

Date: July 6, 2023

To: The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees

From: Celeste Choate, Executive Director

Re: Director's Report for Board Meeting of July 11, 2023



## VISION

Nurturing growth by sparking curiosity and fostering a sense of belonging.

## MISSION

We encourage learning and enrich lives by providing access to diverse resources and programs.



We cultivate equity, mutual respect, and belonging by learning about and responding to our community.

*WE WELCOME ALL.*

### Goal 1: We provide a welcoming and inviting space for dialogue and personal connections.

- After the June 29<sup>th</sup> storm and subsequent power outages, the Library served as a cooling center for community members. Patrons used computers, charged electronic devices, studied, played family board games, read stories together, and watched movies. Staff did an excellent job supporting patrons, and we are happy the Library served many community members during a difficult time.

### Goal 2: We engage the community to understand and respond to unique needs of our community.

- The Library was out in the community throughout the last month. From taking part in Pride celebrations to neighborhood block parties and sharing resources for seniors, staff went to multiple outreach locations and shared information about Library services and resources with several hundred community members.



We connect people with tools and resources for learning and leading fruitful lives.

*WE SPARK CURIOSITY.*

### Goal 1: We connect people to resources and technology for personal growth leading to greater fulfillment.

- Students from Leal and King Elementary visited the Library last month. The students listened to a telling of *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* and then searched for pigeons hidden among the shelves during a tour of the children's area. After their visit, more than 200 students joined the summer reading program, and classes counted their reading time so that the students could complete the program.



### Goal 2: We expand horizons and facilitate knowledge exchange by offering diverse programs.

- Families gathered to hear award-winning children's book author Alice McGinty as she shared tales about her life as a writer and her picture book *Bathe the Cat*. Laughter and loud MEOWS from 45 community members filled the room as Alice read about the cat who wreaks havoc to avoid a bath. Cat coloring pages were popular afterwards, as Alice signed books for purchase and families chose books for check-out.



- Local musical group The Paw Paws was a hit with all ages at the program Cherry Jam. Their whimsical music created a great rapport between the musicians and the audience, and in addition to listening and dancing to the music, the over 40 community members who attended also drew with chalk and hula-hooped.
- Families turned boxes into incredibly creative rocket ships before watching a movie while sitting in their rockets at the Rocket Ship Drive-In Movie program. Each rocket, created by the 30 community members who attended, had a different design from polka dots to chrome to hand-drawn control panels.



**We help our community thrive by creating connections and working with partners.**

***WE CONTRIBUTE TO A STRONG SOCIAL FABRIC.***

**Goal 1: We make the community better for all by promoting diversity, equity and inclusion through our collections and programs.**

- The Library celebrated Pride month in multiple ways. Our Love Wins Crafting event drew 47 people, including families, grad students, and teens, who socialized and made numerous creative projects - origami, Pride banners, buttons, and more. There was a lot of "library love" at the UP Center's Annual Pride Celebration. The Library brought books for the popular Drag Story Time and a craft for everyone to make. Many appreciative community members stopped by our table to thank the Library for being part of this event. During Reinventing Classic Queer Media, Editor-in-Chief of the Lavender Newsletter, Jada Fulcher, gave a talk on her work and how the original Lavender newsletter held in the Archives inspired her. She also led a Q and A session comparing the old and new Lavenders and facilitated a discussion among the almost 30 attendees on fostering community, connection, and intergenerational bonds. *The talk was co-sponsored by the UP Center.*
- June's East Asian Story Time featured stories and songs in Korean and English. The program started with a bilingual reading of [Where's Halmoni?](#) by Julie Kim. Then everyone learned the original Korean Baby Shark, which is longer with additional verses, and created a fan with a Korean design. The program was attended by over 20 community members comprised of a mix of those who spoke Korean and/or English.
- Archives staff recently completed indexing the Storch collection, with over 82,000 photograph negatives -- more than double the initial estimate! Archives staff will next build the collection's finding aid and promote the collection.



