

RED HOOK PUBLIC LIBRARY IS 2015 SHUBERT LIBRARY EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

The New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries is pleased to announce that the 2015 Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award has been awarded to the *Red Hook Public Library* for their recognition of its innovative programs and increase in attendance and circulation.

The past five years have been a time of tremendous growth and change for the Red Hook Public Library. If the library were to thrive, it would require rethinking about what it was doing and how it was doing it. As the library began to build momentum, a strategic plan was developed complete with a new vision and mission statement to more accurately reflect the direction the library planned to take. Library staff revamped their website (www.redhooklibrary.org), began issuing a monthly e-newsletter and began an ambitious series of programs. Since 2010, visits to the Library have increased 516%; attendance at programs have increased 140% and circulation has increased 23%.

In 2015, Red Hook Public Library had the great honor of being named a finalist for the “Best Small Library in America” award given by Library Journal and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The award will be officially presented in October at the New York Library Association Conference in Lake Placid. As the 2015 Shubert Award winner, the Red Hook Public Library will receive \$1,000, which is graciously donated by the Friends of the New York State Library, and a plaque.

Members of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries 2015 Shubert Award Committee are Steven Manning, Claudia Depkin and Ann Thornton. The Committee was uniformly enthusiastic in its decision to honor the Red Hook Public Library submission as an excellent example of the “spirit of the Shubert award”.

The Joseph F. Shubert Excellence Award is given annually to recognize the achievements of small, medium and large libraries and library consortia in New York State. The Award honors libraries or library consortia that have taken significant steps within the past two years to improve the quality of library service to users. For more information about the Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award and the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, visit:

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/advscns/rac/index.html> or contact the Office of the State Librarian at (518) 474-5930.