Progress is pleased to announce that Cleveland Public Library (CPL) will be the recipient of the 2017 Vibrant City Impact Award. CPL will receive this award at the May 24th Vibrant City Awards Lunch. Winners for six other Vibrant City Awards and the Morton L. Mandel Leadership in Community Development Award will also be announced at the event, which takes place at Cleveland's Edgewater Park.

"The Vibrant City Impact Award was introduced to recognize community partners that provide dramatic impact on the lives of Clevelanders," notes Joel Ratner, President & CEO of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress. "Cleveland Public Library goes well beyond providing books and materials to its guests. It is a Cleveland neighborhood institution that is dedicated to improving the lives of residents."

Founded in 1869, Cleveland Public Library has played an integral part in the educational life of Cleveland's residents for nearly 150 years. With one of the largest and most extensive public library collections in the country, CPL is used by researchers and scholars from around the world. It operates a two-building Main Library downtown, 27 neighborhood branches, the Public Administration Library and a bookmobile. Additionally, two statewide services are administered by CPL: the Ohio Center for the Book and the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.

Today, CPL has four main focus areas as it works to become "The People's University," which is at the center of learning for a diverse and inclusive community. The Library continues its emphasis on job skills, digital learning, economic development and early literacy.

"We're very honored to receive the Vibrant City Impact Award from Cleveland Neighborhood Progress," states Felton Thomas, Executive Director and CEO of the Cleveland Public Library, which has also recently been awarded a 5-star rating in the 2016 Library Journal Index of Public Library Service.



“The only way a library can earn these awards is when it has tremendous support from its community, the dedication of a talented staff, and the strategic oversight provided by a committed Board of Trustees. Cleveland Public Library is so fortunate to have all three,” says Thomas.

Evelyn Burnett, Vice President of Economic Opportunity at Cleveland Neighborhood Progress highlights the partnership that exists between the two organizations, specifically around the Community Financial Centers (CFC), where financial coaching services are provided as part of the Library’s *CPL FIT* initiative. “CPL played an integral role in CFC’s launch and is equally instrumental in CFC’s evolution. The continued commitment and support of CPL leadership to enable employees to take advantage of service on work time, to integrate our service into a Wellness program, to ensure access of our service to all 27 branches, and to extend service to the public in alignment with its People University’s initiative has been fundamental in CFC’s success.”

The Cleveland Metroparks won the first-ever Vibrant City Impact Award in 2016.

At the annual Vibrant City Awards Lunch, Neighborhood Progress will also present awards for community collaboration efforts, placemaking, economic opportunity programming, neighborhood marketing, urban development and civic champions. Additionally, the organization will present the Morton L. Mandel Leadership in Community Development Award at the luncheon. Past recipients of this award include Daryl Rush (2015) and Joe Cimperman (2106).

All award finalists will be recognized at the event, when civic leaders, community development professionals, local developers, investors, realtors and passionate Clevelanders will gather to celebrate city neighborhoods at Edgewater Park. Local food trucks will provide the meal for this unique, outdoor awards lunch.

The event is open to the public. More information concerning event details, registration and the award finalists is available at www.ClevelandNP.org/VCAL.

About Cleveland Neighborhood Progress:

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress is a local community development funding intermediary with nearly thirty years of experience investing in community revitalization work in the city of Cleveland. It serves a unique function as the only local intermediary in the region and is proud to be nationally highlighted as a leader for engaging in best practices in various facets of nonprofit programming. The Board and staff strive to lead industry partners on new and existing initiatives to improve the quality of Cleveland’s neighborhoods and the quality of life for Cleveland’s residents. For more information on Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, please visit www.clevelandnp.org

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