



Director’s Report

Date: October 3, 2024
To: The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees
From: Rachel Fuller, Interim Executive Director
Re: Director’s Report for Board Meeting of October 8, 2024

Table of Contents

Strategic Plan Progress 1

Action Item Details & Additional Information 2


Communication..... 3

 Library Newsletters..... 3


 Library News 3

Budget Information..... 4

Strategic Plan Progress

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

- During September, Country Arbors completely revitalized the landscaping around the Library and in Megan’s Garden, using native, hardy plants that are low-maintenance and will be sustainable and beautiful for years to come. The new gardens were made possible by contributions to The Urbana Free Library Foundation, including a generous donation from Terry and Barbara England.

 **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 three events for this year’s Welcoming Week and attended two outreach events. To start, the Library worked with the Mortensen Center for International Libraries and Illinois International: Office of Global Relations to hold Meet Your Neighbors: A Human Library, where community members could meet and speak with other area residents with origins in different countries. There were participants from Argentina, Kazakhstan, South Korea, and more. The next event was a family-friendly celebration for Welcoming Week featuring a cake walk run by the Immigration Project and tabled by multiple service groups like Project READ and the New American Welcome Center. The final event for Welcoming Week was the award presentation for the 11th Annual



Immigrant Welcome Awards, which seeks to recognize the contributions of individuals and organizations to create a welcoming atmosphere for immigrants. The Library has enjoyed hosting the awards for multiple years, and this year the Library was honored to receive the Community Impact Award. Carol Inskeep accepted the award on behalf of the Library and in recognition of her work and the work of all staff members to ensure all community members, especially those who are new to our community, are welcome at the Library. Altogether, nearly 275 people came to Library Welcoming Week events.



EMPOWER

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

- The 2024 CU Pride Fest was recently celebrated in downtown Urbana, and the Library tabled with the Champaign Public Library at the event. In addition to highlighting each library's collections, staff helped community members make LGBTQ+ buttons using the Library's button maker. The buttons were popular, and staff spoke with over 270 community members!
- At an Archives program last month, assistant professor Jessica Ballard-Lawrence shared information about the University Archives and the resources they offer. Jessica works at the Student Life and Culture Archives, which is the country's oldest of its kind. She gave a tutorial on using the Archives' online database, talked about the types of materials that the many different archives on campus hold, and the kinds of information found there.
- Summer reading might have ended, but the 150th Anniversary Reading Challenge is going strong! Over one thousand people have signed up for the challenge, and 30% of the participants have already earned a prize. That means there have been over 4,500 books read for adults and 403,000 minutes of reading completed by teens and children. The challenge continues until the end of June 2025, so there's plenty of time for other community members to take part and complete it.
- The Library will be a polling location for the upcoming November 5, 2024 election. The Library supports the civic engagement of community members, and voting will be available from 6:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.



Action Item Details & Additional Information

- Staff request the following budget transfer to pay the Stocks invoice in this Board packet from the correct budget line:
 - \$3,370 decrease in Building Repair & Maintenance (80280805 52201)
 - \$3,370 increase in Office Furniture (80280805 51420)
- Staff request the following budget amendment for the Digital Preservation POWRR Grant received in Archives:
 - \$870 increase in revenue to Donations/Contributions/Gifts (802 46300)
 - \$870 increase in expense to Shared IT Costs (80280808 51500)

Communication

Library Newsletters

- TUFL Times, September: <https://uflil.patronpoint.com/email/preview/129>
- TULF Times: Youth Edition, September: <https://uflil.patronpoint.com/email/preview/130>
- Archives Newsletter, September: <https://uflil.patronpoint.com/email/preview/128>

Library News

- September 1, 2024, *news-gazette.com* - Caleb Wilson/review | The weird and wonderful https://www.news-gazette.com/arts-entertainment/books/caleb-wilson-review-the-weird-and-wonderful/article_aa6976ae-63ef-11ef-9b88-bfb41d0e4ee5.html
- September 3, 2024, *smilepolitely.com* - Meet Your Neighbor, a Human Library event, is September 14th <https://www.smilepolitely.com/splog/meet-your-neighbor-a-human-library-event-is-september-14th/>
- September 3, 2024, *smilepolitely.com* - The Overture: September 3-8 <https://www.smilepolitely.com/music/the-overture-september-3-8/>
- September 12, 2024, *news-gazette.com* - Libraries engage seniors with variety of activities https://www.news-gazette.com/arts-entertainment/books/area-libraries-engage-seniors-with-variety-of-activities/article_22af18e0-6c5f-11ef-96ea-7bc38b5e66f8.html
- September 20, 2024, *news-gazette.com* - In Urbana, you're welcome https://www.news-gazette.com/newsletter/content/daily_headlines/jill-pyrz-in-urbana-youre-welcome/article_c68d4736-76d5-11ef-a6db-0f3244140313.html
- September 20, 2024, *will.illinois.edu* - 11th annual Immigrant Welcome Awards celebrates the work of community members in Champaign County <https://will.illinois.edu/studentnewsroom/story/11th-annual-immigrant-welcome-awards-celebrates-the-work-of-community-members-in-champaign-county>
- September 21, 2024, *news-gazette.com* - Immigrant Welcome Awards | 'My personal story fuels me' https://www.news-gazette.com/news/immigrant-welcome-awards-my-personal-story-fuels-me/article_88a1faea-76b5-11ef-98b2-bbcfa68b6967.html
- September 22, 2024, *news-gazette.com* – Sara Bennett | 'Plastic' will take you on a dystopian joy ride https://www.news-gazette.com/arts-entertainment/books/sara-bennett-plastic-will-take-you-on-a-dystopian-joy-ride/article_a29a0606-70aa-11ef-84bf-0ff0d4c87e33.html

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 2024 - June 2025						
	July	August	September	October	November	December
Illinois Funds account	\$ 229,049.51	\$ 230,094.72				
Busey Bank Cash accounts	\$ 3,325,335.18	\$ 3,493,511.49				
Busey Bank Web account	\$ 107,613.47	\$ 111,788.42				
Total	\$ 3,661,998.16	\$ 3,835,394.63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	January	February	March	April	May	June
Illinois Funds account						
Busey Bank Cash accounts						
Busey Bank Web account						
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -