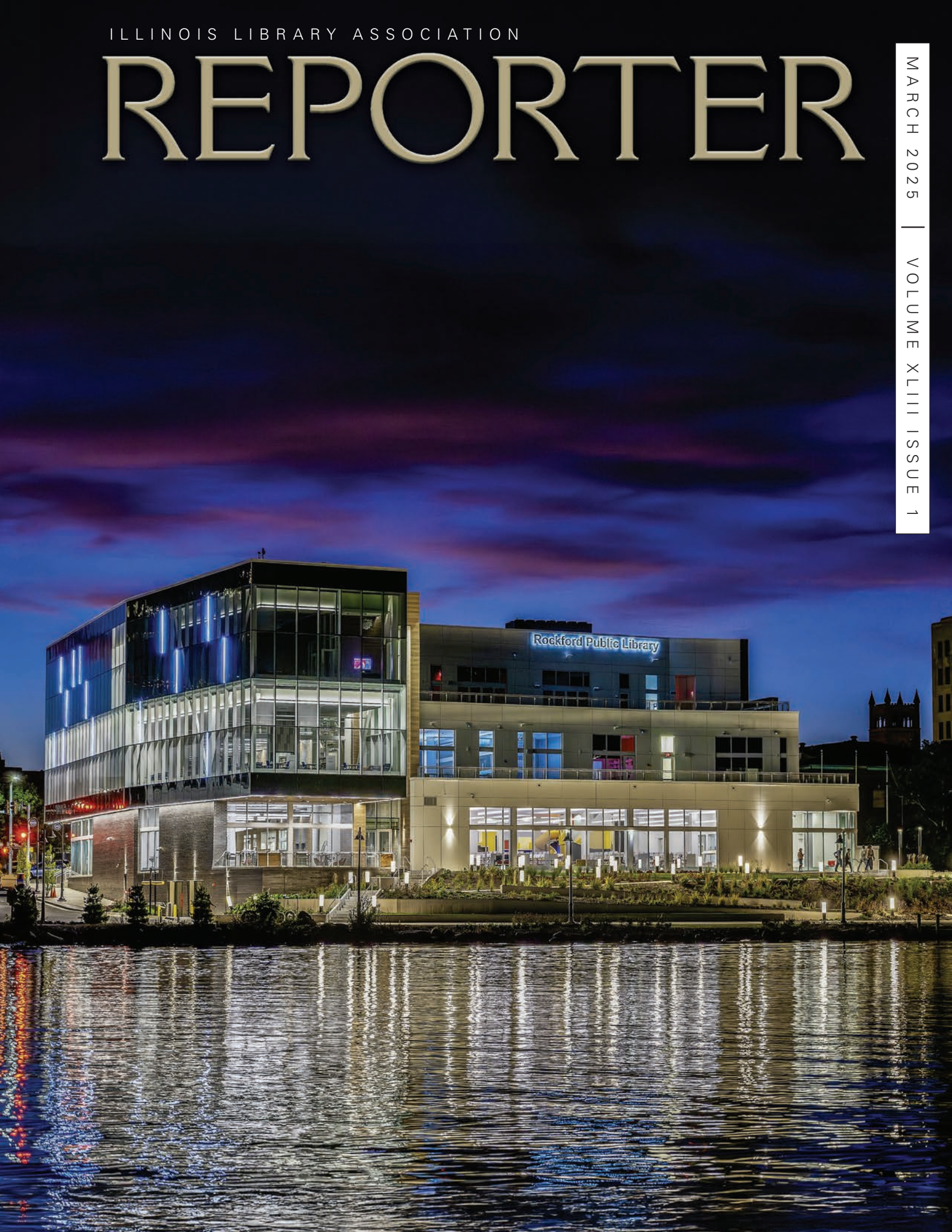


ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# REPORTER

MARCH 2025

VOLUME XLIII ISSUE 1



# The Illinois Library Association Reporter

is a forum for those who are improving and reinventing Illinois libraries, with articles that seek to: explore new ideas and practices from all types of libraries and library systems; examine the challenges facing the profession; and inform the library community and its supporters with news and comment about important issues. The *ILA Reporter* is produced and circulated with the purpose of enhancing and supporting the value of libraries, which provide free and equal access to information. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people.



## ON THE COVER

The newly constructed main branch of the Rockford Public Library is a state-of-the-art facility situated along the city's Riverwalk. The original library was opened in 1903, funded by an Andrew Carnegie grant, on a site the city passed over for construction of Memorial Hall due to "the stench." It wasn't until decades later that it became known "the stench" was due to the library sitting atop contaminated soil. The Library Board negotiated with ComEd, who had inherited the issue and accepted responsibility, along with other Illinois utility companies, to clean up thousands of sites in the state. Negotiations went on from 2010-2017 and initially, it was thought that library operations could temporarily be moved while the original site was cleaned up. However, it became apparent that to truly resolve the issue, the library would need to be torn down. Community members rallied around their library and let it be known they wanted the library to remain on the riverfront. In the fall of 2016, the library received approval to purchase the land the library stood on along with the land for the interim location. The main branch closed in November 2017 and the grand opening was held on June 22, 2024. The new library embodies the aspirations of the community as well as the cultural significance of the library in defining opportunities for area residents.

The Illinois Library Association is collaboratively shaping a strong future for libraries in Illinois, providing leadership, advocacy, partnership, and learning for the benefit of Illinois libraries. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

The Illinois Library Association has seven full-time staff members. It is governed by a sixteen-member executive board, made up of elected officers. The association employs the services of Blaida and Associates for legislative advocacy. ILA is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization.

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# Library Buildings

# 2024

Sixteen public libraries are showcased this year. These libraries range from those serving populations under 5,000 all the way up to over 145,000 in communities across the state. Bright childrens' and teen spaces, meeting and activity rooms, and an emphasis on meeting the needs of all community members are the prominent focus of the featured libraries. Two libraries had completely new builds while others received long-overdue renovations. It's evident from the patrons' quotes in the "What people are saying" sections that libraries continue to be important places to meet, learn, work, study, connect, and more for their communities.

# Algonquin Area Public Library District - Eastgate Branch



Architect:	Product Architecture + Design
Construction Firm:	SMC Construction Services
Type of Project:	Renovation
Total Cost:	\$6,000,000
Service Population:	40,679
Library Director:	Sara Murray

## What People are Saying:

"I am really impressed by how they took such a small space and put so much into it to benefit the community."

"It's so nice to see other kids in the neighborhood here. It's a great place to come together!"

"We should come here every time we have homework!" - two middle school girls touring the library on the day it reopened

**About the Project:** The Eastgate Branch transformation was completed on time and within budget, creating a vibrant, modern library. Featuring sustainable geothermal heating and cooling, the redesign reflects our commitment to environmental responsibility while offering thoughtful amenities like a colorful children's area, versatile program space, and a welcoming outdoor patio. Reopened on January 6, 2025, the library was thrilled to welcome the community back to this incredible space!



# Berwyn Public Library



Construction Firm:	G. Fisher Construction
Type of Project:	Children's Makerspace Expansion
Total Cost	\$22,519
Service Population:	55,534
Library Director:	Tammy Sheedy

## What People are Saying:

"We love the extra space."

"I love to bring my kids here to play."

**About the Project:** With this expansion, we were able to double the size of the kids' makerspace. This allowed for more tables and chairs. It also now allows us to host programs in the room.





# Bloomington Public Library



Architect:	Anderson Architects
Construction Firm:	Felmley-Dickerson Co.
Type of Project:	Expansion/Renovation
Total Cost	\$25,490,850
Service Population:	78,680
Library Director:	Jeanne Hamilton

**About the Project:** On August 1, 2024, following 26 months of construction—a time in which much planning and care was taken to continuously offer full library services in half the accustomed space—a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to help officially introduce the public to its newly expanded and renovated state-of-the-art library. This awe-inspiring facility offers great new spaces including an Innovation Lab, 2 Recording Studios, 9 Study Rooms (including a 12-person Conference Room), 3 Community Rooms, a Discovery Zone play area for kids, a permanent Drive-Up Window, and more. The construction project added more than 21,000 sq ft to the library’s current footprint and saw the renovation of more than 57,000 sq ft of existing space.

