



NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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**LIBRARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT CIVIL RIGHTS TRAINING PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES GRANT
FOR EXPANSION**

Award-Winning Program Can Be Formalized, Replicated for More Communities and Organizations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Nashville Public Library’s (NPL) unique civil rights training partnership with law enforcement agencies, including the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department (MNP), can now be expanded, formalized and replicated, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Nissan Foundation.

The grant, awarded to the Nashville Public Library Foundation (NPLF), supports the expansion of NPL’s “Civil Rights and a Civil Society: Civil Rights Training for Nashville Enforcement Agencies and Beyond.” The training program originated as a partnership between NPL and MNP in 2015 for new officer trainees and has since expanded to include Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) agents, garnering interest from other agencies and communities across the U.S.

“Civil Rights and a Civil Society” uses the NPL Civil Rights Room’s archival images, oral histories and film footage from Nashville’s civil rights history as a gateway to productive conversations about today’s prevailing issues affecting law enforcement and an increasingly diverse population. Through this historical framework, participants discuss today’s complex community dynamics in an environment that encourages open conversation and greater understanding.

“The Nissan Foundation is proud to support NPLF and NPL’s mission to enrich lives and open doors to new ways of understanding our neighbors and the world we live in,” said Scott Becker, president of the Nissan Foundation.

The grant allows NPL to formalize and replicate this training, expanding its reach beyond local and state law enforcement to community groups, other cities and different populations. NPL director Kent Oliver said, “Nashville Public Library, through its Special Collections and Civil Rights Room, has become a public living room for our city. Our staff are experts at providing the context of history to facilitate discussions about complex community issues that affect us all today. I am proud of the work we do, and we are all excited about the opportunity this grant provides to expand and continue this work.”

“We thank Nissan for their support in Nashville Public Library’s programming to cultivate a more inclusive and tolerant Nashville,” said Tari Hughes, NPLF president. “We are honored to be selected as one of the

leading culturally diverse and relevant programs in a community that serves as a home to Nissan’s U.S. operations.”

The next “Civil Rights and a Civil Society” training session will be for the MNPD Citizen Police Academy on Monday, July 18, at NPL’s Main Library, 615 Church St.

Previous coverage of NPL’s Civil Rights Room and training partnerships can be found at:

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?411325-1/nashvilles-civil-rights-movement>

<http://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2015/11/18/nashville-program-teaches-law-enforcement-about-civil-rights>

About Nashville Public Library

Nashville Public Library maintains a collection of 2 million items, including books, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and downloadable books, movies and music. The library also offers more than 800 public-use computers, free art exhibits, educational programs, events for all ages, 24/7 reference assistance, online databases, interlibrary loan and special collections. Metro Archives, located at the Main Library, houses 5 million historic documents. Equal access is provided by the Talking Library audio reading service for the print disabled and Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. For more information, call (615) 862-5800 or visit library.nashville.org.

About the Nashville Public Library Foundation

The Nashville Public Library Foundation is a committed community of leaders, learners and innovative achievers dedicated to supporting and empowering one of our city’s greatest resources—Nashville Public Library. Founded in 1997 as a 501c3 organization, NPLF has raised more than \$41 million to advance the impact and reach of NPL programs and initiatives. For more information on NPLF or to make a gift, visit www.nplf.org.

About the Nissan Foundation

The Nissan Foundation was established in 1992 with a \$5 million endowment to meet the needs of communities in southern California after civil unrest took root in the neighborhoods around Los Angeles – home at the time to Nissan’s North American headquarters. The Nissan Foundation is part of Nissan North America’s commitment to “enrich people’s lives” by helping to meet the needs of communities throughout the U.S. through philanthropic investments, corporate outreach sponsorships, in-kind donations and other charitable contributions. For more information, visit <http://www.nissanusa.com/about/corporate-info>.