



# THE LIBRARY

Serving Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties, and Woodland and Yale Valley in Cowlitz County

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District [www.fvrl.org](http://www.fvrl.org)

## NEWS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Vancouver Community Library Honored By Urban Libraries Council

*Forum @ the Library recognized as innovative program demonstrating the value and impact of public libraries in the community*

VANCOUVER, Wash. – The Urban Libraries Council (ULC) recently announced Vancouver Community Library as one of this year’s Top Innovators during the 2016 ULC Annual Forum Awards Ceremony on October 6 in Kansas City. A panel of expert judges selected Vancouver Community Library’s “Forum @ the Library” from nearly 300 submissions in 10 categories that demonstrate the value and impact of public library service, awarding Vancouver Community Library with Honorable Mention in the category of Civic and Community Engagement.

Forum @ the Library hosts quarterly community conversations on topics of local importance such as affordable housing and political polarization to give residents a voice in exploring important issues affecting their community. The Vancouver Community Library, a branch of Fort Vancouver Regional Library District, uses a citizen planning committee, a partnership with Washington State University, and trained facilitators to provide a neutral platform for people to come together and share differing viewpoints on local issues to spark insight, engagement, and discovery.

“Today’s public libraries are thought leaders, educational institutions and technology centers that play a critical role in building and strengthening the fabric of their communities,” said Urban Libraries Council President and CEO Susan Benton. “I commend Vancouver Community Library for illustrating a sustained commitment to creativity and innovation that truly transforms their community.”

Forum @ the Library is one of many interactive programs within Vancouver Community Library and Fort Vancouver Regional Library District serving FVRL’s mission to provide ‘gateways for ideas, information and community interaction.’

“Forum @ the Library has been instrumental in offering new opportunities to hear diverse voices in our community. It is one of our hallmark programs in establishing our libraries as a hub of community dialogue and interaction through our district,” said Amelia Shelley, FVRL’s Executive Director.

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**1007 E Mill Plain Blvd. • Vancouver, Washington 98663 • 360-906-5000 • From Area Code 509: 1-888-546-2707**

Library locations: Battle Ground, Cascade Park, Goldendale, La Center, North Bonneville, Ridgefield, Stevenson, The Mall Library Connection, Three Creeks, Vancouver, Washougal, White Salmon Valley, Woodland, Yacolt



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The next Forum @ the Library will be held on November 16 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at Vancouver Community Library's Columbia Room, 901 C Street. In the wake of an election season filled with differences and divisions, the upcoming Forum will provide a timely discussion on how community can find positive outcomes and engage in civil political discourse. Using a model known as "Appreciative Inquiry," the conversation will focus on what is right within our community, and how we might build on our strengths and engage with each other to create an even stronger, healthier community. More information about Forum @ the Library can be found at FVRL's website, <http://www.fvrl.org/forum-library>.

The list of 2016 ULC Innovations can be viewed at [UrbanLibraries.org](http://UrbanLibraries.org).

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### **About Fort Vancouver Regional Library District**

Established in 1950, Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (FVRL) provides a vast range of information and cultural services to more than 464,000 Southwest and South Central Washington citizens in Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties, and the city of Woodland and Yale Valley Library District in Cowlitz County. FVRL provides a collection of more than 750,000 items, online library services at [www.fvrl.org](http://www.fvrl.org), two bookmobiles, telephone information services, 24/7 online help, outreach programs, and 15 public library locations: Community Libraries in Battle Ground, Cascade Park, Goldendale, La Center, North Bonneville, Ridgefield, Stevenson, Three Creeks, Vancouver, Washougal, White Salmon Valley and Woodland; The Mall Library Connection at Vancouver Mall; and Library Express facilities at Yacolt and Yale.

### **About Urban Libraries Council**

Urban Libraries Council (ULC), founded in 1971, is the voice for public libraries and the force that inspires them to evolve. ULC creates the tools, techniques, and ideas to make ongoing improvements and upgrades in services and technology. ULC also speaks loudly and clearly about the value public libraries bring to communities, and secures funding for research that results in the development of new programs and services. And by serving as a forum for library leadership, ULC produces innovative ideas and best practices that ensure community impact.

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