**Goal 2: We stimulate connections and partnerships to create a vibrant, engaged community.**

- The Library and the Urbana Park District celebrated Juneteenth at Crystal Lake with 200 community members. In addition to activities, a DJ, and fishing, the Champaign County Archives brought several tables worth of artifacts on Black history from across Champaign County. Many people recognized others in the Cotillion images or in other photos/newspapers brought by the Archives.



**We are mindful of the wide array of resources needed to serve evolving community needs and are transparent with our operations.**

***WE ARE A STRONG ORGANIZATION.***

**Goal 1: We steward our physical and financial resources to allow for growth and sustainability.**

- We reviewed with the City which of the parking lot medians are the Library's or the City's responsibility to maintain. We discovered some are the responsibility of the City, which will begin managing them in the coming weeks.

**Goal 2: We cultivate continuous improvement among Board and staff members to create increased engagement, satisfaction, and retention.**

- Library staff members Kirstin Gebhart, Gretchen Madsen Webb, Anslie Waldrep, and Lauren Chambers visited the ALA Exhibit Hall during this year's ALA conference, which was held in Chicago. They networked with current vendors, expanded their professional networks, and explored new tools and technologies for possible use at TUFL.



**Look here for additional information and action item details that are outside of the scope of the strategic plan.**

- The Library Board will vote on the proposed FY24 slate officers at the July Board meeting:
  - President: Guadalupe Mejia
  - Vice-President: Beth Scheid
  - Secretary/Treasurer: Daniel Urban
  - Secretary *pro tempore*: Erica Bellina
- Also, the President will be appointing Board members to the following Liaison roles. Please contact Lupe with whichever liaison role(s) interest you, and she will make her appointments on Tuesday:
  - To [The Friends of The Urbana Free Library](#) Board. As a liaison, you will be an ex-officio Friends Board member with voting rights. The Friends meet in person at the Library around eight times a year the first Wednesday of the month from 12 pm – 1 pm. They tend to meet before and after the couple of books sales a year and a couple of other times. The Friends raise \$10,000 - \$15,000 a year to support the Library.
  - To [The Urbana Free Library Foundation](#) Board. As a liaison, you will be an ex-officio Foundation Board member with voting rights. The Foundation has tended to meet via Zoom monthly the third Wednesday of the month from 12 pm – 1 pm. In FY23, the Foundation raised over \$88,000 to support the Library.
  - To the [Illinois Heartland Library System](#) (IHLS). IHLS is one of three library systems in Illinois and the Library is a member of IHLS. IHLS has 521-member libraries across central and southern Illinois. Our materials are delivered to Champaign Public Library and across the state via the delivery service IHLS provides. As a liaison, you will check the IHLS website and report to the Library Board items that are relevant to the Library. You could apply to be a member of the IHLS Board, but it is not a requirement of the liaison role.
- The Urbana Arts & Culture Program is paying the Library \$700 to fund the Young Artist's Studio programs for this fiscal year. Staff request the following budget amendment:
  - Add \$700 to Donations/Contributions/Gifts revenue line 802 46300
  - Add \$700 to Library Program Supplies expense line 80280809 51812 80103
- The draft Annual Report of The Urbana Free Library is included in the Board packet. Pursuant to the Local Library Act (75 ILCS 5/4-10), within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year, the Board of Trustees of The Urbana Free Library is to report in writing on the condition of their trust on the last day of the fiscal year. The fiscal year ends June 30, so the Library Board will discuss the draft Annual Report in July and will approve it in August. Celeste Choate will present it to the City Council in August. The Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR) is mentioned in the Annual Report. It is one of the mandated statistical reports that libraries submit to the State of Illinois. The Board will receive a copy of the IPLAR as part of the August Board packet.

- The Library's General Benefits Policy is presented this month with updates from staff's standard review of policies every three years. Most updates are to clarify wording or remove outdated wording. Staff recommend approval of the updated policy.