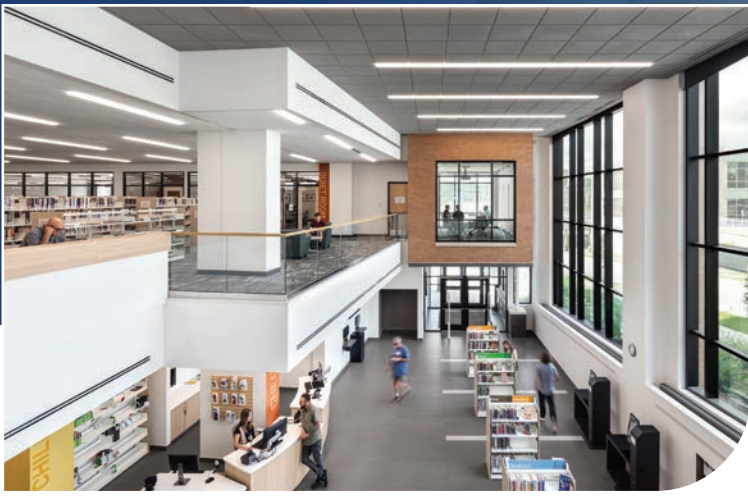
## What People are Saying:

“You can check out books, sit in wiggly chairs, and have snacks. I love this library!”

“When the library was a site for the statewide convening of Illinois Humanities’ Envisioning Justice initiative, attendees from across the state marveled at the available resources, technology, and filtered light that pervaded their workspace.”

“That’s what I like about this library, it keeps getting better.”

“This is going to be incredible. I’m so happy about it!”



# Caseyville Public Library District



Architect:	FGM Architects
Construction Firm:	Holland Construction Services
Type of Project:	New Building
Total Cost:	\$1,671,000
Service Population:	4,372
Library Director:	Ashley Stewart (2017-2023), Jackie Keck (2023-present)

## What People are Saying:

"This looks amazing! Love the color scheme and furnishings. It's very welcoming."

"You can tell a lot of care went into this library. You all did a great job!"

"Beautiful. So much easier to browse and love the inclusive language and bilingual signage."

**About the Project:** Caseyville Public Library partnered with its local school district to trade its land parcel for the opportunity to build a new library building. The new library opened in August 2024 and includes a variety of flexible seating options, ADA accessibility, an expanded children's section, meeting and study rooms, dedicated outdoor space for community gardens, bilingual signage, and more workspace for library operations. The new Caseyville Elementary School building was built on the same campus as the library, creating a seamless connection between the two learning centers.



# Crete Public Library District



Architect:	Engineering Solutions Team
Construction Firm:	Metropolitan Corp.
Type of Project:	Pavilion & Garden Expansion
Total Cost:	\$443,000
Service Population:	17,099
Library Director:	David Sieffert

## What People are Saying:

"I've never seen a library do so much for their community! Wonderful job. Crete is a very lucky town with a fabulous library and staff."

"Beautiful pavilion."

"Beautiful grounds, lovely place to visit."

"Mini concerts? Wedding pictures? Many possibilities!"

**About the Project:** The Heideman Pavilion & Community Garden was identified and developed by the Library's Board of Trustees as a way to bring new and innovative experiences, programs, and services to residents of Crete. Additionally, it was a longstanding goal of the Library to find ways to better utilize the Library's 8 acres of property. In 2023, longtime Crete resident and patron Jan Heideman passed away and the Library was left a substantial sum from her estate. This project was funded in part by these proceeds. Additional capital from the Library's existing Special Reserve Fund was also used.



# Evans Public Library District



Architect:	Dewberry
Construction Firm:	Johannes Construction
Type of Project:	New Construction
Total Cost:	\$5,800,000
Service Population:	11,960
Library Director:	Jessica Blain

## What People are Saying:

"The new library is the jewel of our town."

"We are so fortunate to have a new modern library."

"Wow—just wow!!"

"The Children's Area is inviting and fun."

"The new library is a beautiful asset to our community."

**About the Project:** This project would not have been possible without the Illinois State Library Public Library Construction Act Grant.





# Galesburg Public Library



Architect:	FEH Design
Construction Firm:	Williams Brothers Construction Inc.
Type of Project:	New Construction
Total Cost:	\$22,036,000
Service Population:	30,000
Library Director:	Noelle Thompson

**About the Project:** The long-awaited project was made possible by the Public Library Construction Act Grant and the incredible generosity of Galesburg residents and local supporters.

## What People are Saying:

"I'm happy that we have a bigger location for our books. It only goes stronger and better with love."

"Everything looks great so happy we have this big nice library for our community. Thank you!"

"This new library is AMAZING! Thank you for your hard work setting this up for all of us!"

"Everything is AWESOME. So much thought went into planning this awesome library. Thank you for all you did."



# Glen Ellyn Public Library



Architect:	Product Architecture + Design
Construction Firm:	Shales McNutt Construction
Type of Project:	Makerspace Renovation
Total Cost:	\$450,000
Service Population:	29,000
Library Director:	Dawn Bussey

## What People are Saying:

“Wow, we get to use all of this equipment and it’s free!”

“The new maker has a cool industrial feel. You don’t have to be worried about being messy or breaking things while you’re working on something.”

“Our community needed a space that offers technology and a place to make things and we’re so happy to have it!”

**About the Project:** Adapting space on the 2nd floor of the library to create a makerspace has given visitors access to equipment to build digital literacy and feed their curiosity! Maker programs have been extremely popular, and attendees have been thrilled to learn how to use equipment, create custom gifts, and meet other people with common interests.



# Illinois Prairie District Public Library - Metamora Branch



Architect:	Dewberry
Construction Firm:	Diamond Design & Construction
Type of Project:	Renovation
Total Cost:	\$1,295,687.01
Service Population:	21,481
Library Director:	Dawn Smith

## What People are Saying:

“Congratulations! What a beautiful space!”

“It’s so well done. It’s beautiful and modern inside, and it really looks inviting!”

“It was long-awaited...and well-designed. Good reading spaces with comfy furniture, a decent conference room, new craft area, lots of glass and openness, and a pleasing décor.”

“The mural is stunning. Such a nice addition to the library and the town.”

**About the Project:** This renovation was long overdue. When this project was announced, a few long-time patrons commented how the library had not changed very much since they were kids, and they were looking forward to seeing the improvements. The building was completely gutted. The floorplan was restructured to add a dedicated makerspace. Two study rooms that combine into a larger meeting room were also added. The furniture design added multiple work, reading, and play zones where none existed previously.



# La Grange Park Public Library



Architect:	Jamie Zaura and Megan Harte, 845 Design Group
Construction Firm:	Leopardo Construction
Type of Project:	Renovation
Total Cost:	\$5,700,000
Service Population:	13,508
Library Director:	Gabe Oppenheim

## What People are Saying:

"This was a long time coming and we all deserve this!"

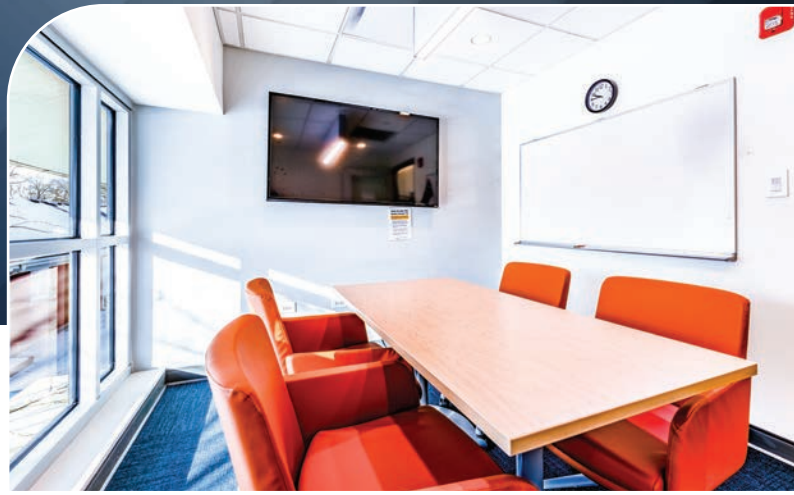
"The carpet is so colorful and cozy!"

