



Director’s Report

Date: May 9, 2024

To: The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees

From: Celeste Choate, Executive Director

Re: Director’s Report for Board Meeting of May 14, 2024

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Strategic Plan Progress



ENHANCE We steward our physical and financial resources to serve evolving community needs that support growth and sustainability.

- The Library has been awarded \$3,550 for a 2024 Urbana Arts Grant project. Local artists can apply to be one of three artists-in-residence and to create multiple workshops for all ages. Staff recommend Board approve Resolution 2024-06 to accept the grant.
- The Library has received grants from the Friends of the Urbana Free Library for new home delivery bags and The Urbana Free Library Foundation for new porch furniture. Staff recommend the Board approve Resolution 2024-09 to accept these gifts.
- Thanks to partial funding from The Urbana Free Library Foundation, Elaine Bearden, Lauren Chambers and Celeste Moutos attended the national Public Library Association conference in Columbus, OH. Celeste participated on a panel which presented to an estimated 300 people about the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant received by UIUC on [“Protecting Patron Privacy in Public Libraries: Practices and Challenges.”](#)
- In April, the Library received laptops, drawing tablets, new storage carts, and other maker supplies totaling about \$10,000 from the Building Beyond the Barriers Community Grant partnership with the CU Fab Lab. These supplies will expand the type of maker workshops the Library can hold and increase the number of community members we can host at our current maker programs.
- The long-anticipated Building Program is ready for review and Board approval. Staff recommend approval of this important and thorough document, which is intended to “guide the architect selected by the Library’s Board of Trustees in the remodeling and/or expansion of the Library’s current building or the construction of a new building” (Purpose, p. 11). Many thanks to Fred Schlipf

for donating his time and expertise to create the initial drafts of the plan, and to Joe Huberty of Engberg Anderson for incorporating recent staff feedback and finalizing the program!

- Rachel Fuller has been elected to the Illinois Library Association’s Executive Board. Beginning July 1, 2024, Rachel will serve a three-year term as Director-at-Large; she was elected by library professionals throughout the State of Illinois.



EMBRACE

We learn about and respond to our community in order to create a welcoming environment that cultivates equity, mutual respect, and belonging.

- The Library hosted two exhibits for the Boneyard Arts Festival. Partnering with Fine Arts Coordinator Cara Maurizi from Urbana School District 116, the first exhibit in the children's area exhibit featured student art, like sculptures of food created from found materials, self-portraits, and color value watercolor paintings. Families excitedly visited the Library's ground floor to find their student(s) pieces on display. The second exhibit featured the BIPOC Artist Collective (Black, Indigenous, People Of Color), whose work is currently displayed on the first floor. The BIPOC Artist Collective exhibit opening reception was visited by over 80 community members. Exhibiting artists include UI professors, local arts business owners, and even a young person who grew up in our community and is now attending the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



EMPOWER

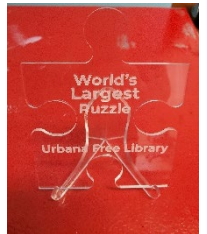
We connect people with tools and resources for learning, knowledge exchange, and personal growth that leads to greater fulfillment.

- A new digital exhibit is now live on the Library’s website. [LGBTQ Spaces in Champaign County](#) features a select number of private and public spaces where LGBTQ people have met in Champaign County history, as well as outlining the trajectory from criminalization to legal protections on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and choice of clothing in the cities of Champaign and Urbana. The exhibit was curated by Archives Apprentice, Adam Beaty.
- The 16th Fairy Tale Ball was a huge success with the largest attendance so far, over 1,800 community members. Activities ranged from dancing to archery to fortunes told by a witch. This was also the first year the Champaign County Historical Archives participated by offering a craft, and the expanded number of activities provided a greater variety of experiences for kids and their families.
- Spring is the culmination of the Battle of the Books partnership between parents, teachers, school librarians, and The Urbana Free Library, in which upper elementary students read from a selected list of books and "battle" over answers to true/false questions and "In which book..." questions. Battles take place at different schools, and so far, over 400 students have participated this year.
- The Illinois Data Science Club (iDSC) focuses on encouraging students to explore data science through workshops, guest speakers, and social events. Each semester, the club hosts the Data Dive, which is a competition in which teams analyze a dataset that is important to them and present their results to judges. This semester, employee Lara Terpetschnig and her fellow team members in “Third Space” used circulation data from The



Urbana Free Library, and they were crowned the winning team. Congratulations, Third Space!

