

NEWS RELEASE

## **Knight Foundation's *Library Acts of Culture* Brings the Arts to Libraries Across Philadelphia**

*Pop-Up Performances Bring Surprise and Delight to Visitors at over 50  
Free Library of Philadelphia Neighborhood Locations*

**PHILADELPHIA – February 12, 2014** – The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Free Library of Philadelphia are bringing the arts into Philadelphian's everyday lives with [Library Acts of Culture](#)®. The series of pop-up performances in unexpected settings have featured flamenco dance, jazz and classical music performances, to-date.

Upcoming performances are scheduled for locations such as the Kensington, Haverford and Torresdale neighborhood libraries and will highlight the talents of dancers from BalletX, actors from Lantern Theater Company, choreographer Kate Watson-Wallace, musicians from Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra and more.

These performances, programmed in Philadelphia by Canary Promotion and taking place in eight cities across the country, demonstrate the importance of libraries as a community resource and a hub of creativity – spaces that are as much about creation as collection.

“Libraries are amongst the most democratic community spaces we have, used by people from every walk of life, in every age group. Because they are so deeply rooted in their neighborhoods, we thought they were an organic way to bring the arts into people's daily lives,” said Dennis Scholl, vice president of arts for Knight Foundation.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase what lively and surprising places libraries can be. Indeed, this effort highlights the fact that we are not just the Free Library of

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Philadelphia—We are the Free Library of Inspiration,” said Siobhan A. Reardon, President and Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

*Library Acts of Culture* ® kicked off in Miami last year and has branched out to Philadelphia; St. Paul, MN; Macon, GA; and Akron, OH with more to come. The performances follow Knight Foundation’s popular [Random Acts of Culture](#)™ series, which brought performers to malls, train stations and other public spaces to great acclaim.

Photos and videos can be shared via [#LibraryActsofCulture](#) on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, with more information available at [LibraryActsofCulture.org](#). For more on Knight Foundation’s arts initiative, visit [KnightArts.org](#), and connect to @KnightArts on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#).

### **About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. We believe that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit [www.knightfoundation.org](#).

### **About the Free Library of Philadelphia**

The mission of the Free Library of Philadelphia is to advance literacy, guide learning and inspire curiosity. Its vision is to build an enlightened community devoted to lifelong learning. For more, visit [www.freelibrary.org](#).

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**Members of the Press** – For more information and to schedule photos, video or interviews for an upcoming Library Acts of Culture, please contact:

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