"It looks beautiful, the color scheme is great!"

"I'm grateful that the YA materials are outside the Teen Lounge, since it allows adults who like to read YA books to browse without disturbing the teens."

**About the Project:** The library embarked on this renovation to correct serious issues with the building envelope and to modernize its interior, which was last renovated in 2005. Key improvements included an expanded Children's Department and the addition of a Teen Lounge, study rooms, and a makerspace. The library was renovated for the community, and their impressions of the finished product, including all the additional amenities, are part of what tells the library's story.





# Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District



Architect:	Linden Group Architects
Construction Firm:	Krause Construction
Type of Project:	Renovation/Expansion
Total Cost:	\$656,943
Service Population:	15,255
Library Director:	Ashley Hopper

## What People are Saying:

"It's amazing what they did!"

"I just think it's exciting to have a library right here in our little town."

"You all did an outstanding job!"

**About the Project:** The Manhattan-Elwood Public Library purchased a building in downtown Elwood that had been vacant for more than 15 years and renovated it into a welcoming new branch.



# Marshall Public Library



Architect:	Farnsworth Group
Construction Firm:	Hannig Construction
Type of Project:	Renovation/Expansion
Total Cost:	\$860,767
Service Population:	15,088
Library Director:	Alyson Thompson

**About the Project:** The Marshall Public Library occupies 2 adjacent historic mercantile structures in the City’s Downtown National Register of Historic Places Historic District. In 2018, Farnsworth Group was retained to create a master plan for renovation of the existing library areas on the ground floor, as well as ultimate expansion to the 2nd floor in the future, as funding permitted. Phase II of the master plan was completed in December 2024 and included installation of a new elevator to make the library fully accessible to patrons as well as partial renovation of the 2nd floor to provide a meeting room, reading area, and space for book stacks. The 2nd floor space features a new single-user restroom and space for the new mechanical equipment. Since the elevator was installed within the existing meeting room on the 1st floor, this room was modified to accommodate a smaller meeting room and a secure elevator lobby.

## What People are Saying:

“This renovation not only preserved local materials and a cherished historic downtown building but also provided the community with a space they can truly call their own—a source of pride and connection for generations to come.”

“Wow! This space feels like stepping into another world, blending modern design with the charm of a vibrant downtown area.”

“It’s fascinating to see the history of the building come to life, imagining the days when buggies passed through and skylights provided natural light before electricity.”



# North Riverside Public Library District



Architect:	Studio GC
Construction Firm:	Jenelle Madrigal
Type of Project:	Renovation
Total Cost:	\$8,900
Service Population:	7,426
Library Director:	Natalie (Bazan) Starosta

## What People are Saying:

"As a developmental therapist that works in the community, I absolutely love this option for our kiddos!! Check out the Baby Garden at the NR library. Such a great safe space for little ones to get their energy out."

"I never would have thought we needed this in North Riverside, I'll be back tomorrow with friends!" – father of an 8-month old

**About the Project:** The former Youth Services office was transformed into a new Baby Garden. Opening in December 2024 at the library's Holiday Open House, usage stats have been tremendous!



# Rockford Public Library



Architect:	Engberg Anderson / Studio GWA
Construction Firm:	Scandoli Construction
Type of Project:	New Building
Total Cost:	\$39,000,000
Service Population:	146,120
Library Director:	Lynn Stainbrook

**About the Project:** The Rockford Public Library invites people in with 4 terraces, an attached programming venue with room for up to 180 people, and a three-story gallery space which brings in museum quality travelling exhibits for the library’s patrons to experience. The library features dedicated spaces for job creation with resources for the unemployed including classes, interview prep and skills training, partnership with local businesses, video and audio courses, and enhanced use of the makerspace to promote developing the skillsets of the local workforce to support area businesses. Additional areas of focus include a marketplace, interactive youth services, a maker lab and studios, a teen zone, quiet reading rooms, a local history and archive, and an outdoor play space.

## What People are Saying:

“This stunning new library represents everything we aspire to be as a city—forward-thinking, welcoming, and committed to lifelong learning. The way it embraces our beautiful Rock River while providing cutting-edge resources for every citizen speaks volumes about Rockford’s bright future.”  
- Thomas McNamara, Mayor, Rockford, IL

“I love how there’s a special kids’ area with a cool playhouse and a spinning slide! I can pick my books, play with Lego or watch boats on the river through the big windows. My mom lets me use the computers while she stays with the twins in the baby area. I made two new friends in the video game room!” -Nolan Goodale, Age 9





# Schaumburg Township District Library



Architect:	Product Architecture + Design
Construction Firm:	Featherstone Project + Construction Management
Type of Project:	Renovation
Total Cost:	\$12,400,000
Service Population:	130,000
Library Director:	Annie Miskewitch

## What People are Saying:

“Wow, this is like the Taj Mahal!”

“Just wanted everyone involved in the re-design of this library to know that they did an outstanding job. So much open space. Love the different desk and seating options. Colors are great. Bathrooms are even beautiful. Great job!”

“The library is awesome. The 2nd floor renovation is a perfect combination of old-school library and high-tech library. With plenty of quiet space. I’ll be back.”

**About the Project:** The interior renovation of the entire second floor included reconfiguring the non-fiction collection; a new teen and programming room; meeting, conference, and study rooms; a dedicated local history room; a makerspace; and a new board room and reconfiguration of the administrative and staff offices. The overall design was organized around the existing central stair and 2-story atrium space that floods the area with light, guiding patrons to the spaces described above. All new furniture, finishes, and lighting were an integral component of the finished design creating an updated environment for patrons of all ages to enjoy.

Director Miskewitch offers, “We are so very proud to offer our community a destination location where they can relax, study, learn, and connect with all of our staff and services. This is an amazing space to have available to the community as we continue to think about the future and our patrons’ needs.”



# Zion-Benton Public Library District



Architect:	Product Architecture + Design
Construction Firm:	Effraim Carlson & Sons
Type of Project:	Renovation
Total Cost:	\$650,000
Service Population:	42,836
Library Director:	Robin Smith

**About the Project:** The new Teen Space is located in a nook within the Adult Services Department and is planned to take advantage of the adjacent makerspace and meeting room for afternoon and evening programming. The new space is visually defined by brightly colored sound panels and pendants, and it has a variety of seating types for studying, socializing, reading, and crafting. Director Smith says, “From my perspective, before the library had this space, the teens and tweens had no place to light. They milled about, not welcome with the younger kids and scowled at by the adults. It was tough. This space allows staff to be present, but not invasive in their space. Truly a third space with trusted adults and the chance to be with friends.”

## What People are Saying:

“The ZBLibrary Teen Space has been a cool place to be myself. I can hang out with friends, play games on an iPad, or grab an Uno deck and challenge the librarian. It’s the place I spend most of my time outside of school.”

“It’s a great place for when I don’t want to be home. I don’t want to be cooped up in my room all day. I can meet up with my close friends in the Space.”

“I like that I can read an anime book, make bracelets, and play a game with my friends all in the same space on the same day. I can even get snacks!”