- Urbana was in the 98th percentile for eclipse coverage, so the Library held a community viewing party and gave out over 1,000 eclipse glasses at the party and during the week leading up to the eclipse. At the viewing party, community members made a corona craft, played an eclipse game, and drew with chalk. Including 32 Spanish/English middle school students who attended the party and got a tour of the Library, over 300 community members attended the viewing. Several commented on how much they enjoyed the laid-back and friendly atmosphere where people talked and shared their eclipse glasses with those who didn't have any.
- Local theatre historian Perry Morris gave a talk on the history of the Princess Theatre to 28 community members. He started with the buildings and businesses that were built on Main Street before the Theatre opened and then gave an in-depth overview of the architectural history, renovations, and ownership changes that took place through the years.
- During the winter, the Library was a location where community members could put together sections of a 60,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. The complete puzzle was unveiled on display at the University of Illinois' main library, and as a thank you, the coordinators gave the Library a commemorative puzzle piece acknowledging our partnership in the project.



Action Item Details & Additional Information

The following budget amendments are requested by staff:

- In order to cover anticipated expenses between now and the end of the fiscal year, a transfer between Facilities expense budget lines:
 - \$18,000 increase to Other Contractual Services (80280805 52999)
 - \$18,000 decrease to Building Maintenance and Repairs (80280805 52201)
- If the Board approves Resolution 2024-09 to accept gifts from The Urbana Free Library Foundation and the Friends of The Urbana Free Library, please also approve these increases to revenue and expense lines:
 - \$3,013.18 increase to Donations/Contributions/Gifts (802 46300)
 - \$3,013.18 increase to Other Supplies (80280801 51900)
 - \$2,635 increase to Donations/Contributions/Gifts (802 46300)
 - \$2,635 increase to Office Furniture (80280805 51420)

Communication

Library Newsletters

- The TUFL Times, April 2024: <https://ufil.patronpoint.com/email/preview/103>
- The TUFL Times: Youth Edition, April 2024: <https://ufil.patronpoint.com/email/preview/104>
- Archives Newsletter, April 2024: <https://ufil.patronpoint.com/email/preview/105>

Library News

- April 1, 2024, *Smile Politely* - Poetry month begins with Janice Harrington at the Urbana Free Library <https://www.smilepolitely.com/splog/poetry-month-begins-with-janice-harrington-at-the-urbana-free-library/>

- April 8, 2024, *American Libraries Magazine* - PLA Day 3: Dulcé Sloan brings laughs, librarians talk censorship and privacy <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/protect-yourself/>
- April 8, 2024, *Illinois Public Media* - Illinois Prepares for the 2024 Solar Eclipse <https://ipmnewsroom.org/solar-eclipse-2024/>
- April 17, 2024, *Smile Politely* - Learn more about birding in every season <https://www.smilepolitely.com/splog/learn-more-about-birding-in-every-season/>
- April 18, 2024, *Chambanamoms.com* - Everything Plant Lovers Need to Know in Champaign-Urbana <https://www.chambanamoms.com/2024/04/18/champaign-urbana-plant-lovers/>
- April 18, 2024, *Smile Politely* - We went to Boneyard 2024 and here's what we saw <https://www.smilepolitely.com/arts/we-went-to-boneyard-2024-and-heres-what-we-saw/>
- April 21, 2024, *News-Gazette* - Kayla Duff/review | A fascinating examination of women's health care then vs. now https://www.news-gazette.com/arts-entertainment/books/kayla-duff-review-a-fascinating-examination-of-womens-health-care-then-vs-now/article_e65200a5-39fd-598e-a737-f152eeabb55e.html
- April 2024, *Midwest Archives Conference Newsletter* - Finding Community in Collections: Rehousing the Stephen Storch Photography Collection https://midwestarc.memberclicks.net/assets/documents/Newsletters/2024_MAC_Newsletter_April_FINAL.pdf

Budget Information

- Budget and FY24 Financial Reports: <https://urbanafreelibrary.org/about-us/your-right-to-know/financial-reports>

Bank reconciliations for the last day of the month: July 2023 - June 2024						
	July	August	September	October	November	December
Illinois Funds account	\$ 216,906.99	\$ 217,911.90	\$ 218,899.07	\$ 219,927.40	\$ 220,925.10	\$ 221,950.01
Busey Bank Cash accounts	\$ 2,943,480.37	\$ 3,147,582.21	\$ 4,212,416.00	\$ 3,925,611.70	\$ 3,784,810.07	\$ 3,380,738.88
Busey Bank Web account	\$ 68,388.69	\$ 73,630.53	\$ 77,357.69	\$ 80,143.02	\$ 82,442.05	\$ 84,910.90
Total	\$ 3,228,776.05	\$ 3,439,124.64	\$ 4,508,672.76	\$ 4,225,682.12	\$ 4,088,177.22	\$ 3,687,599.79
	January	February	March	April	May	June
Illinois Funds account	\$ 222,966.74	\$ 223,923.54	\$ 224,951.06			
Busey Bank Cash accounts	\$ 3,387,341.60	\$ 3,026,051.93	\$ 2,747,741.33			
Busey Bank Web account	\$ 87,309.85	\$ 89,834.78	\$ 93,917.34			
Total	\$ 3,697,618.19	\$ 3,339,810.25	\$ 3,066,609.73	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -