

COMMITTEE NOTES

Ad Hoc Committee on the 150th Anniversary Meeting Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees August 25, 2023

The Ad Hoc Committee on the 150th Anniversary of the Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Friday, August 25, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. online.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Browne (Chair)
Laura Dominik
Claudia Oñate Greim
Michelle Smirnova
India Williams

STAFF PRESENT: John Herron, Chief Executive
Courtney Christensen, Philanthropy Department Administrator & Project Specialist
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director for Public Affairs and Community Engagement
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth & Family Engagement
Joel Jones, Deputy Director of Library Services
Heather Pedersen, Executive Assistant / Manager of Executive Services
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, Deputy Director for Philanthropy
Debbie Siragusa, Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer
* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

Browne called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Browne provided a brief overview of the mission and goals for the Ad Hoc Committee on the 150th Anniversary. The Committee will provide guidance, input, and support to staff throughout the yearlong 150th anniversary celebration.

Christensen shared how some of our existing programs, such as the Summer Reading & Learning Program, and communications will be tied into the celebration. Events and initiatives unique to the 150th Celebration include:

- systemwide celebrations on December 5th, 2023
- a special 150th speaker series, including quarterly events with high profile speakers and thought leaders
- local youth author series
- a library history video

Staff shared a detailed timeline for events and gave an overview of planned celebrations and promotions:

The Library has a targeted list of speakers staff are working to secure during 2024. Public Affairs has secured Tommi Laitio for the kickoff event and Margaret Atwood for a talk in September, pending asks are out to bring Eve Ewing, Luvvie Ajayi Jones, and Ari Shapiro.

The Library's Exhibits Specialist, Craig Auge, is working on several collaborative and solo exhibitions featuring multidisciplinary and multigenerational artists. Included will be an exhibition of KCPL's complete collection of Childrens Book Week posters (dating back to 1919).

The Summer Reading & Learning Program will be Birthday Party themed for the summer of 2024. Each location will engage with their communities to offer neighborhood-distinctive programming. YFE is also working to secure local authors and illustrators of youth books for monthly programs.

We are working with strategic partners to get the word out and amplify the celebration, including:

- Commemorative Library beer by Vine Street Brewing, the first black-owned brewery in Missouri
- Library ice cream created by Betty Rae's
- Charlie Hustle Communi-tee
- RideKC Streetcar wrap, promotions at stop shelters, and streetcar "read-alongs"

Perkins-McGuinness gave an overview of the budget and plans for leveraging partnerships and fundraising opportunities. She also discussed plans for a December 5th Community Advisory Committee of 5-8 diverse civic leaders and community representatives to work alongside the Ad Hoc Committee to strategize event format, refine messaging, and engage with community stakeholders.

Staff are seeking Board input and ideas for potential members of the Community Advisory Committee, speaker and event ideas, and opportunities to leverage community partnerships.

The next Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be in late September or early October.

Board members expressed appreciation for the thoughtful approach of including local partners and community members in our celebration events and programs.

With all scheduled business completed, Browne adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Pete Browne, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee on the 150th Anniversary

Date