The Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) continues its campaign to raise public awareness of library services and to inform policymakers of the fundamental role we play in programming across generations. Since 2004, Pennsylvania libraries have been recognized for their exceptional services to youth (birth to 18) with the Best Practices Awards. The Best Practices Committee will recognize libraries with a Best Practices Award for exemplary programs or displays that took place in 2023. Awards will be presented at the Carolyne L. Smith Best Practices event in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference.

Programs considered "best practices" should demonstrate literacy and learning through PA Early Learning Standards for early childhood categories, and/or demonstrate nurturing the 40 Developmental Assets for Young Adults, and/or PA Forward® Literacies, effectively reach intended goals, serve youth, be favorably received, and budget friendly. Programs should also be innovative, as defined by introducing something new or different.

Additionally, one library will receive the David J. Roberts EXCEL Library Service Award. The award will recognize the year's most creative and/or most influential program for early learning in libraries. It is selected from the entire group of best practices winners. EXCEL stands for EXcellence in Childhood Early Learning and, as such, the David J. Roberts EXCEL Library Service Award will represent the "Best of the Best" practices for library early learning. The honor includes a monetary gift of $1,000.

You are permitted to submit more than one application from each library system or branch. Please be advised you may not enter the same application in more than one category.

Applicants may be contacted for clarification or additional information. All applicants will be notified whether or not their entry is selected for the award.

This award is made possible by continued membership in the Pennsylvania Library Association. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining the organization so that we can continue to honor the best of the best in youth programs.

Thank you for your participation!

Deadline to submit the application has been extended to Friday, May 3rd at 4:00 PM. Winners will be notified by the end of June.

Sincerely,
Nina White, Chair, Best Practices Committee
Angela Buckley, Chair, Youth Services Division

Committee Members: Rachel Fecho, Vice-Chair, Katie Donahoe, Marissa Guidara, Leah Johncola, Kelli Knapp, and Jennifer Woolstrum
Best Practices Award Application 2024

Library Name:

Library Address:

County:

Telephone Phone Number:

Email:

Name of person responsible for planning/implementing the program:

Name of person completing the form:

Program Information:

Title of Program or Display/Design:

Category you are applying for:

- [ ] Powerful Partnerships & Outreach (new category, all ages)
- [ ] Sensational Shoestring Budget (Under $100) (new category, all ages)
- [ ] Emerging Trends in Services: Social Emotional Learning (SEL) (new category, all ages)
- [ ] Excellence in Equity, Diversity, Belonging, and Inclusion (new category, all ages)
- [ ] Infant/Toddler (birth-2)
- [ ] Preschool (age 3-5)
- [ ] School Age (K-5th grade)
- [ ] Middle School & High School (6th-12th grade)
- [ ] Teen Co-Design (new category, providing leadership opportunity for teens to design and create programs)
- [ ] Design & Display (all ages, Display: created for youth in the library. Design: innovative area of the library designed for youth.)
- [ ] Family & Intergenerational (all ages)
- [ ] Humanities in Action (age 12-18)
Best Practices Award Application 2024

In 750 words or less, please provide the following.

1. A general overview of your program or display/design
   a. Be sure to include the following where applicable:
      i. The goals of the program and how you measured effectiveness
      ii. How the program was marketed
      iii. Estimated cost and how it was funded
      iv. Examples of how it was favorably received

2. Briefly describe how it supports at least one of the PA Forward® literacies and/or PA Early Learning Standards, and/or 40 Developmental Assets for Young Adults.

3. Is the program or display/design replicable in other communities, similar to yours, and why?

Supplemental: You may also include the following where applicable [Please be advised this is not a requirement]:

- How the program can be adapted to virtual or in-person medium

Are you submitting supporting documents? For instance, comments, letters, survey responses, photos, video, plan, flyers, etc.

If YES, please follow these instructions for submitting your files:

In the subject line include your category and title of program or design/display. For example: School Age-After School Book Club.

Please send all attachments along with this application in one email to palabestpractices@gmail.com.