“I grew up in Zion and would have loved to have a space like this when I was a teenager. I remember having to run all the way home if I forgot a hygiene product. Y’all have them here for the kids to just take. I could have really used a place like this to spend time with my friends and have positive experiences with adults [librarians] since I didn’t have that at home. I am so glad the kids here get to have this now.”



| **Todd Miller**, Niles-Maine District Library; **Liz Poppenhouse**, Indian Trails Public Library District; **Jimmy Gonzalez-Vicker**, Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District; & **Selicia Applegate**, Palatine Public Library District |

# The Community Impact of Makerspaces

**A**s the inclusion and development of the maker movement in libraries has grown, these learning destinations have become integral spaces that serve a variety of different makers and learners. Crafters and DIY-ers may be one of the core group of users, but new users have been emerging, including people who utilize these spaces for entrepreneurial, economic, and educational purposes. These developments have been positively impactful and genuinely show how these learning opportunities have interesting and unique impacts on their community.

Just as libraries come in all shapes and sizes, so do makerspaces. Makerspaces and fabrication labs often include equipment such as laser engravers/cutters, 3D printers, vinyl cutters, CNC (computer numerical control) machines, sewing machines, embroidery machines, and more! While some libraries are fortunate enough to have allocated budgets, dedicated physical space, and designated staff, maker learning does not always have to happen in a specific makerspace. Some libraries have vinyl cutters on a cart or a laser cutter with portable exhaust, either of which can be stored away and brought out for specific programs or events.

Often, these creative spaces include elements that can resemble a digital production studio, such as dedicated rooms or spaces within makerspaces that facilitate uses like recording and editing audio, greenscreens for filming video, and software for editing video as well.

In the digital production studio, which is part of the Creative Studio at Niles-Maine District Library (NMDL), library patrons use the space for entrepreneurial and economic development. One patron uses the space to record content for an online radio show on the iHeartRadio network, while another patron, a pet grief psychotherapist, learns the art of podcasting, with the intention of creating a passive income stream as she nears her retirement years.

Both of these use cases highlight people who have the means to make this content in their homes or offices, but choose to utilize the library. Factors for this include having a space free of distraction and outside noises that can bleed into audio recording and staff available for software and hardware troubleshooting assistance, one-on-one learning appointments, or additional resource recommendations.







Patrons at NMDL have the option to choose from a variety of ways to learn these audio recording skills, whether it is through library programs (a three-part podcasting series in the summer of 2023), one-on-one appointments with staff who are familiar with the process, or self-guided learning with the assistance of staff-created how-to manuals.

At Indian Trails Public Library (ITPL), the creative space, known as the Launch Pad, facilitates solutions to problems that community members have identified. One such example is the use of the 3D printer being used to create keyguards for speech and language pathologists to use with students' iPads. These 3D printed keyguards, which are placed over the screen of an iPad and help students select the correct keys to communicate, cost a fraction of the retail price of the product.

Staff, and therefore the larger library community at ITPL, also benefit from the Launch Pad. The availability of equipment in the Launch Pad creates efficiency and saves the library money. The ability to create vinyl and acrylic signs, fabricate 3D printed parts to repair library equipment for the Facilities Department, and use sewing machines to repair damaged checkout bags and make book cart covers has saved staff time and money. These uses represent advantages of the creative space that reach beyond facilitating craft projects.

At Palatine Public Library District (PPLD), the Workshop fulfills both economic and personalization needs by enabling couples who are planning weddings to create memories with one-of-a-kind

wedding decorations and elements. Members of the community use the Workshop's vinyl cutter, laser cutter, and other equipment to create custom cake toppers, invitations, seating place cards, and more. These services allow users to create the wedding of their dreams and save money while doing it.

Another example of dreams fulfilled at PPLD's Workshop is a patron who is a retired electrical engineer and who saved the schematics for making a personal computer that he purchased at 13-years-old in 1963. Over the course of 55 hours, he used the space to 3D print all the pieces he needed to finally make the computer he aspired to all of those years ago.

Skokie Public Library (SPL) offers many life-long learning opportunities to students who attend Oakton College, a two-campus college in Des Plaines and Skokie, Illinois. Engineering students primarily attend classes at the Skokie Campus. While Oakton has 3D printers and other maker/fabrication equipment, they are usually only accessible to students who are taking a class that uses that equipment. The Studio at SPL provides access to students of all disciplines who are interested in prototyping, computer-aided design, and applied STEAM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). There is also a different level of engagement as there is no fee or hard deadlines associated with projects; the Studio is a self-guided makerspace where visitors can set their own learning goals. The informal learning environment of the Studio lets learners explore at their own pace with less pressures than one may experience in a purely academic environment.



One of the most important parts of the service model in the SPL Studio is the use of learning guides. Staff developed custom, step-by-step instructions that guide Studio users working with the software and equipment in the makerspace. These guides have clear visuals in addition to the written instructions to accommodate different types of learning and are an incredible tool when training new staff and making instructional videos. Detailed written and visual instructions are helpful when setting expectations with Studio users as they are in a self-guided space and have the power to pursue their own projects, many of which have similar starting points. It also removes the ideology that any process that is learned must be remembered for their next visit.

All of the previously mentioned examples show that when looking closer, there are a wide array of uses and needs being facilitated by creative spaces in libraries. In order to continue to facilitate diverse usage of the spaces, libraries must continue to find novel ways of reaching and engaging with the community. This engagement not only encourages use, but it also shows the public what is possible within these spaces.



At Indian Trails Public Library, the staff of the Launch Pad is entering its second year of its Maker-in-Residence Program. The first year of the program featured a resident artist that both taught programs and created a community art project which was then displayed in the library. Members had the chance to learn techniques from a working artist and beautify the library space with the finished project.

To celebrate Black History Month, Palatine Public Library District used the space to create a Freedom Quilt. A series of programs detailed the history of the coded blocks while also educating participants about the steps of making a quilt. After being featured at Chicago's Observation Deck at the Hancock Center, as a part of its Juneteenth celebration event, the quilt is now displayed in the library, serving as a point of pride for those who contributed to its making and education for those seeing it for the first time.

Niles-Maine District Library uses its Creative Studio eNewsletter and its in-house created podcast, *Tech Bytes*, to engage with library patrons. In the eNewsletter, regular users of the space are featured with a brief Q&A and patron- and staff-created projects are featured to show what is possible in the space. Similarly, *Tech Bytes* ends each episode informing listeners that "*Tech Bytes* is recorded in Studio A on the lower level of the Niles-Maine District Library, where Niles-Maine cardholders have access to the recording equipment and software that were used to produce this episode." This is a way of showing listeners what is possible with library resources, rather than just telling them about it.



The Studio at Skokie Public Library has a program series called the “Patron Projects Showcase” that provides patrons the opportunity to display their projects and share their process and experiences with other library patrons. Regular Studio users have been invited to share their work and answer patron questions, furthering their sense of belonging in the Studio.

The impact of a makerspace often reaches beyond the dedicated room, program space, or traveling cart it’s run from. Makerspaces give library users the ability to nourish their creativity and come together as a community in ways

that are new and exciting. By entering these areas of inclusive experimentation, our communities are making lasting connections across ages, backgrounds, and interests because of these collaborative spaces. Trying a new piece of equipment or technology, learning a new skill, picking up an old hobby, or meeting someone with similar interests is possible and accessible with a visit to the library’s makerspace. The library makerspace sets a strong foundation of the library as a third space, allowing staff and patrons to build community through making. **IIA**





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▲▲▲ Indicates 2025 Award-Winner ▲▲▲

# Banned Books Café

**W**ith the rise of book bans spreading throughout the country, the annual American Library Association's (ALA) Banned Books Week campaign has gained increasing importance. Every year since ALA started Banned Books Week in 1982, the Eisenhower Public Library District has honored the campaign by creating displays, handing out materials like bookmarks and buttons, and trying to increase awareness of book bans both past and present. We also make it a point to encourage everyone to read titles and stories that speak to them. But as book bans flared up around the country, particularly during the years of the pandemic, we decided we needed to do even more. In 2023, we opened a Banned Books Café.

During Banned Books Week 2023 we spent our mornings from 10:00-12:00 serving coffee, cookies, and banned books. We handed out buttons, postcards patrons could use to write to their legislators, bookmarks, and ALA's banned book data and Field Reports. We stamped their postcards and offered to mail them. Each book we were giving away had a Wild West-style "Wanted" poster with the reasons for its banning, along with display copies of the books for browsing.



