

**WASHINGTON, DC - Ford W. Bell, DVM, President of the American Association of Museums, made the following statement today following Susan H. Hildreth's Senate confirmation to serve as Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services:**

"On behalf of the American Association of Museums, the nation's largest museum association representing the entire museum field, I congratulate Susan H. Hildreth, who currently serves as the City Librarian of The Seattle Public Library, on her confirmation as the next Director of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

"Hildreth's extensive work in the library field is impressive, as is her collaborative work with the museum field in her various posts. She clearly understands that museums and libraries serve as community anchors.

"Earlier this year, Hildreth participated in an IMLS program - Museums & Libraries as the 'Third Place' - which focused on the importance of libraries and museums as community centers that bring together people from divergent groups to create positive solutions.

"In the current political and budgetary climate, it is more important than ever to make the case that museums are an essential part of the educational and economic infrastructure of our communities. Museums create jobs, promote tourism, and offer lifelong learning to all segments of society. I look forward to working with Susan Hildreth in support of our nation's vibrant - and vital - museum community."

###

Hildreth was nominated by President Obama on September 29, 2010. Prior to her role as the City Librarian of The Seattle Public Library, she served as California's State Librarian, Deputy Director and City Librarian at the San Francisco Public Library, Deputy Library Director at the Sacramento Public Library, Head Librarian in Placer County (CA), Library Director for the Benicia Public Library (CA), and Branch Librarian at the Edison Township Library in New Jersey.