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Little Free Library Honoring Native Americans Unveiled at Smithsonian

Hudson, WI (November 22, 2019) – The Smithsonian has installed a birchbark Little Free Library book-sharing box at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C., donated by the Little Free Library (LFL) nonprofit organization. The “take a book, share a book” library seeks to honor Native American culture and increase access to culturally relevant books.

“By fostering a love of reading and increasing availability of free and accurate books about Native Americans, the Little Free Library fits in with the NMAI’s vision of equity and social justice for the Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere through education, inspiration and empowerment,” says NMAI representative Renée Gokey.

The NMAI library was gifted through LFL’s Native Library Initiative, which places libraries in tribal communities across the nation to meaningfully improve book access. To date LFL has provided more than 60 libraries to tribal communities, working with Native community leaders and partners including the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums. The Native Library Initiative is part of LFL’s Impact Library Program.

"Our goal at Little Free Library is to see that all communities, no matter where they are, have access to books that excite and engage readers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds," says Greig Metzger, executive director of Little Free Library. "We are honored to do our part to see that happen."

The NMAI’s striking Little Free Library book-sharing box was created by Pat Kruse, an Ojibwe birchbark and quillwork artist. Kruse is a member at Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, and a descendent of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Onamia, Minnesota.

To learn more about LFL’s Native Library Initiative visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org/atalm](https://www.littlefreelibrary.org/atalm).

About Little Free Library®

[Little Free Library](https://www.littlefreelibrary.org) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and improves book access by fostering neighborhood book-exchange boxes around the world. Little Free Library has received recognition from the Library of Congress, the

National Book Foundation, and others for its dedication to expanding book access for all. There are more than 90,000 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes worldwide, in all 50 states and in 91 countries. Since the first little library was created in 2009, more than 120 million books have been shared. To learn more, support LFL's programs, or become a volunteer steward, visit LittleFreeLibrary.org.

About the National Museum of the American Indian

A diverse and multifaceted cultural and educational enterprise, the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is an active and visible component of the **Smithsonian Institution**, the world's largest museum complex. The NMAI cares for one of the world's most expansive collections of Native artifacts, including objects, photographs, archives, and media covering the entire Western Hemisphere, from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego. To learn more about NMAI and their Native Knowledge 360 program, visit americanindian.si.edu.