“As book bans flared up around the country, particularly during the years of the pandemic, we decided we needed to do even more.”

# WANTED

WE ARE WATER PROTECTORS

BY: CAROLE LINDSTROM



AKA "BANNED BOOK"



ACCUSATIONS: DIVISIVE, RACIST, SOCIALIST





We wanted to show the breadth of bans occurring across the country. To do this we made sure that our giveaways included YA and juvenile titles, as well as adult fiction and nonfiction. We started the week with nine titles—five copies of each. They included:

- *Drama* by Raina Telgemeier (Juvenile, YA) (Stonewall honor book and Best Book 2012 from *Publishers Weekly* and others) This graphic novel about a group of drama students was banned repeatedly in Texas for a crush between two male friends.
- *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess (Adult Fiction) (One of 100 best English language novels from *Time* and Modern Library) A dystopian view of youth culture that lands on ALA's 100 Most Challenged List, often for "objectionable language." Banned in Utah, Colorado, Connecticut, Alabama, and Florida.
- *Maus* by Art Spiegelman (YA, Adult) (Winner of the Eisner Award, Pulitzer Prize, and *LA Times* fiction award) Another graphic novel, this one depicting the Holocaust through the eyes of mice and cats. Listed as being removed in Tennessee because of profanity, violence, nudity, and a depiction of suicide.
- *And Tango Makes Three* by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson (Picture Book) (ALA Notable Children's Books Nominee, a Bank Street Best Book, ASPCA Award) Two male penguins raise a baby penguin together. One of the most banned books in the country, including in Florida and California, said to be unsuitable for younger children because of "homosexual overtones."
- *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls (Adult Nonfiction) (Alex Award, Christopher Award, Books for Better Living Award) A memoir recounting the author's dysfunctional and often homeless upbringing. Banned in Wisconsin and Michigan for sexual content and offensive language.
- *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel (Adult Nonfiction) (A *New York Times* bestseller that won the Stonewall Award and Eisner Award) The reasons for banning this graphic memoir in Missouri, Utah, New Jersey, South Dakota, and Wisconsin are listed as pornography and the promotion of a gay and lesbian lifestyle.
- *Nickel and Dimed: On Not Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich (Adult Nonfiction) (YALSA Outstanding Books for the College Bound, Laanan Award, Erasmus Award) A true story of the author working a series of low-wage jobs to show the effects of capitalism. Banned in Pennsylvania, Kansas, and North Carolina for promoting socialism, belittling Christians, and promoting drug use.
- *The Adventures of Captain Underpants* by Dav Pilkey (Juvenile) (Buckeye Award, Kids' Choice Book Award, Garden State Children's Book Award) A graphic novel about two fourth grade boys doing what fourth grade boys do; listed as being banned in Iowa for violent imagery.

We also highlighted *The Carnival at Bray* by Jessie Ann Foley, a local author. This YA novel was shortlisted for both ALA's Printz and Morris awards. It's the story of a girl coming of age in Ireland and was banned in Tennessee, Utah, Florida, South Carolina, and Iowa for having "pornographic" material. Unfortunately, this title wasn't included in our giveaways because it was no longer in print. While there were eBook and eAudio copies available, not everyone has access to those formats. We were able to find a used copy in good condition, but for a Foley giveaway we used her newest book, *Breda's Island*. (In the good news department *The Carnival at Bray* has been reissued by Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollins.)

We capped the week with an in-person visit from Foley. She spent an hour chatting with patrons about the effects of book banning and censorship. This was especially compelling because she's a high school English teacher who has seen the consequences of book bans for both her students and herself, as well as students around the country. We gave our one precious copy of *The Carnival at Bray* away in a random drawing.

By the end of the week we had given away all of our books, (44 in total) minus one copy of *Drama*. Our café drop-in attendees were all positive about the event. We had conversations on book banning in general and dialogues about why we'd chosen our titles for giveaways. We mailed out postcards, people took all of our ALA Field Reports, and the stickers we'd made turned out to be a big hit.

For 2024, we expanded the program. We still had our coffee and cookies every day during Banned Books Week, and we still had all our giveaways, including our books with their "Wanted" posters. However, we stayed open an hour longer each day, and this time we had 11 titles. They included:

- *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom (Picture Book) (Caldecott Winner) A First Nations look at why the world needs to protect its water. Banned in Pennsylvania and Michigan for being divisive, racist, and socialist.
- *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate (Juvenile) (NPR, *Publishers Weekly*, and *New York Times* Best Book) A story about a monoecious red oak—a tree with both male and female reproductive parts—that is willing to use any pronoun. Banned in Virginia for indoctrination.
- *Bone* by Jeff Smith (Graphic Novel) (Eisner Award) The Bone cousins are transported from their world to a new place unlike anything they've known. Banned in New Mexico, Minnesota, and Texas for violence, racism, and political viewpoint.
- *Mr. Watson's Chickens* by Jarrett Dapier (Picture Book) (NPR Best Book, JLG selection) A book about a gay couple who own chickens. Banned in Illinois and Alabama.
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck (Classic)(BBC Best Loved Novel, Book of the Month Club) A novella set during the Depression. Banned in Tennessee, Massachusetts, Idaho, Missouri, and Minnesota for vulgarity, racism, treatment of women, racial slurs, and negative effects on students.
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote (True Crime) (Edgar Award) A nonfiction murder novel banned for violence, sex, and profanity in California and Georgia.
- *The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Gorman (Poetry) (Biden's inauguration poem) Banned in Florida for hate messages, critical race theory, and not being educational.
- *Love in the Library* by Maggie Tokuda-Hall (Picture Book) (Stars from Booklist, *Publishers Weekly*, *School Library Journal*) Scholastic, based in New York, asked the author to leave out her note at the end citing the atrocity of the creation of Japanese incarceration camps.
- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll (Classic) (Critical praise in the 1900s.) Banned in the United States for encouraging the evolving drug culture with its "overt" allusions to hallucinogenic drug use.





Book & Mug Sticker by Ceylan Yildiz, Eisenhower Public Library

- *The Henna Wars* by Adiba Jaigirdar (Young Adult) (*Time's* 100 Best Young Adult Books) This story of a Bangladeshi teen coming out in high school was banned in Tennessee for LGBTQ+ themes, lesbian portrayals, religious minority characters, and Islamic themes.
- *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sanchez (Young Adult) (National Book Award finalist) The story of Julia growing up in Chicago was banned in Texas for strong language and a negative portrayal of religious faith.

We hosted 80 walk-ins and gave away all of our books, except for one copy of *Of Mice and Men* (65 giveaways). We created a map of the United States with color-coded pins plugged into states where our chosen titles were banned. It made an interesting visual display because you could see where books had been banned across the country, coast-to-coast, and across the political spectrum.

For our author visit, we invited Jarrett Dapier, who wrote *Mr. Watson's Chickens*. This charming book is about Mr. Watson and Mr. Nelson and their chickens. Those chickens multiplied until Mr. Nelson threatened to move out, and Mr. Watson knew that as much as he “loved his chickens, he loved Mr. Nelson more.” This line seemed to be the bone of contention that ignited several bans, including a loss of speaking engagements in Illinois and, in Shelby, Alabama,

the firing of a library board, a director, and a loss of library staff. Dapier, a librarian himself, also spoke about the support he received from Spanish Fork, Alabama. There, the book was challenged but stayed on the shelf when people showed up en masse saying they wanted to keep the book right where it was.

One of our favorite comments at the end of his presentation was from a woman who told us how angry she was about the entire book banning trend. Several other patrons, including one of our board members, commented on how much they'd learned.

The Banned Books Café is an infinitely customizable program that could work in a library of any size, and at any price point. You could buy just one copy of each book and do a random raffle as we did with *The Carnival at Bray*. You could open for just one day, or expand the hours. You could add more titles, or more copies of your chosen books. You could also host your café in conjunction with your library-wide Banned Books Week displays.

