



**From:** Susan Benton <[sbenton@urbanlibraries.org](mailto:sbenton@urbanlibraries.org)>

**Date:** September 7, 2016 at 7:09:22 PM GMT+2

**To:** [ulc\\_directors@lists.urbanlibraries.org](mailto:ulc_directors@lists.urbanlibraries.org)

**Subject:** [ULC-Directors] Attention: Recognition of the Gates Foundation from ULC Libraries

**Reply-To:** [sbenton@urbanlibraries.org](mailto:sbenton@urbanlibraries.org)

Dear Library CEOs and Deputies,

After twenty years and an estimated \$1 billion investment, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is ending its work with public libraries.

We can't let them leave the field, without a *BIG* thank you from the urban libraries and ULC.

At the recent ULC Board meeting, the Board members decided to present the Foundation its ULC Executive Board Leadership Award on behalf of all ULC libraries.

In addition, the Board suggested that every ULC member library ask that their jurisdiction's top elected official and legislative body to pass a resolution recognizing the Foundation's contributions.

This is a great idea and here are the reasons why:

- 1) What better way to nationally recognize the impact of the BMGF's contributions than to have the members of the Urban Libraries Council thank them with an award AND resolutions from the nation's leading mayors, county executives and their council or commissions.
- 2) Most city and county leaders do not know that Bill and Melinda Gates made our libraries their number one grantee – even before the Foundation was created. There is great cache in being singled out as an essential public asset by the Foundation and elected officials will be proud and impressed.
- 3) It's always a good to have a positive reason to talk with your elected leaders!

We have created a draft resolution for you to use *or* to tailor and make your own before you present it to your local governing body.

The draft highlights those areas for which we want to most recognize the Foundation. These are the same areas that showcase your value in the community. So the resolution also serves as a reminder of the essential work you do.

If you are a library district or a county system that serves many smaller jurisdictions, you may wonder which governing body to approach for the resolution. We suggest that you go to the governing body that you have the closest relationship to and that you believe will benefit from knowing about the Gates Foundation.

We hope to have each ULC member's City or County Resolution by September 30, 2016. Please send the official document with your jurisdiction's seal to ULC's Pam Segal. And before putting it in the mail, let us know it is on the way with an email and the scanned document.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Susan at 202.750.8650.

All best –

***Michael***

***Susan***

Michael Sherrod  
Chair, ULC Executive Board

Susan Benton  
President/CEO

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TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES.