

Copper Queen Library one of 30 finalists for national recognition

By Shar Porier
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Copper Queen Library's Jason Macoviak has been manager for several years in the historic library. The library has been named a finalist for the 2024 IMLS National Museum and Library Services award.

Mark Levy
Herald/Review

BISBEE — Once again, the Copper Queen Library is in the running for a national title — the 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

And, again, the library patrons are asked to “share their stories, memories, pictures and videos on social media using the hashtags #ShareYourStory and #IMLSmedals,” according to IMLS.

The library is among 30 finalists and is one of two places in the state to be selected as a finalist for the award, said Jason Macoviak, library manager. The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is also being honored.

“The National Medal is the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate significant impact in their communities,” Macoviak said in a press release. “For 30 years, the award has honored institutions that demonstrate excellence in service to their communities.”

This is the second time the library has been a finalist and Macoviak is “honored” to be in the running again.

Macoviak said, “It is also a testament to all small and rural libraries across the country who work to offer exceptional programs and services for their communities, often with small staffs and limited resources. Our library continues to prosper and grow because of our partners and patrons who inspire us every day to be the best we can be.”

Alison Williams, library services coordinator, noted, “We are excited to have our small and rural institution placed alongside so many other amazing libraries. Our place as a finalist helps highlight the important role that small and rural libraries play in their communities across the United States. We are grateful for this honor. Our partners, collaborators, and patrons play a huge role in our success, and we share this honor with everyone in the CQL community.”

IMLS Acting Director Cyndee Landrum said, “The 30 National Medal finalists from across the United States showcase the tremendous abilities of libraries and museums to serve as trusted, dynamic public spaces that meet the needs of their communities.

“IMLS is honored to recognize these outstanding institutions. We congratulate them on their collective effort to respond to community needs, preserve diverse history and culture, and create a sense of belonging for all Americans.”

They will not know if they made the cut until late May. If they do, Macoviak will attend the in-person award ceremony in Washington, D.C., this summer.

IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums.

“We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries and related organizations through grantmaking, research and policy development,” according to the website. “IMLS envisions a nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage.”

“The 7th Congressional District of Arizona is home to world class museums and library services,” said Rep. Grijalva. “The Copper Queen Library and Arizona–Sonora Desert Museum are vital spaces for community members and young people to gather, grow, share, and succeed. I’m proud to represent and support these

beloved institutions that are critical repositories of knowledge and cornerstones of learning in Southern Arizona.”

To learn more, visit www.ims.gov.



Exterior of the Copper Queen Library in Old Bisbee