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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2015

# LIBRARY WELCOMES LIVING LEGENDS AS HONORARY CHAIRS FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH 2015

MEMPHIS, TN – Legendary R&B, soul, and funk group **The Bar Kays'** Larry Dodson (lead singer) and James Alexander (group founder and bass player) will encourage Memphians of all ages to get their library cards during the month of September – **National Library Card Sign-up Month (NLCSM)**. Dodson and Alexander will serve as this year's honorary chairs. The NLCSM **media conference** will be **11 am on Monday, August 31, 2015** at the **Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library** (3030 Poplar Avenue).

"We are so happy The Bar Kays have joined the Memphis Public Library and the American Library Association in our efforts to get a Library card into the hands of every citizen. This is our goal as a part of the White House's [ConnectED Initiative](#). And, since The Bar Kays are such strong supporters of literacy, it's a perfect fit," said Director of Libraries Keenon McCloy. "September is especially important because it's a new school year, and students need to know where to go for helpful resources and programs."

The most important school supply of all, a free library card gives students access to books and reference material on a variety of topics, e-books for kids, teens, and adults, e-audiobooks, magazines and e-magazines, free downloadable music, DVDs, CDs, desktop computers and laptops for checkout, literacy stations for kids, free Wi-Fi, and more. Also, coming soon to the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library in mid-September is [CLOUD901](#), a creative production space for teens ages 13 – 18 offering state-of-the-art equipment and programs to develop twenty-first century skills such as collaboration, innovation, creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking. With 18 Memphis Public Library locations, customers are sure to find what they need at a library branch near them.

"More than three million customers enter the doors of Memphis Public Libraries each year, and our friendly staff is there to greet them," McCloy noted. "We pride ourselves in helping customers of all ages to 'connect, learn, and grow'. And, we work to invest in our youth, contribute to safe and vibrant neighborhoods throughout Memphis, and help to ensure prosperity and economic opportunities for all," she said.

Getting a library card is easy! Customers can visit any Memphis Public Library location and present an acceptable form of identification such as a valid Tennessee driver's license or state ID, a voter registration card, current utility bill, printed check, lease, or check stub. [Click here](#) for a Library card application – available at [www.memphislibrary.org](http://www.memphislibrary.org).

For more information about National Library Card Sign-up Month or how to get a library card, call (901) 415-2700.

## **ABOUT THE MEMPHIS PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER:**

The Memphis Public Library & Information Center (MPLIC) is committed to satisfying the customer's need to know. With 18 Library locations throughout the Greater Memphis area, MPLIC offers an array of programs, services, and resources for citizens and visitors to enjoy. They include JobLINC mobile career services, LINC/2-1-1 telephone referral services, a TV and radio station (WYPL TV-18, WYPL FM 89.3), a small business center, laptops for checkout and free Wi-Fi access, in addition to books, e-books, DVDs, records, compact discs, and educational programs for children, teens, and adults. Customers can find age-appropriate services and a list of Library locations at [www.memphislibrary.org](http://www.memphislibrary.org).

Memphis Public Libraries are publicly and privately funded. Approximately three million people visit the Memphis Public Library & Information Center each year.

## **ABOUT THE CITY OF MEMPHIS:**

Under the leadership of Mayor A C Wharton Jr. since 2009, Memphis is becoming a City of Choice by focusing on creating safe and vibrant neighborhoods, investing in young people, creating economic opportunities for all, and delivering excellence in government. Memphis is famous around the world for the convergence of creativity and innovation that produced its most famous exports – legendary music; the company that invented modern world commerce – FedEx, and the international leader in curing catastrophic childhood illnesses – St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It has a celebrated entrepreneurial history, more Fortune 500 companies than any other Tennessee city, and it has been named one of the best cities in the U.S. for startups. It is famous as home for Elvis Presley's Graceland, Sun Studios, Stax Museum of American Soul Music, Beale Street, the National Civil Rights Museum, and the most unspoiled riverfront on the Mississippi River. City of Memphis, which employs more than 6,000 people with an annual budget of approximately \$650 million, has developed and led programs that have dramatically reduced crime, increased jobs, improved Memphis' quality of life, and attracted national attention and investments in the city. For more information visit [www.memphistn.gov](http://www.memphistn.gov).