



Library Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, November 18, 2020
ZOOM
12:00 pm

Allen
Lohitai
Pearson

Murphy
Tempestini
Knuth

Boam
Conway
DeHaven

AGENDA

1. ***Call to Order***
2. ***Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2020***
3. ***Library Reports***
 - a. Report of Director
 - b. Review of Financial Report (attachment)
 - c. Statistical and Other Reports
 - d. Report of District Consultant
4. ***Board and Committee Reports***
 - a. Report of County Council Liaison
 - b. Report of Friends and ERLF
5. ***Unfinished Business***
6. ***New Business***
7. ***Adjournment***
8. ***Appendix***
 - a. News Articles (find all library media releases on eriecountypa.gov)

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2020
Sent electronically
3. Library Reports
 - a. Report of Director

Connections

Global Entrepreneurship Week—This week is Global Entrepreneurship Week. Our own Beth Zimmer is the state-wide coordinator for this and she asked if the Library could do something for this week. I reached out to a number of groups including the Ben Franklin Partnership, the Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership, the NWPA Innovation Beehive, Junior Achievement, Paramount Pursuits, and Gannon University. Attached is the flyer that was distributed last week to promote this. Because the Library is part of the Innovation Beehive, we are not listed separately. This has been a great opportunity for collaboration among various entrepreneurial ecosystem members. Those involved indicated that they would like to do more of this type of activity.

ECPL Strategic Plan—Staff are working on creating a new draft of an ECPL strategic plan for the years 2021-2023. As soon as I have received the draft and reviewed it, I will share it all with you for comments/edits. I would like to have this ready in the next 2-3 months so that we can begin to implement it. Unlike the current plan, we are going to focus on fewer, measurable objectives so that we can track progress on our work. This will enable us to monitor and evaluate our success toward accomplishing the plan. Also, each measurable objective will have an “owner” whose job will be to complete the work in the assigned time frame.

Collections

Bookmobile Collection—When the new bookmobile begins its routes, it will have a brand new book collection to go with it. Thanks to the generosity of the Foundation, we have been able to acquire a brand new children’s collection for the bookmobile and we are also adding new adult and YA materials as well. Materials are now being received and are being prepared for the new bookmobile when it arrives in December, 2020.

Capacity

County Budget—The County Council is still deliberating on the County Budget for 2021. So far we have not received any bad news from the Council about our request. The Council will be discussing the overall County Budget (including the Library) at their Council meeting tomorrow, Nov. 17th. This is a Zoom meeting and I will be attending in case there are questions for the Library.

Friends Budget for the Library 2021—The Friends of the Library approved the Library’s request for \$61,880.00 for 2021. This is less than the Library has traditionally asked for, but programming has been reduced due to COVID-19 and our costs have lessened as a result.

Foundation Support—The Erie Regional Library Foundation has supported the Library with \$5,000.00 for the new bookmobile children’s collection and also \$8,000.00 in CARES funding. The \$8,000.00 will be used to purchase new laptop computers for the new bookmobile. The Foundation was also instrumental in obtaining a grant of \$1,400.00 from the Erie Yacht Club to assist in our maritime collection development efforts. It should also be noted that the Library is hoping to begin conversations with the Foundation soon to discuss fundraising for the Blasco Library renovations and further out, the new Millcreek Branch Library.

Bookmobile—We are still anticipating the arrival of the new bookmobile before the end of the calendar year. At this time, staff are working with the vendor on the bookmobile “wrap” that is the design that covers the vehicle. Part of the wrap design will be recognizing those organizations who have supported the new bookmobile effort such as the Foundation.

Keystone Grant (Millcreek Branch)—The Millcreek Branch is the busiest branch (other than Blasco) in the ECPL. It is also the only facility that is located in leased space which expires June 30, 2025. It is time to begin planning for the next phase of the Millcreek Branch. We have received a \$25,000.00 Keystone grant from the Commonwealth that will be matched with \$25,000.00 from the County for a \$50,000.00 planning project. We have been notified of this grant, but are awaiting the formal paperwork from Harrisburg. Our intention is to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a planning consultant to conduct analysis, convene focus groups, and prepare a final report with recommendations for a new branch for Millcreek Township and surrounding areas. This project will be completed in 2021. With that report in hand, we will be able to plan for the Millcreek Branch Library post 2025. Throughout this process, the Advisory Board, the Foundation, and the Friends will be key stakeholders in our discussions.

Equity and Inclusion Committee—Staff and Library Advisory Board members are at work reviewing many of the Library’s policies, procedures, programs, collections, and budget for ways to make the Library a more inviting and inclusive space. This type of review is being conducted at libraries across the United States; I had recently sent you some information about the work at the Boston Public Library. In addition, our staff have compiled a bibliography of materials available at the Library regarding systemic racism. Our goal is to have completed a comprehensive library review by early 2021 so that we can make positive strides toward increasing our equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Internet Lab (Blasco Library)—Work is continuing on the move of the Internet Lab from the second floor to the first floor of the Blasco Library. This is part of the larger Blasco renovation plans that are underway. We were able to obtain CARES funding for part of this project which will allow for new furniture and COVID-19 protections in the space. The new Internet Lab will be in the area currently housing the magazine section.