#### Library Newsletters:

- The TUFL Times, July: <https://uflil.patronpoint.com/email/preview/59>
- The TUFL Times: Youth Edition, July: <https://uflil.patronpoint.com/email/preview/60>
- The TUFL Times: School Edition, July: <https://uflil.patronpoint.com/email/preview/61>
- July Archives Newsletter: <https://uflil.patronpoint.com/email/preview/63>
- Foundation & Friends Update: <https://uflil.patronpoint.com/email/preview/62>

#### Other Library News:

- May 26, 2023, *Smile Politely* – Learn klezmer music from world-renown instructors during a workshop at Lewis Auditorium <https://www.smilepolitely.com/splog/learn-klezmer-music-from-world-renown-instructors-during-a-workshop-at-lewis-auditorium/>
- May 26, 2023, *WCIA.com* – What's open and closed on Memorial Day? <https://www.wcia.com/news/whats-open-and-closed-on-memorial-day/>
- May 31, 2023, *Smile Politely* – The Overture: May 29 – June 4 <https://www.smilepolitely.com/music/the-overture-may-29-june-4/>
- June 5, 2023, *Chamabanamoms.com* – Celebrating Pride Month in Champaign-Urbana <https://www.chamabanamoms.com/2023/06/04/pride-month-champaign-urbana/>
- June 6, 2023, *Smile Politely* – The Overture: June 5 – June 11 <https://www.smilepolitely.com/music/the-overture-june-5-11/>
- June 8, 2023, *Chamabanamoms.com* – How to Celebrate Juneteenth Around Champaign-Urbana <https://www.chamabanamoms.com/2023/06/07/juneteenth-champaign-urbana/>
- June 8, 2023, *Chamabanamoms.com* – Champaign-Urbana Weekend Planner – Summer in All its Glory <https://www.chamabanamoms.com/2023/06/07/champaign-urbana-summer-in-all-its-glory/>
- June 9, 2023, *Smile Politely* – Weekender: June 9-11 <https://www.smilepolitely.com/culture/weekender-june-9-11/>
- June 11, 2023, *News-Gazette* – Book review: Katherine Majewski | 'Station Eternity' for fans of genre-bending mysteries [https://www.news-gazette.com/arts-entertainment/books/katherine-majewski-station-eternity-for-fans-of-genre-bending-mysteries/article\\_652d971c-2f1a-5549-88cc-e235b3338029.html](https://www.news-gazette.com/arts-entertainment/books/katherine-majewski-station-eternity-for-fans-of-genre-bending-mysteries/article_652d971c-2f1a-5549-88cc-e235b3338029.html)
- June 13, 2023, *Chamabanamoms.com* – Recycling in Champaign-Urbana <https://www.chamabanamoms.com/2023/06/12/recycling-tips-champaign-urbana/>
- June 14, 2023, *WCIA.com* – Find your voice at Urbana Free Library <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZ0eP4oLj1o>
- June 14, 2023, *Chamabanamoms.com* – Champaign-Urbana Weekend Planner – Much to Celebrate this Weekend <https://www.chamabanamoms.com/2023/06/14/champaign-urbana-much-to-celebrate-this-weekend/>
- June 15, 2023, *Yahoo News* – Jim Dey: Despite hype, new law not exactly ban on banning books [https://news.yahoo.com/jim-dey-despite-hype-law-145200610.html?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQA-  
AAKgeLulFWRKi1FnEgrLsYkVmVKwrbluYKkt-  
FBh2STsoQ4Sz9R1TUK\\_GglGA3Xn4TNHPu5hMpARe3sYlndt\\_y\\_nk5CvISf0I8\\_CL67LhgriqN2Y7rs9t6PW5Uf9GaW-  
db\\_BgPBxkEzFqTZ08a4W6mRm7qebZEFj2FnJikzmvXqG](https://news.yahoo.com/jim-dey-despite-hype-law-145200610.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQA-<br/>AAKgeLulFWRKi1FnEgrLsYkVmVKwrbluYKkt-<br/>FBh2STsoQ4Sz9R1TUK_GglGA3Xn4TNHPu5hMpARe3sYlndt_y_nk5CvISf0I8_CL67LhgriqN2Y7rs9t6PW5Uf9GaW-<br/>db_BgPBxkEzFqTZ08a4W6mRm7qebZEFj2FnJikzmvXqG)
- June 15, 2023, *Chamabanamoms.com* – Juneteenth in Champaign-Urbana: What is Open, What is Closed <https://www.chamabanamoms.com/2023/06/15/juneteenth-in-champaign-urbana-what-is-open-what-is-closed/>

