

Dear Durham County Library,

I am delighted to inform you that the foundation established by Andrew Carnegie, [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#), is awarding a \$10,000 gift to your library and to all Carnegie Libraries nationwide in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of 1,681 free public libraries in the United States between 1886 and 1917, driven by his belief that they were “cradles of democracy.” As part of our [Carnegie Libraries 250](#) special initiative, we contacted each library and established that about 1,280, including yours, still operate as libraries and acknowledge their association with Carnegie, making them eligible for the celebratory gift.

Your library can expect to receive a check in January 2026. You may use the funds however you wish to celebrate the anniversary, further your mission, and benefit your community. If your library system includes multiple Carnegie Libraries or branches, each one will receive \$10,000. Instructions for receiving your gift are provided below.

On behalf of the foundation, thank you for the many ways you serve your communities. My hope is that this gift serves as a recognition of your commitment, our founder’s legacy, and the importance of this milestone in our nation’s history.

Best regards,

[Dame Louise Richardson](#)

President, Carnegie Corporation of New York

PS this is a repeat of an email originally sent on 10/22

Instructions for Receiving Your Gift

To process your gift, we will require a W-9 form for your organization. You can download a blank form [here](#). You may submit the completed W-9:

- [Online to our secure upload site](#)
- By mail to:
James Marsden, President's Office
Carnegie Corporation of New York
437 Madison Avenue Floor 31
New York, NY 10022

Please send us your W-9 by **November 14, 2025**, to receive your gift. If we have any questions about your organization's eligibility or charitable status, we will contact you at this email address or by phone.

Our Communications team has prepared a media toolkit to help you announce your gift and showcase how your library puts it to use. Access it [here](#). You will also receive, or may have already received, an email from our Communications team with additional guidance on sharing the news.

Read the [news release](#).

Learn more in [The New York Times](#).

Interested in Carnegie's library news? Subscribe to [Unstacked](#), our newsletter for library lovers.



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