2020 Annual Report—Earlier I had asked each of you to contribute a short written piece about your thoughts about 2020. While COVID-19 and the election have taken center stage, you are encouraged to write about your own experiences in 2020. All of these contributions will be included as a special appendix to our 2020 annual plan. The goal is to have you, our strongest supporters, become a part of our history for future generations. The annual report and appendix will be bound and stored in our Heritage Room where future readers may read about our Library and you in the generations ahead. Some of you have already submitted something, but, if you haven’t, please consider writing a letter to the future.

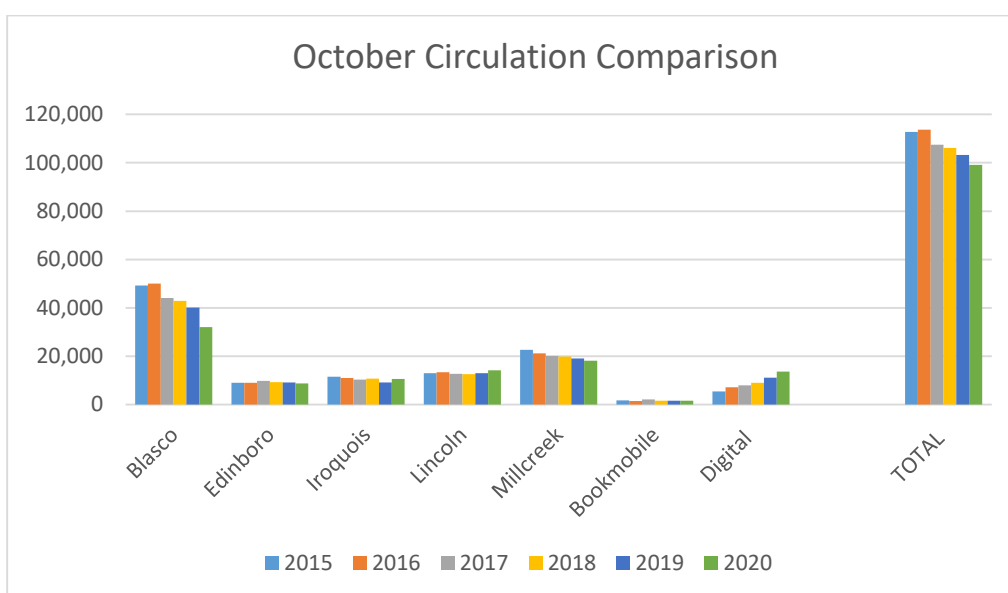
- b. [Review of Financial Report \(attachment\)](#)
- c. [Statistical and Other Reports](#)

October 2020 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- **99,155** overall check outs, down **3.89%**
- **13,643** digital check outs, up **23%**
- **10,611** IRQ check outs, up **16%**
- **22,609** patron visits, up **4%** over last month, down **53%** from last year
- **45,334** Newsbank searches year to date, up **344%** from last year
 - **119,522** documents viewed year to date, up **1,057%** from last year

Circulation



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Blasco	49,256	50,009	44,126	42,922	40,075	32,059
Edinboro	8,986	9,108	9,783	9,300	9,133	8,821
Iroquois	11,529	11,032	10,397	10,707	9,142	10,611
Lincoln	12,961	13,474	12,802	12,624	13,025	14,243
Millcreek	22,719	21,193	20,189	19,949	19,063	18,187
Bookmobile	1,740	1,568	2,152	1,578	1,616	1,591
Digital	5,539	7,259	8,024	9,016	11,112	13,643
TOTAL	112,730	113,643	107,473	106,096	103,166	99,155

d. Report of District Consultant

- Through a member of Pennsylvania Library Association's Legislative Committee, we received word that the General Assembly may vote on the 2nd part of the state's bifurcated budget as early as this Friday. The district consultants in the Northwest Region are asking library staff, boards, friends, and supporters to reach out to area legislators and ask them to stand with Representative Stan Saylor, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, who intends to support level funding libraries.
- Libraries across the district are evaluating their current services and availability to their communities. Due to the rise of COVID cases, many are considering dialing back, whether that's modifying in-house services or going curbside-only. This may be more prominent across the state as libraries consider other trends such as schools going all virtual, weather, and more. The Office of Commonwealth Libraries has reiterated to public libraries that they don't foresee a sweeping, statewide motion for all libraries to rollback services or close like in the spring; decisions to adjust hours or services remains locally decided by the organization.

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Report of County Council Liaison
- b. Report of Friends and ERLF

5. Unfinished Business

6. New Business

- a. Election of Officers: President, Trevor Pearson; Vice President, Bill Conway; Secretary, Mary Anne Tempestini

7. Adjournment

8. Appendix

- a. News Articles (find all library media releases on eriecountypa.gov)



GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK 2020

NWPA INNOVATION BEEHIVE NETWORK
BEN FRANKLIN TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT
ERIE REGIONAL CHAMBER AND GROWTH PARTNERSHIP
PARAMOUNT PURSUITS

Aspiring and established entrepreneurs are invited to take part in this local celebration of Global Entrepreneurship Week! Hear stories from area panelists and gain resources that can take your business from start-up to success.

Gift cards to locally owned restaurants and consulting time will be given away at each panel; attend all 5 panels to be entered in the Grand Prize drawing!

> TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Global Entrepreneurship Week Kick-Off: Successes of a Global Entrepreneur

-
12pm - 1pm

Keynote Speaker:
Jon Meighan, President and Owner of Lake Erie Rubber/
Founder of One Leg Up Pet Products

<https://bit.ly/GBW-KickOff>

> WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Urgency of Now - Tales from Early Entrepreneurs

-
12pm - 1pm

Panelists:
Sara Hanks, Leverage4Data
Hunter Klobucar, Fish Gods
Ty Mihna, Abomination Athletics
Ejay Fyke, UFC Gym Erie

<https://bit.ly/GBW-Urgency>

Lessons Learned - A Conversation with Seasoned Entrepreneurs

-
5pm - 6pm

Panelists:
Sean Fedorko, Radius CoWork
Catherine Geanuracos, CityGrows
Rin Takahashi, JAUNTIN'
Carl Nicolio, PSNergy

<https://bit.ly/GBW-Lessons>

> THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

How Entrepreneurs Grow Together in Recovering Cities

-
12pm - 1pm

Panelists:
Brian Slawin, Ben Franklin Technology Partners Central & Northern PA
Don Morrison, Deal Flow, BlueTree Allied Angels
Skyler Yost, York County Economic Alliance

<https://bit.ly/GBW-Grow>

Erie's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem - Services Every Entrepreneur Should Know About

-
5pm - 6pm

Panelists:
NWPA Innovation Beehive Network
Junior Achievement
Bridgeway Capital
Paramount Pursuits
Gannon SBDC
Mercyhurst Hospitality Management Department
Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership

<https://bit.ly/GBW-Erie>


NOVEMBER 17-19

GRAND PRIZE DETAILS

- > 3 months of Erie Technology Incubator Space
- > Gone Local gift basket
- > Consulting with Brian Slawin of Ben Franklin Technology Partners
- > 2 hours consulting with Infinity Accounting and Business Consulting

PLEASE DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO

libraryinfo@eriecountypa.gov

 @NWPABeehive

(/news/)

ALA awards programming grants to help libraries address the climate change crisis

For Immediate Release

Mon, 10/26/2020

Contact:

Sarah Ostman

Communications Manager

ALA Public Programs Office

312-280-5061

sostman@ala.org (mailto:sostman@ala.org)

Free programming guide available to help all libraries with planning nationwide

CHICAGO — The American Library Association (ALA) announced the recipients of its Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate

Change (<http://www.ala.org/tools/programming/climatechange>) grants, a pilot program to help public and academic libraries engage their communities in programs and conversations that address the climate change crisis.

The project will fund in-person and virtual film screenings, community dialogues and related events based on local interest; provide instruction and support for libraries to be centers for community education and support during extreme weather events; and offer free climate change programming resources (http://www.ala.org/tools/sites/ala.org.tools/files/content/ResComm_ProgGuide%20FINAL100820.pdf) for the library field.

Twenty-five libraries were selected to receive \$1,000 programming grants to support in-person or virtual climate-related programs and activities; a small collection of documentaries/docudramas on DVD (<http://www.ala.org/tools/programming/climatechange/films>), with public performance rights; Climate Resilience Hub support, provided by Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW) (<https://www.climatecrew.org/>) in coordination with ALA; and online training and support.

The grantees will collaborate with a community partner organization to host three public programs in 2020-2021 that focus on climate change science, sustainability, emergency weather preparedness, environmental justice or related subjects. Given safety and restrictions around inperson programming due to COVID-19, participating libraries are encouraged to consider virtual programs or other formats that prioritize the health and safety of library staff and patrons.

Thanks to additional support from the program's donors, an additional 51 libraries received a \$500 stipend to support climate-related programs and activities that were outlined in their grant applications. View the full list of participating libraries. (<http://www.ala.org/tools/programming/climatechange/grantees>)

All library workers are invited to download "Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change: A Programming Guide for Libraries

(http://www.ala.org/tools/sites/ala.org.tools/files/content/ResComm_ProgGuide%20FINAL100820.pdf). Created by librarians and ALA staff, the 29-page guide contains film and book recommendations, hands-on programming ideas, mindfulness exercises and other resources to aid libraries in addressing the climate crisis through programming.

