Resolution
of
Recognition and Appreciation
of the
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

For investing more than $1 billion over two decades through its Global Libraries initiative to enhance the power of libraries to improve lives;

For its initial 1997 commitment of $200 million from Bill and Melinda Gates to purchase computers for public library patrons and provide technical training and support for library staff in low-income communities;

For positioning the world's 320,000 public libraries as critical assets for learning, creativity, and community development;

For providing strategic investment and support for public libraries as a funder, thought partner, collaborator, innovator, and convener;

For supporting expansion of libraries worldwide beyond information access to community empowerment through a range of technology-enabled library programs, services, and content;

For investing in Staying Connected: Building Support in the Community for Your Technology Programs for U.S. and Canadian state and provincial library agencies;

For funding the Turning the Page program, which delivered advocacy training to more than 3,000 librarians at more than 1,700 public libraries;

For being a major supporter of the Spectrum Scholarship Program and expansion of the Spectrum Leadership Institute to address technology's impact on diverse communities;

For increasing the American Library Association's capacity to undertake research, policy advocacy, and assessment through the Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study, the Policy Revolution! initiative, and PLA's Project Outcome;

For providing education and resources to improve libraries' abilities to assess, advocate for, and improve broadband capacity through programs like E-rate and the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

For convening a national coalition of library and local government organizations to develop national benchmarks and resources to assess and improve public library technology access and services through the Edge initiative;

For supporting the Libraries Transforming Communities: Turning Outward project that strengthened libraries' role as community leaders and change agents;

For entrusting the Public Library Association (PLA), the Technology and Social Change Group at the University of Washington's Information School and the International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions to carry on Global Libraries' work as Legacy Partners;

And, through the legacy grant, for enabling PLA to create and scale new models of public library research, training, and practice; strengthen collaboration across organizations that support public libraries; support global connections between public libraries and library organizations; and sustain the success of Global Libraries programs;

For their belief that "if you can get to a library, you can get to the internet," which has had a revolutionary impact on libraries and the communities they serve; and,

For more than 20 years of extraordinary vision and passion from its founders and dedicated staff, who have been partners and catalysts for focusing global attention on the essential roles of libraries in providing equitable access to information and learning in the digital age;

The American Library Association, along with the Public Library Association, extends its deepest appreciation and recognition to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for its extraordinary generosity, tremendous achievements, and dedication to helping all the people of our world lead healthy, productive lives.

Loida Garcia-Febo
Loida Garcia-Febo
on behalf of the American Library Association Executive Board

Monique LeConge Ziesenhenne
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on behalf of the Public Library Association Board of Directors