Library Foundation announces recipients of Julian Sinclair Smith and Foundation awards
Robert Weiler, Sr. to receive Julian Sinclair Smith Award; Corde Robinson to receive Foundation Award

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) has announced Robert J. Weiler, Sr. as the 2017 recipient of the Julian Sinclair Smith Award. Each year, the Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation (CMLF) presents the award to honor inspiring individuals living or working in and around Franklin County with a passion for lifelong learning. The award will be presented at CMLF’s 25th annual Celebration of Learning fundraiser gala on Friday, Nov. 3 at Main Library.

Weiler has a long history of passionately supporting lifelong learning through his work with community organizations in central Ohio, including COSI, the United Way, the YMCA of Central Ohio and more.

Julian Sinclair Smith was founder of the Sinclair Broadcast Group, owner of WSYX/ABC 6 and operator of WTTE/Fox 28 and CW Columbus. His rise to prominence in the industry can be attributed to his quest for knowledge, beginning with the completion of a radio correspondence course while still in high school. When he died in 1993, the Smith family chose to honor his passion toward reading, education and lifelong learning, with an award named in his honor presented through the CMLF.

Additionally, Corde Robinson will be honored with the Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation Award, which recognizes an individual volunteer or volunteers who have had a sustained impact and demonstrated a commitment, passion and dedication to the library and/or its Foundation.

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Robinson served on the CMLF Board, co-chaired its *Great Libraries Create* campaign committee in support of transformed libraries and has served on nearly every *Celebration of Learning* host committee in the event’s 25-year run.

Visit the CMLF’s [Celebration of Learning webpage](http://celebration.of.columbuslibrary.org) to learn more about both awards and recipients.

*Celebration of Learning*, the CMLF’s annual fundraiser, will be held in the Grand Atrium, stacks and Reading Room of Main Library. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks will provide the keynote address.

Each year, the event features a renowned author and the presentation of The Julian Sinclair Smith Award for Lifelong Learning. The CMLF helps fund the library’s capital needs as well as Homework Help Centers, Ready for Kindergarten initiatives, employment resources and Summer Reading Club, supporting the needs of kids, teens and adults.

The honorary chairs of this year’s Celebration of Learning are Kris and Dave Blom. Visit [foundation.columbuslibrary.org](http://foundation.columbuslibrary.org) for more information.

**NOTE:** Digital photos available upon request.

_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, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Club 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 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. Columbus Metropolitan Library has been rated a 5-Star Library by Library Journal for seven of the eight years the magazine has published its industry ratings._