

M E M O

Date: April 25, 2012

To: Chair Stephen Albers and Members of the Board

From: Neel Parikh, Executive Director

Subject: Urban Libraries Council 2011 Innovations Awards

Once again the Urban Libraries Council invited member libraries to nominate 2011 new programs and practices developed within our organization in order to showcase our capacity for leadership, innovation, and transformation in the communities we serve. As they stated in the 2011 Award booklet, "In the face of tough community challenges and growing needs, public libraries continue to respond with innovative strategies for developing vital services every day." Last year we won an award in the category of "Literacy" for the project "Our Children Are Ready for Reading".

The goal of the initiative is showcase leading practices "best and next – to demonstrate the value and impact of public service in the 21st century. These practices embody ideas, approaches and insights which other libraries can adapt". Initiatives are submitted based on separate categories. This year the categories are:

- Civic and Community Engagement
- Collections
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Education, Literacy and Lifelong Learning
- Health, Wellness and Safety
- Operations
- Organizational Change and Strategic Management
- Positioning the Library
- Sustainability
- User Experience

We submitted the attached six innovations.