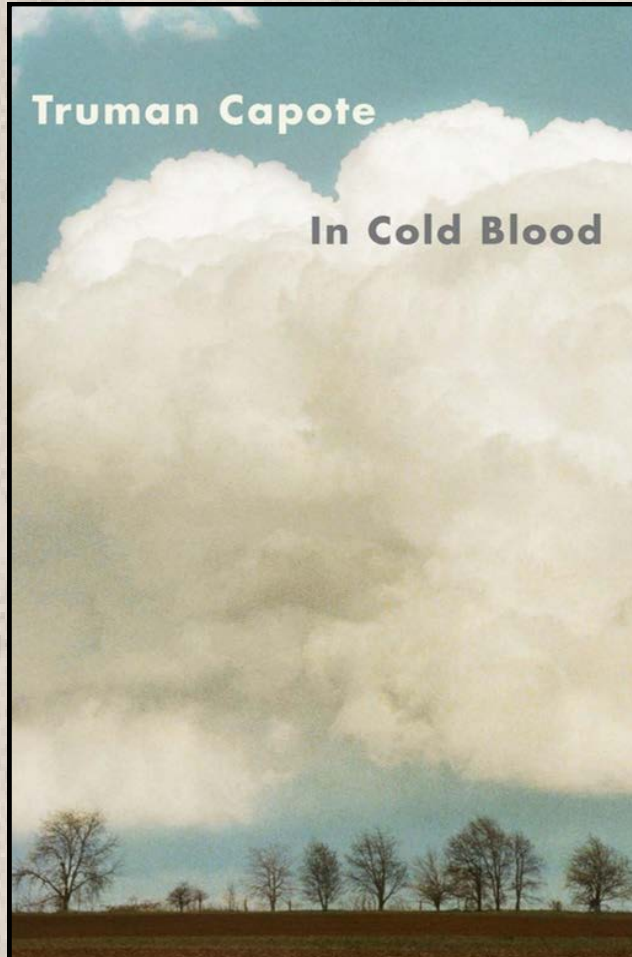
Engage your patrons with books, but don't forget the coffee and treats. Celebrate intellectual freedom and the First Amendment of the Constitution in whatever way best suits your community, but we recommend giving the Banned Books Café a try. **ILA**



# WANTED

## IN COLD BLOOD

BY: TRUMAN CAPOTE



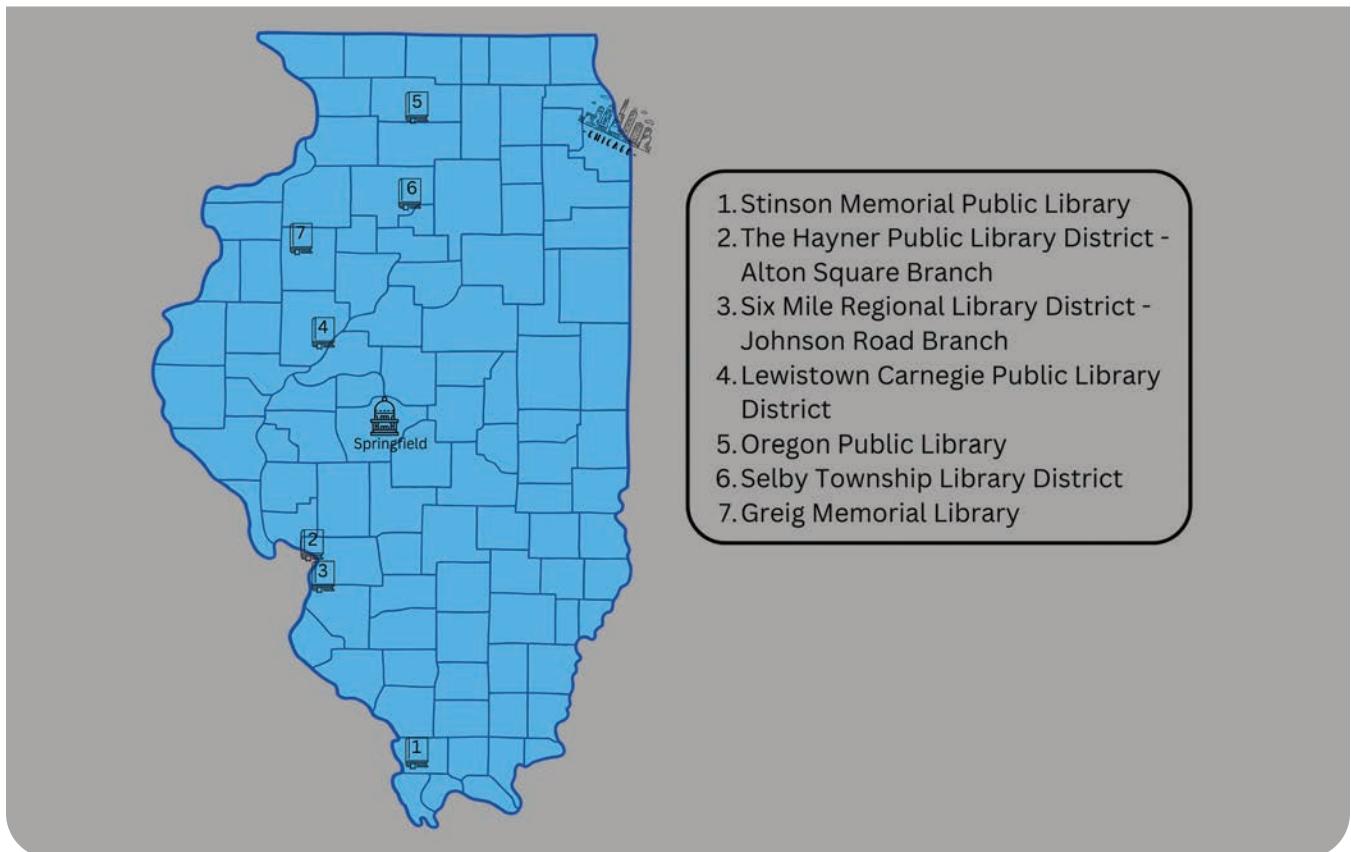
AKA "BANNED BOOK"

ACCUSATIONS: SEX, VIOLENCE, PROFANITY

# Wait, THAT'S A Library?

## Unique Illinois Library Buildings

It's the March issue of the *Reporter*, which means it's the annual opportunity to gaze into the new library construction or renovation projects that demonstrate the cutting edge of library architecture and design. But for every newly renovated or constructed library in Illinois, there are others providing the same services in buildings whose history didn't begin as a library. Other buildings were constructed as libraries, but stand out for their own unique reasons. Let's take a tour across the state to some of these libraries that are gems in their own right!





## STINSON MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Year Built:** 1914

**Original Building Purpose:** Library

**Service Population:** 13,779

**Library Director:** Sarah Watkins

**What Makes the Building Unique:** It is a work of Prairie Style art! World famous architect, landscaper, and city planner Walter Burley Griffin designed the building and oversaw construction with help from his wife, Marion Mahoney Griffin. It was designed in “Prairie Style,” which Director Sarah Watkins describes as having “low-lying geometric designs...blend[ing] in the building’s natural surroundings.” The library has a very distinctive look, from its rows of stained glass windows on the perimeter, to the dark wood exposed beams, to the uncut limestone base. Stinson Memorial just celebrated its 110th anniversary and is still mostly unaltered from its original design. It still has its original boiler heating system (though thankfully air conditioning was added in the 1970s)!

Stinson Memorial Library was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and is currently working with the National Park Services in hopes to be designated as a National Historic Landmark. Watkins and the Library Trustees are dedicated to preserving their unique building. Says Watkins, “In a significant preservation effort, Stinson Library was recently awarded a grant from the Jeffris Family Foundation Heartland Fund. This grant supports a Historic Structure Report led by White & Borgognoni Architects, providing a comprehensive plan for future restoration.”

