

Director's Report November 16, 2023

Central Re-opening and Anniversary Celebration

We are eagerly anticipating the grand re-opening and 70th anniversary celebration of the Central Library on Friday, November 24th immediately following the Santa Parade. We will have live music, face painting, and goodie bags. The Friends will be on hand as docents to help us showcase the new spaces and to give away free books. It will truly be a grand celebration of the rich history and promising future of the Central Library. We hope to see you there!

Direct Mail Marketing Campaign

We are in the process of mailing a series of 2 postcards to targeted households in Harper Woods who do not have library cards and are library card eligible. 2,500 households will receive the postcards. The first one will be in the mail on Friday and the second one about 2 weeks later.

The library continues to strive to achieve the goal of 70% of our community having a library card. This strategic marketing campaign is another tactic to achieve that goal. Last year's campaign was very successful and we're confident this year's will be too. Special thanks to Mary Short for executing this campaign!

Audit in Progress

Financial Coordinator Tania Borrego has been working diligently to gather and submit all of the necessary documents to complete our annual audit for the 2023 fiscal year. We anticipate the audit will be completed on time and without any issues.

DREAM Lab Hours Expanded

Due to popular demand, we have extended the hours of the DREAM Lab at the Woods branch.

The DROP IN HOURS as of NOV 6, 2023 are:

Mondays 3pm - 6pm

NEW!!!! Tuesdays 3pm - 8pm

Wednesdays 3pm - 6pm

Thursdays 3pm - 6pm

NEW!!!! Fridays 1pm - 4pm

NEW!!!! Saturdays 1pm - 4pm

New Podcast Name

The GPPL podcast has a new name, Bibliobanter. In the latest episode, librarians Lexi and Adam discuss books and media for which they are grateful. A link to all episodes is available on our website!

Advocacy Update: Michigan Freedom to Read Acts

Two bills are being introduced to the state legislature that will be tie barred together:

- County, City, Township and Village Libraries Act introduced by Rep. Veronica Paiz
- District Library Act introduced by Rep. Carol Glanville

Utilizing the standard "Request for Reconsideration" process used by most public libraries, the proposed bill has incorporated a number of simple, yet distinct ideas:

1.) The proposed bill states explicitly that the public library director shall have final responsibility on the selection of materials for inclusion or withdrawal in a public library's collection. It also states that a library must have a policy in effect that complies with the act setting forth standards for selection of materials, standards for withdrawal of materials, a process for reconsideration, and other conditions, such as:

A) the reason or reasons for requesting reconsideration of the public library's material. (Any reasons that are not in compliance with this act cannot be considered.)

B) that the requester has read the entire material before filling

C) that a request may only be made by a resident of the library's legal service area or contracted service area

D) that a new request for reconsideration of the same material may not be submitted to the same public library for 365 days after the public library's determination

2) The reason or basis for a request for reconsideration cannot be made based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, height, weight, familial status, or marital status of the author or that the subject matter, content or viewpoint of the material involves religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, height, weight, familial status, or marital status. The public library director has discretion to determine if the reasons stated comply with this subsection.

3) A public library may not grant a request for reconsideration based on the subject matter, content, or viewpoint of material, unless the material has been adjudicated to be obscene or otherwise unprotected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution or by Article 1, Section 5 of Const 1963, as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction over the community in which the library serves.

4) The Michigan Attorney General may, on behalf of the Library of Michigan, compel the public library to

adopt a policy and the attorney general, a resident of the public library's legal service area or public library's contracted service area may commence a civil action including a temporary or permanent injunction to prevent the public library from unlawful removal of material or to compel the public library to return material to the collection that are removed in violation of this act.

These bills are the result of several years of advocacy work on the part of the Michigan Library Association and our partners. Stay tuned for updates!