



January 16, 2026

Amanda Wakeman, Library Director
Columbus Public Library
223 W James Street
Columbus, WI 53925

Dear Columbus Public Library,

It gives me great pleasure to enclose this check from Carnegie Corporation of New York in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Andrew Carnegie wrote that libraries are “cradles of democracy” and it has been truly inspiring to hear accounts from across America of how the 1350-plus surviving Carnegie Libraries are serving their communities today.

This gift is freely given without conditions or expectations, you can spend it however you choose for the benefit of your library and community in commemoration of the 250th anniversary.

The response we have had to our renewed focus on libraries has been overwhelming and overwhelmingly positive. At a time of unprecedented strain to our social cohesion, libraries are among the few public institutions which play a genuinely unifying role. Thank you for all the good work you are doing.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise Richardson".

Dame Louise Richardson
President, Carnegie Corporation of New York