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## **FIVE NYC LIBRARIES TO RECEIVE \$20,000 EACH FOR SERVICE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES**

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NYC Neighborhood Library Awards Request Nominations from New Yorkers*

**New York, NY – November 7, 2014** – The Stavros Niarchos Foundation and the Charles H. Revson Foundation announced today that the second annual NYC Neighborhood Library Awards are accepting nominations from the public. The awards honor individual branches in New York City’s three library systems: the Brooklyn Public Library; Queens Library; and the New York Public Library, which operates branches in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island.

Following nominations from library users, five winning libraries will be announced at an Awards ceremony in May 2015 and will be awarded \$20,000 each—the largest cash prize awarded directly to branch libraries in the country.

This year’s Awards officially launched this morning on *The Brian Lehrer Show* on WNYC, the media partner of the NYC Neighborhood Library Awards. Nominations can be submitted at [www.nyclibraryawards.org](http://www.nyclibraryawards.org), through each library system’s website, or in person at any neighborhood library and will be accepted through December 12<sup>th</sup>. The winning branches will be selected by a panel of judges including acclaimed authors **Jonathan Safran Foer** and **Jacqueline Woodson**, and Dutton Children’s Books publisher **Julie Strauss-Gabel**.

The 2013 competition generated more than 4,300 nominations, a remarkable response that underscores the passion city residents feel for their libraries. In the words of New Yorkers:

- Oswald, a student: “The library is the only place I can go after school that is safe.”
- Yunona, an immigrant in Brooklyn: “I started to learn English and basic computer skills here.”
- Shonda, a resident in the Bronx: “Without this place I would have had nowhere to write my resume and would likely still be living on the street.”

Last year’s Award winners were Corona Library (Queens), Macon Library (Brooklyn), New Dorp Library (Staten Island), Seward Park Library (Manhattan), and Sheepshead Bay Library (Brooklyn). Last year’s winners are not eligible for this year’s Awards.

“Every day New Yorkers enter their neighborhood libraries to seek the riches of the information age, available to everyone and all for free.” said Julie Sandorf, President of the Charles H. Revson Foundation. “These Awards celebrate the love New Yorkers have for their libraries.”

“Neighborhood libraries in New York City are the center of many of our communities,” said Andreas Dracopoulos, Co-President of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. “They welcome all New Yorkers and provide vital opportunities to learn, educate, reflect – and better ourselves.”

### **About the Stavros Niarchos Foundation**

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation ([www.SNF.org](http://www.SNF.org)) is one of the world’s leading private international philanthropic organizations, making grants in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and sports, and social welfare. The Foundation funds organizations and projects that are expected to achieve a broad, lasting and positive impact for society at large, and exhibit strong leadership and sound management. The Foundation also seeks actively to support projects that facilitate the formation of public-private partnerships as an effective means for serving public welfare.

From 1996 until today, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation has approved grant commitments of \$1.49 billion / €1.13 billion, through 2,805 grants to nonprofit organizations in 110 nations around the world. In 2012 and 2013, the Foundation announced two new initiatives of €100,000,000 (\$130 million) each, to help the efforts to address the crisis in Greece. While the initiative in 2012, which has been completed, aimed to provide immediate relief against the adverse effects of the deepening crisis, the one in 2013 aims to address the high percentage of youth unemployment, seeking to create better employment prospects and new opportunities for the young.

The Foundation’s largest single gift (\$796 million / €566 million) is the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC), in Athens, which is expected to be completed in 2016. The project includes the new facilities of the National Library of Greece, and of the Greek National Opera, as well as the Stavros Niarchos Park. The SNFCC is a testament and a commitment to the country’s future. It is also an engine of short- to mid-term economic stimulus.

The Board of Directors of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation consists of: Andreas Dracopoulos – Co-President, Spyros Niarchos – Co-President, Philip Niarchos – Co-President, George Agouridis and Heini Murer.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation was elected and will be a Board Member of the European Foundation Centre ([www.efc.be](http://www.efc.be)) for 2014-2017.

### **About the Charles H. Revson Foundation**

The Charles H. Revson Foundation ([www.revsonfoundation.org](http://www.revsonfoundation.org)), established in 1956, operates grant programs in Urban Affairs, Jewish Life, Biomedical Research, and Education. The Urban Affairs program focuses on projects that enhance New York City’s vitality as a leading and livable urban capital; it continually seeks opportunities to strengthen the city’s pluralistic communities and civic

spaces, re-envisioning public libraries, affordable housing, and local public affairs journalism to cultivate knowledgeable, creative urban residents. The Jewish Life program operates in the United States, focusing on projects that reinterpret Jewish tradition for an ever-more-diverse community; and in Israel, where the Foundation partners with Israeli organizations to build a stronger, more inclusive society for young people. The Biomedical Research program is devoted to strengthening basic research in the biomedical sciences by awarding fellowships to exceptionally talented scientists. The Education program supports institutions and projects that seek to provide broad access to the knowledge and resources that sustain an informed and engaged citizenry.