**Fun Fact:** Walter Burley Griffin was a colleague of Frank Lloyd Wright and planned multiple towns in Australia, including the town of Canberra.



## THE HAYNER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT – ALTON SQUARE BRANCH

**Year Built:** 1978; Library branch has been in the building since 1985

**Original Building Purpose:** Shopping Mall, currently occupies what was a Waldenbooks

**Service Population:** 46,753

**Library Director:** Mary Cordes

**What Makes the Building Unique:** This library branch is located inside a shopping mall! Seven years after the mall’s opening, the mall’s owners donated space on the upper-level for the library’s use. The usage soon outgrew this small (3,800 sq ft) space, and the library expanded another 2,200 square feet in 1997/98. In 2009, the Hayner branch moved to the lower-level and now resides in 20,000 square feet of a former Waldenbooks. While the collection and services have moved downstairs, the library has use of a large programming space on the upper level to hold events. Alton Square Mall isn’t at the geographical center of Hayner’s vast district, but its proximity to bus routes and the major retail corridor make access easier. Two groups who don’t have easy access are the delivery drivers and maintenance staff, since there is no direct entrance to the library and every visitor must traverse the mall!

**Fun Fact:** The Hayner Public Library District – Alton Square Branch was one of the first libraries in Illinois housed in a shopping mall, and one of only a handful of public libraries in the country to be in a mall!





## SIX MILE REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT – JOHNSON ROAD BRANCH

**Year Built:** Groundbreaking in 1986 – Opening in 1988

**Original Building Purpose:** Library

**Service Population:** 39,697

**Library Director:** Tina Hubert

**What Makes the Building Unique:** The library is pre-fabricated! Porta-Structure Industries sold kits for 3,800 square foot library buildings. Promised to be constructed “in a matter of weeks,” Johnson Road’s build was delayed by the builder’s bankruptcy. The branch library houses 22,000 items in the small building, largely in part to its feature of revolving book carousels. Each carousel is housed in its own bay window, giving the steel-framed glass building a distinctive facade. However, these distinctive windows can be difficult to reproduce if broken, so the library keeps a spare in their shed. It is believed that the Johnson Road library is the last standing double Porta-Structure in Illinois!

**Fun Fact:** Mary Jo Akeman, the Library Trustee who discovered Porta-Structure Industries at a library conference, is still on Six Mile’s Board of Trustees.



## LEWISTOWN CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

**Year Built:** 1970; Library opened to the public on January 4, 2021

**Original Building Purpose:** Jehovah’s Witness Kingdom Hall; library addition in 2020

**Service Population:** 4,712

**Library Director:** Jaime Grove

**What Makes the Building Unique:** It’s a church turned library! Originally built as a Jehovah’s Witness kingdom hall, Lewistown library took residence in 2020. Lewistown Library was founded in 1897, but didn’t find a permanent home in a Carnegie building until 1906. Realizing the limitations of the building, the Library Board purchased the church in 2012, and spent the next eight years fundraising for the move. In 2020, the library began an expansion project that incorporated elements of the original building. Some of these features include large windows overlooking the historic Oak Hill Cemetery.

While the Library Board had been planning for this move for years, collecting shelving and furniture from other libraries and Borders stores for their additional space, the construction project didn’t begin in earnest until 2020. Says Director Jaime Grove, “I believe that everyone would agree that 2020 was a crazy year, but for our library it was a blessing. We started on the project early enough in the year so that our materials were ordered and the prices locked in and we didn’t have any issues with supplies not coming in. Also, since places were running on limited hours, the library staff and Board were able to work on the building and move the library without too much disruption to the library’s schedule.”

**Fun Fact:** Lewistown is famous for being the hometown of poet Edgar Lee Masters. Masters’ portrayal of Lewistown residents did not make him popular in the town during his lifetime. In fact, Masters’ mother was on the Library Board that voted to keep his works off the shelves!



## OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Year Built:** 1907

**Original Building Purpose:** Library

**Service Population:** 6,108

**Library Director:** Elizabeth Green

**What Makes the Building Unique:** It has artistic roots! Oregon Public Library has some bona fide credentials! A Carnegie building, it was designed by brothers Allen and Irving Pond, who were members of the Eagle's Nest Art Colony. The Eagle's Nest Art Colony was developed by a group of artists as a summer refuge from Chicago's heat and featured founding members Ralph Clarkson, Oliver Dennett Grover, and Lorado Taft, among others. As part of their lease agreement with the Oregon community, they worked to contribute to the community appreciation of the arts. This led to the creation of an upstairs art gallery featuring sculptures and paintings by a number of artists, including Taft, Bessie Potter Vonnoh, and Charles Francis Browne.

The building is on the National Register of Historic places and has had minimal modifications over the past 117 years. Designed in the "Arts and Craft" style, the building features exposed beams, decorative brickwork, and an original fireplace that has been restored and converted to natural gas. There's also a grandfather clock donated in 1909 by the local women's council that matches the shelving so well it almost looks built in!

**Fun Fact:** The Eagles Nest Art Colony leased the 15 acres of land for \$1 per year and the artists gathered annually in a costumed promenade for a ceremonial paying of the rent.



## SELBY TOWNSHIP LIBRARY DISTRICT

**Year Built:** 1905; Library district moved to the building in 1985

**Original Building Purpose:** Interurban Depot; the building also functioned as a doctor's office in the mid 1900s

**Service Population:** 2,159

**Library Director:** Marcia Broady

**What Makes the Building Unique:** It was a train depot! This library still maintains the look of its original purpose as an interurban train depot. The Illinois Terminal Railroad Company operated electric lines carrying freight and passengers across Illinois from 1896 to 1956 on a dozen routes. When the Depue stop, part of the Rock Island to Chicago route, was decommissioned in the late 1940s/early 1950s, the building became a doctor's office. The library district moved into the building in 1985/86 after expanding from a city library to a district. The remodel in 1985 kept much of the original building, which was fully renovated in 2014 thanks to an Illinois State Library grant, yet kept much of its original look.

**Fun fact:** The building is considered one of the best examples of interurban depots in the country. In 2017, over 75 members and guests of the Illinois/Wisconsin Traction Society took a field trip to the library. Since the building is in such great overall condition, these guests were able to look at the architecture and other various features to see how they functioned when it was a depot.



## GREIG MEMORIAL LIBRARY

**Year Built:** Circa 1880s-1890s

**Original Building Purpose:** Residence; became a library in 1930

**Service Population:** 696

**Library Director:** Autumn Hughes

**What Makes the Building Unique:** It doubles as the librarian's residence! When the library began, the collection was housed in Oneida's City Hall. Hugh Greig left the home and land to the city to be the Greig Memorial Library in honor of his family. Since the library has been in the Greig home, every librarian has resided there. Director Autumn Hughes is the 17th librarian-in-residence, and resides in the upstairs apartment with her family! The home is divided with the librarian's apartment upstairs and the library downstairs. There is a book drop in the front entrance, and separate entrances for the family and patrons. While the commute can't be beat—especially on snowy days—the kitchen is shared between the family and the library.

**Fun Fact:** The library building also houses the Oneida Historical Museum, making every night "*Night at the Museum*" for the residents!





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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ILA Candidates for 2025

The ILA Nominating Committee has announced the 2025 candidates for election in the spring of 2025.

### PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES

(three-year term beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028)

**Rosie Camargo** (South Holland Public Library)

**Rene Leyva** (Fossil Ridge Public Library District)

Any ILA member wishing to be added to the ballot by petition shall be added to the slate and placed in the paired candidate group that most clearly matches the affiliations of the petitioner as determined by the Nominating Committee. Petition candidates for vice president/president-elect will be added to the presidential slate as requested.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(three-year term beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028)

A candidate from each pairing will be elected in accordance with the ILA bylaws as amended at the 1998 ILA Annual Conference; a total of four directors will be elected to serve three-year terms on the ILA Executive Board.

