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***For immediate release***  
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**Lilly Endowment offers support for expansion of Central Library**

Lilly Endowment Inc. today (May 24) announced a conditional grant of up to \$25 million to the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library Foundation for the renovation and expansion of the Central Library.

“We have been most impressed with the case made for the need for a substantial expansion and renovation of Central Library,” said N. Clay Robbins, president of the Endowment. “Communities all across the country are rediscovering their downtown libraries as symbols of learning and enlightenment and as catalysts for building a sense of community.”

Julie Goodrich, chair of the Library Foundation, said, “The Endowment’s support of this project will help us develop an extraordinary cultural landmark for our city. Not only will the transformed Central Library be a carefully preserved historic property, it will be a cutting-edge resource for the entire community.”

Jesse B. Lynch, president of the IMCPL board of trustees, added, “The support of Lilly Endowment is a gratifying reward for the many years the Library Board has spent on developing the progressive plan for the upgrade of library services and facilities. The transformation and renovation of the Central Library will play an important part in the continuing revitalization of the downtown area of this city.”

(more)

Central Library  
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The estimated cost of the proposed project is \$103 million. Realizing that the scope of the project and its financing have not yet been finalized, the Endowment will contribute 25 percent of the total cost of the project up to a maximum of \$25 million. Thus, if the renovation is \$80 million, the Endowment would contribute \$20 million. If the total cost is \$100 million or more, the Endowment would contribute \$25 million.

Furthermore, to satisfy the Endowment's conditions, the Library Foundation must inform the Endowment of the final cost of the project by June 30, 2002, and it must have raised or received commitments for all the remaining required funds from private and/or public sources by June 30, 2003. Commitments from private sources must be payable on or before Dec. 31, 2005. The Endowment also provided unconditionally \$250,000 to support the Library Foundation's fund-raising costs.

"The founders of this Endowment fervently believed in the value of education and wished the best for their home town and their home state," Robbins said. "We believe the Endowment honors that belief by supporting this exciting venture which demonstrates that Indianapolis is a community that values knowledge."

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**NOTE: Julie Goodrich will be available for photographs, interviews or on-camera comments from 1:30 to 2 p.m. today at the Glendale Branch of IMCPL. Contact Jon Barnes at 269-5254 for arrangements.**