Libraries partner to bring author and TV host Rick Steves to Columbus on Dec. 2

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) has partnered with other Franklin County libraries (Bexley Public Library, Grandview Heights Public Library, Plain City Public Library, Southwest Public Libraries, Upper Arlington Public Library, Westerville Public Library and Worthington Libraries) to present An Evening with Rick Steves at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 2 at the Southern Theatre in downtown Columbus.

Rick Steves, author of Europe Through the Back Door and host of “Rick Steves’ Europe” on public television, will discuss “Travel as a Political Act” (also the title of his 2009 book) and reflect on how a life of travel has broadened his own perspectives, as well as how travel can be a significant force for peace and understanding in the world.

Tickets for this inaugural joint library program, which range from $20-$75, go on sale via Ticketmaster on Tuesday, Oct. 15. The event will include a presentation, brief Q&A and the opportunity to purchase books for the author to sign.

Steves is outspoken on the need for Americans to broaden their perspectives through travel. He took his first trip to Europe in 1969, visiting piano factories with his father, a piano importer. By the time he reached 18, Steves jokes, “I realized I didn't need my parents to travel!” He began traveling on his own, funding his trips by teaching piano lessons. In 1976, he started Rick Steves’ Europe, a business that has grown from a one-man operation to a company with a well-traveled staff of over 100 full-time employees.

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Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio since 1873. With its Main Library and 22 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help Centers, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Challenge and Ready for Kindergarten. The library’s Strategic Plan supports the vision of “a thriving community where wisdom prevails,” which positions CML to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college and career readiness and employment resources.

CML was named a 2011 National Medal Winner by the Institute for Museum and Library Services for work in community service, the highest honor for libraries and museums. CML was also named 2010 Library of the Year by Library Journal.

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