Nominations by petition for an elective office shall be proposed in writing by at least one hundred (100) personal members of the association and delivered to the Executive Office by March 1. Candidates nominated by petition shall be added to the slate and placed in the candidate group that most clearly matches the affiliation of the petitioner. The determination of placement on the slate is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee.

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

**Betsy Mahoney** (Six Mile Regional Library District)

**Leander Spearman** (Belleville Public Library)

**The polls will open electronically April 1, 2025 and close on April 30 at midnight.**

Serving on the Nominating Committee are Ryan Johnson (chair), Amber Creger, Stephanie Davis-Kahl, Leah A. Gregory, Kate Niehoff, Hayley Rightnowar, and Camille Rose.

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

**Kathryn (Kathy) Lind Caudill** (Ela Area Public Library District)

**Tom Stagg** (Alpha Park Public Library District)

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

**Caroline Martin** (Pecatonica High School)

**Heather McCarthy** (Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School)

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

**Matthew Ostercamp**, Brandel Library, North Park University

**Shannon Pohrte**, Elgin Community College

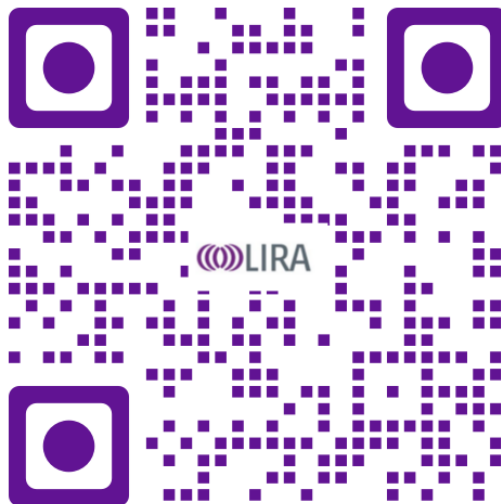






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# ILA Welcomes New Members

On behalf of the ILA community, Executive Board, and staff we would like to welcome our recent new members. We hope as a member of ILA you contribute, grow, and thrive within the library profession and the ILA community; and support ILA's continuing efforts to create and promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

**Organizational Architecture, Inc.**, Cleveland, OH

## INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

**Williamsfield Public Library**, Williamsfield  
**Williamsville Public Library & Museum**, Williamsville

## TRUSTEE MEMBERS

**John Caporale**, Schaumburg Township District Library  
**Yolanda Corner**, Dixmoor Public Library District  
**Elizabeth Hampton**, Dixmoor Public Library District  
**Joy Johnson**, Dixmoor Public Library District  
**Sheila Kimble**, Lewistown Carnegie Public Library District  
**Shuaverta Miles**, Dixmoor Public Library District  
**Cynthia Mossuto**, Dixmoor Public Library District  
**Denise Ruffin**, Dixmoor Public Library District  
**Stacy Smith**, Washington District Library  
**Karen Volk**, Glen Ellyn Public Library

## STUDENT MEMBERS

**Carla Cruse**, Dixon  
**Adrienne Edwards**, Glenview  
**Brian Jared**, Arlington Heights  
**Sara Klein**, Chicago  
**Andrew Matsas**, Chicago  
**Cole Papadopoulos**, Chicago  
**Abigail Sauer**, Davenport, IA  
**Jericho Savage**, Chicago

## PERSONAL MEMBERS

**Tamiara Bowles**, Indian Trails Public Library District  
**Kelly Burns-Davis**, Cossitt School  
**Molly Coyle**, Waukegan Public Library  
**Selene Gonzalez**, Addison Public Library  
**Eric Linnell**, Wilmington Public Library District  
**Bridgid O'Kane**, Schaumburg Township District Library  
**Matthew Ostercamp**, North Park University  
**Rachel Seidner**, McHenry County College Library  
**James Stratton**, Rock Island Public Library  
**Amanda Waller**, Franklin Park Public Library District

# New Illinois Library Luminary



## DIANE MCNULTY

Diane McNulty served as the Executive Director of Cary Area Public Library District (CAPLD) for 29 years, retiring in 2023. McNulty embodies the spirit of the ILA Library Luminaries, having led CAPLD through nearly three decades of population, demographic, and technology changes.

Throughout her tenure as Executive Director, McNulty continued to meet the needs of the changing community and technology including:

- Spearheaded the referendum that created the CAPLD in 1995 by expanding library services to unincorporated Cary and parts of unincorporated Crystal Lake, previously unserved.
- Coordinated the 1999 new library building from donation of land, through funding and construction for which she was awarded the 1999 Public Library Staff Member award from the North Suburban Library System.
- Oversaw a major renovation in 2017 with the addition of a drive-up window, study rooms, makerspace, additional program space, a new automated return system, and more. The addition of the drive-up window was crucial to continuing service to patrons during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Purchased user-friendly Service Center and Tech Desk in 2023. The height-adjustable options led to improved staff productivity, comfort, and service to patrons including children and patrons in wheelchairs.

McNulty's dedication to her library is evident in her accomplishments and how she was always looking for ways to make the library better for all.

Inducted January 16, 2025

# 2024 Library Legislative Meetups by the Numbers

## Legislative Breakfast, South Suburban & Chicago, Alsip, December 3

2024	Attendees: 68	Legislators: 7 (1 elected, 6 staff) out of 44 or 16%
2023	Attendees: 44	Legislators: 11 (6 elected, 5 staff) out of 44 or 25%
2020	Attendees: 57	Legislators: 6 (4 elected, 2 staff) out of 39 or 15%

## Legislative Luncheon, West Suburban & Chicago, Oakbrook, December 3

2024	Attendees: 83	Legislators: 14 (5 elected, 9 staff) out of 34 or 41%
2023	Attendees: 88	Legislators: 14 (7 elected, 7 staff) out of 28 or 50%
2020	Attendees: 113	Legislators: 14 (9 elected, 5 staff) out of 26 or 54%

## Legislative Breakfast, North Suburban & Chicago, Northbrook, December 4

2024	Attendees: 110	Legislators: 18 (7 elected, 11 staff) out of 48 or 38%
2023	Attendees: 96	Legislators: 18 (10 elected, 8 staff) out of 47 or 38%
2020	Attendees: 137	Legislators: 16 (14 elected, 2 staff) out of 41 or 39%

## Legislative Breakfast, Metro East, Edwardsville, December 9

2024	Attendees: 54	Legislators: 5 (4 elected, 1 staff) out of 12 or 42%
2023	Attendees: 48	Legislators: 7 (5 elected, 2 staff) out of 9 or 77%
2020	Attendees: 47	Legislators: 8 (8 elected) out of 15 or 53%

## Legislative Luncheon, Southern Illinois, Effingham, December 9

2024	Attendees: 21	Legislators: 4 (1 elected, 3 staff) out of 13 or 31%
2023	Attendees: 16	Legislators: 7 (2 elected, 5 staff) out of 15 or 46%
2020	Attendees: 57	Legislators: 6 (4 elected, 2 staff) out of 39 or 15%

## Legislative Breakfast, Central Illinois, Bloomington-Normal, December 10

2024	Attendees: 55	Legislators: 0 (0 elected, 0 staff) out of 25 or 0%*
2023	Attendees: 36	Legislators: 8 (3 elected, 5 staff) out of 19 or 42%
2020	Attendees: 39	Legislators: 3 (3 elected) out of 20 or 15%

\*No legislators attended the Central Meetup due to union action at the hotel.

## Legislative Luncheon, Northwest Illinois, DeKalb, December 10

2024	Attendees: 36	Legislators: 8 (2 elected, 6 staff) out of 22 or 36%
2023	Attendees: 26	Legislators: 4 (1 elected, 3 staff) out of 26 or 15%**
2020	Attendees: 31	Legislators: 3 (3 elected) out of 19 or 16%**

\*\*The 2023 Northwest Illinois Meetup was held in Rochelle. The 2020 Western Meetup was held in Galesburg.

US Senators Duckworth and Durbin are invited to Central, North Suburban, and South Suburban in the hopes they or legislative staff will be able to attend at least one Meetup.



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