- June 15, 2023, *Chamabanamoms.com* – 8 Free Air-Conditioned Indoor Family Outings in Champaign-Urbana <https://www.chambanamoms.com/2023/06/15/free-air-conditioned-outings-champaign-urbana/>
- June 17, 2023, *News-Gazette* – Jim Dey, Up to the challenge, Opinion [https://www.news-gazette.com/opinion/jim-dey-up-to-the-challenge/article\\_cd35111b-78ad-5f7c-ba74-5afb7ae4ba66.html](https://www.news-gazette.com/opinion/jim-dey-up-to-the-challenge/article_cd35111b-78ad-5f7c-ba74-5afb7ae4ba66.html)
- June 18, 2023, *Chamabanamoms.com* – Where to Play Indoors for Free in Champaign-Urbana <https://www.chambanamoms.com/2023/06/18/free-play-indoors-champaign-urbana/>
- June 26, 2023, *News-Gazette* – Opinion: Tom Kacich | Klan's bigotry peaked here 100 years ago [https://www.news-gazette.com/opinion/columns/tom-kacich-klans-bigotry-peaked-here-100-years-ago/article\\_4c85b5dc-daa8-599b-9f6b-d223142f6289.html](https://www.news-gazette.com/opinion/columns/tom-kacich-klans-bigotry-peaked-here-100-years-ago/article_4c85b5dc-daa8-599b-9f6b-d223142f6289.html)

Budget and current financial information are here: <http://urbanafreelibrary.org/your-right-know#fin>, with FY24 financial reports here: <https://urbanafreelibrary.org/about-us/your-right-to-know/financial-reports>.

Bank reconciliations for the last day of the month: July 2022 - June 2023						
	July	August	September	October	November	December
<b>Illinois Funds account</b>	\$ 208,227.74	\$ 208,613.96	\$ 209,045.31	\$ 209,588.56	\$ 210,205.87	\$ 210,907.60
<b>Busey Bank Cash accounts</b>	\$ 2,992,977.35	\$ 2,846,035.61	\$ 3,350,546.37	\$ 3,763,233.91	\$ 3,498,315.67	\$ 3,376,497.11
<b>Busey Bank Web account</b>	\$ 35,932.46	\$ 38,854.25	\$ 41,936.98	\$ 45,199.58	\$ 47,474.22	\$ 50,363.16
<b>Total</b>	\$ 3,237,137.55	\$ 3,093,503.82	\$ 3,601,528.66	\$ 4,018,022.05	\$ 3,755,995.76	\$ 3,637,767.87
	January	February	March	April	May	June
<b>Illinois Funds account</b>	\$ 211,663.19	\$ 212,390.74	\$ 213,237.73	\$ 214,091.29	\$ 215,017.02	
<b>Busey Bank Cash accounts</b>	\$ 3,124,285.60	\$ 2,829,200.45	\$ 2,570,373.98	\$ 2,278,216.79	\$ 1,947,002.09	
<b>Busey Bank Web account</b>	\$ 53,023.54	\$ 54,137.89	\$ 57,571.07	\$ 59,391.52	\$ 61,310.79	
<b>Total</b>	\$ 3,388,972.33	\$ 3,095,729.08	\$ 2,841,182.78	\$ 2,551,699.60	\$ 2,223,329.90	\$