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For Immediate Release

2008 Laura Bush 21st Century Grant Awarded to Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

CLP only public library in Pennsylvania to receive prestigious grant

(PITTSBURGH, PA – July 8, 2008) Thanks to a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), employees of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh will have the opportunity to develop skills that will enhance library services to the public. The IMLS has selected Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) as a recipient of a 2008 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant, making it the only public library in Pennsylvania to earn the prestigious honor this year.

The IMLS will award the Library \$391,400 to establish a three-year comprehensive professional development program geared toward professional librarians and management staff. The program will educate and train library staff in areas of executive leadership, strategic planning and nonprofit management, providing tools to better connect with the communities served by CLP.

“This incredible honor is a testament to the passion our library staff exemplifies every day and the dedication of our advocates who believe in the enrichment of our libraries and communities,” said Dr. Barbara Mistick, President and Director, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. “Libraries across the country are striving to combine administrative and public service skills to improve customer service. Through this grant we are able to continue our history of leadership in developing and training librarians who can provide excellent services to our community.

The Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program is a multifaceted grant program that supports tuition assistance, curriculum development, service expectations, job placement, recruitment of non-traditional library students and support for doctoral candidates to teach library science and research. In 2008 the program will fund 31 projects totaling \$20,258,689.

“We all recognize that the services we receive are first and foremost driven by people,” said Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. “Well-equipped and educated librarians and pre-professionals are at the heart of effective library services. The grants awarded through the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program sharpen the skills of today’s library staff and train the next generation of library professionals and faculty.”

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About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh *Building Communities, Enriching Lives*

Established as a public trust in 1895, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh serves the citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County with a distinguished history of leadership among the country’s great public libraries. Through its 19 neighborhood locations, including Main Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region’s most visited asset. Each year the Library provides more than 8,000 free programs, classes and other learning and training opportunities that are tailored to meet the dynamic and diverse needs of people living in Western Pennsylvania.

About The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.