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NOTE TO EDITOR: Please do not edit out credit line in the last paragraph.

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**Interlochen Public Library SELECTED FOR COMPETITIVE FEDERAL HUMANITIES GRANT
\$10,000 Grant Will Help the Library Recover from the Coronavirus Pandemic**

Interlochen — Interlochen Public Library has been selected as one of 200 libraries nationwide for the American Library Association’s American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries opportunity, an emergency relief program to assist libraries that have been adversely affected by the pandemic.

With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Interlochen Public Library will use funds to anchor itself in the community as a strong humanities institution. The competitive award comes with a \$10,000 grant that will help the library deliver excellent programs and services related to culture, history, literature, and other humanities subjects.

More than 370 libraries applied for the grant, according to ALA. [View the full list of selected libraries.](#)

The participating libraries, selected through a competitive, peer-reviewed application process, include public libraries, academic/college libraries, K-12 libraries, and tribal, special and prison libraries. The recipients represent 45 states and Puerto Rico. Libraries were chosen with an emphasis on reaching historically underserved and/or rural communities.

“We are so proud to be chosen for this amazing opportunity,” said Library Director Jennifer Thomet. “This grant will allow our library to better serve our patrons and plan strong, enriching humanities programming as we come out of the pandemic.”

IPL will use the grant funds for the “Tell Our Own Story” series. Everyone has a story to tell, especially during these difficult times. Our community has experienced a different way of living these past few years, and the time has come to share what we have lived. It is meaningful to capture these memories to help us remember how we felt, how we lived, and coped with this ongoing health crisis. IPL is here to help you learn how to tell your story.

Building on the success of our past book discussions and other programs, we would like to provide additional opportunities for our patrons to learn how to tell their own stories by offering storytelling and writing workshops and bookmaking programs. We will accomplish this by offering a series of workshops



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to teach and encourage everyone to create their storybook. We will provide all the supplies for making an individual book. These books will vary as much as the creators themselves. Our goal is to offer the 200 community members the chance to make their separate storybooks. We will then compile our stories into an abridged community story. To learn more about Interlochen Public Library's plans for the grant, please visit InterlochenPublicLibrary.org.

"Libraries have faced significant hardships throughout the pandemic — from budget cuts to staff furloughs to building closures — especially in our communities of the greatest need," said ALA President Patty Wong. "This crucial support from NEH will enable our beloved institutions, and the dedicated people who run them, to rebuild and emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever."

American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.