The pilot project has been funded by a generous grant from Andrew and Carol Phelps, the parents of a public librarian and a library master's student.

"We feel a moral obligation to take action, and we believe libraries and librarians are ideal partners to accomplish the work ahead. We wholeheartedly support libraries as centers for lifelong learning and innovation, which is needed now more than ever," said Carol Phelps. "We are eager to get factual information about the climate crisis out to the public before it becomes too late, and to help create space in libraries for communities to mobilize for change."

Through Resilient Communities, ALA strives to:

- Raise awareness and provide accurate information about the climate change crisis to the public through libraries
- Designate libraries as CREW-certified Climate Resilience Hubs, positioning them to provide ongoing public education and community support during extreme weather events
- Engage library staff in local partnerships and environmental justice efforts that emphasize bottom-up organizing, shared community leadership, and the centering of those most impacted by climate change, particularly communities of color and underserved communities
- Create space in libraries for communities to engage in conversation, mobilize for the initiation of sustainability policies and practices, and foster more resilient communities
- Identify and document relevant, replicable programming models for future national distribution

Launching 18 months after ALA adopted sustainability (<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2019/05/ala-adding-sustainability-core-value-librarianship>) as a core value of librarianship, this project seeks to advance practices and policies that are environmentally sound, economically just and socially equitable.

Project advising for Resilient Communities is provided by representatives of ALA's Sustainability Round Table (<http://www.ala.org/rt/sustainrt>), a professional forum for ALA members to exchange ideas and opportunities regarding sustainability in order to move toward a more equitable, healthy and economically viable society.

About the American Library Association

The American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit www.ala.org (<http://www.ala.org/>).

Erie County Public Library's Millcreek branch - Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA) - November 12, 2020

November 12, 2020 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA) | Erie Times-News

A \$25,000 state Keystone grant will fund a needs assessment and relocation feasibility study for the Erie County Public Library's Millcreek branch, state Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, of Millcreek, D-3rd Dist., announced Thursday.

The grant is part of a \$5.1 million package of competitive grants to 18 public libraries statewide funded through the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. Grantees can receive up to 50 % of funding needed to upgrade or rehabilitate public libraries.

"Millcreek Library has worked so hard to foster a love of books in our community," Bizzarro said.

"Even amidst the pandemic, they've served as a wonderful resource and continue to provide learning opportunities. This grant will help the library assess its needs so it can continue to enrich our community."

CITATION (MLA STYLE)

Times-News, Erie. "Erie County Public Library's Millcreek branch receives \$25,000 grant." Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA), sec. News, 12 Nov. 2020. NewsBank: America's News , infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/17EBAA8E3583E3E0. Accessed 18 Nov. 2020.

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Erie County Public Library seeks nominations for - Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA) - November 17, 2020

November 17, 2020 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA) | Erie Times-News

The Erie County Public Library is seeking nominations for new stops on its Bookmobile service route.

To match its recently secured new vehicle, Erie County Public Library officials are seeking the best possible schedule to maximize the reach of library services.

The Bookmobile serves Erie County by bringing library materials and resources directly to its communities. Many bookmobile patrons do not otherwise have access to physical library materials, or means to visit one of the Erie County Public Library's five locations.

Bookmobile service is also timely, delivering materials to patrons who choose to remain safe at home.

Erie County residents are invited to submit a site for consideration on the bookmobile's new route by visiting <https://erielibrary.org/services/book-a-tour/outreach-services-bookmobile-stoprequest-form/>.

The Erie County Public Library is committed to providing an equitable service route across all of Erie County, bridging the gaps between its brick-and-mortar locations.

While the only location restriction is that the site must be within Erie County, there are several logistic requirements for a site to be considered:

- * Site must have adequate parking and maneuverability space for the 32-foot-long vehicle.
- * Site must be publicly accessible to the community it serves.
- * Sites with public restrooms available are preferred.

Interested patrons may submit their site nominations online through 5 p.m. on Nov. 30. All questions regarding bookmobile services can be directed to the library's outreach services department at library-outreach@eriecountypa.gov.

The new Bookmobile vehicle was secured through CARES Act funding. More information regarding the new vehicle will be announced in December.

CITATION (MLA STYLE)

Times-News, Erie. "Erie County Public Library seeks nominations for Bookmobile service route."

Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA), sec. News, 17 Nov. 2020. NewsBank: America's News ,

[infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?](https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/17ED1D0A8874F678)

[p=NewsBank&docref=news/17ED1D0A8874F678](https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/17ED1D0A8874F678). Accessed 18 Nov. 2020.

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