



**Commission for
Social Justice**

ORDER
Sons and Daughters of Italy
IN AMERICA®

November 6, 2025

Mr. Anthony Marx
President and CEO
New York Public Library
5th Avenue and 42nd St.
New York, NY 10018

Dear Mr. Marx,

I hope this letter finds you well. I write to you today in my capacity as President of the Commission for Social Justice (CSJ), the anti-defamation arm of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA), the oldest and largest national organization representing Italian American men and women.

This October, members of our New York CSJ chapter visited local libraries, requesting to display positive materials celebrating our community during Italian American Heritage Month. It recently came to my attention that one of our members went to the New Amsterdam Branch and the Battery Park City Branch to distribute materials and was rejected by branch librarians, who stated that they would not accept any materials from OSDIA due to our support for Christopher Columbus. We were told that a memo had been sent to libraries instructing them to take this action.

This response is unacceptable from an institution receiving government funds and is an affront to the Italian American community. For millions of Italian Americans, Christopher Columbus is a symbol of the resolve, ingenuity, and determination of our community. While we understand that history can inspire different perspectives, but believe these conversations must be grounded in respect, understanding, and inclusion. Erasing or diminishing the heritage of any community does not advance unity—it weakens the shared fabric of our American identity.

We demand that an apology be issued for this discriminatory decision and that, next October, libraries throughout New York promote and display positive materials highlighting Italians and Italian Americans. We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

John A. Fratta
President, Commission for Social Justice

CC: *Italian American City Council Caucus
Comm. Thomas A. Lupo, National President, OSDIA
Shayla Kaestle, National Executive Director, OSDIA
OSDIA Supreme Council
CSJ Board of Directors, Voting Members, and Resource Persons*