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Saint Paul Public Library joins 124 urban libraries in a nationwide commitment to racial and social equity

Libraries nationwide send strong message by signing a statement issued by the Urban Library Council

SAINT PAUL, MN AND WASHINGTON, DC—One year after it received the Top Innovator Award for Racial and Social Equity from the Urban Library Council (ULC), Saint Paul Public Library (SPPL) joins 124 other urban libraries in signing ULC's statement on racial and social equity.

The statement serves as a baseline upon which libraries can build policies and actions that make their communities more inclusive and just. It reads:

As leaders of North America's public libraries, we are committed to achieving racial and social equity by contributing to a more just society in which all community members can realize their full potential. Our libraries can achieve true and sustained equity through an international, systemic, and transformative library-community partnership. Our library systems are working to achieve equity in the communities we serve by:

- *Eliminating racial and social equity barriers in library programs, services, policies, and practices*
- *Creating and maintaining an environment of diversity, inclusion, and respect both in our library systems and in all aspects of our community role*
- *Ensuring that we are reaching and engaging disenfranchised people in the community and helping them express their voice*
- *Serving as a convener and facilitator of conversations and partnerships to address community challenges*
- *Being forthright on tough issues that are important to our communities*

Libraries are trusted, venerable, and enduring institutions, central to their communities and an essential participant in the movement for racial and social equity.

Key elements of SPPL's racial and social equity work include:

- Improved recruitment efforts that resulted in 40 percent of library staff being individuals of color, reflecting the City's population as a whole.
- Expanded storytimes to 8 other languages, including Amharic, Hmong, Karen, Oromo, and Somali, establishing greater parity with English language storytimes.
- Instituted annual racial equity plans for all branches, departments, and teams, elevating racial and social equity as a fundamental strategic priority.
- Eliminated library card requirement for computer use because of disproportionate impact on patrons of color.

To date, the following libraries have signed on to ULC's statement:

ALASKA

Anchorage Public Library

ALBERTA

Calgary Public Library
Edmonton Public Library

ARIZONA

Pima County Public Library

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Surrey Libraries

IOWA

Cedar Rapids Public Library
Des Moines Public Library

KANSAS

Johnson County Library
Wichita Public Library

KENTUCKY

Lexington Public Library
Louisville Free Public Library

LOUISIANA

East Baton Rouge Parish Library

OHIO

Cleveland Public Library
Columbus Metropolitan Library
Cuyahoga County Public Library
Dayton Metro Library
East Cleveland Public Library
Stark County District Library
The Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County
Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

CALIFORNIA

Alameda County Library
Berkeley Public Library
Carlsbad City Library
Contra Costa County Library
County of Los Angeles Public Library
Fresno County Public Library
Los Angeles Public Library
Marin County Free Library
Oakland Public Library
Palo Alto City Library
Pasadena Public Library
San Diego Public Library
San Francisco Public Library
San José Public Library
San Mateo County Library
Santa Clara County Library
Santa Monica Public Library
Sunnyvale Public Library

COLORADO

Anything Library
Aurora Public Library
Denver Public Library
Jefferson County Public Library
Poudre River Public Library District

CONNECTICUT

Hartford Public Library
New Haven Free Public Library
Russell Library

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District of Columbia Public Library

FLORIDA

Broward County Library
Jacksonville Public Library
Miami-Dade Public Library System
Palm Beach County Library System

New Orleans Public Library
Shreve Memorial Library

MAINE

Portland Public Library

MARYLAND

Enoch Pratt Free Library
Prince George's County Memorial Library System

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Public Library
Cambridge Public Library
Springfield City Library

MICHIGAN

Detroit Public Library
Grand Rapids Public Library
Kalamazoo Public Library
Kent District Library
West Bloomfield Township Public Library

MINNESOTA

Hennepin County Library
Saint Paul Public Library

MISSOURI

Kansas City Public Library
Mid-Continent Public Library
St. Louis County Library
St. Louis Public Library

NEBRASKA

Do Space
Lincoln City Libraries
Omaha Public Library

NEVADA

Las Vegas-Clark County Library District

NEW JERSEY

Newark Public Library

OKLAHOMA

Pioneer Library System
Tulsa City-County Library

ONTARIO

Hamilton Public Library
Kitchener Public Library
Ottawa Public Library
Toronto Public Library

OREGON

Multnomah County Library

PENNSYLVANIA

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Free Library of Philadelphia

RHODE ISLAND

Providence Public Library

SOUTH CAROLINA

Richland Library

TENNESSEE

Chattanooga Public Library
Memphis Public Library and Information Center
Nashville Public Library

TEXAS

Dallas Public Library
El Paso Public Library
Fort Worth Library
Frisco Public Library
Harris County Library
Houston Public Library
San Antonio Public Library

UTAH

Salt Lake County Library Services

VIRGINIA

Alexandria Library

Tampa-Hillsborough County
Public Library

GEORGIA

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library
System
Chattahoochee Valley Libraries
Gwinnett County Public
Library

ILLINOIS

Chicago Public Library
Oak Park Public Library
Skokie Public Library

INDIANA

Evansville Vanderburgh Public
Library
Indianapolis Public Library
Johnson County Public Library

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque/Bernalillo County
Library System

NEW YORK

Brooklyn Public Library
New York Public Library
Rochester Public Library

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
Durham County Library
Greensboro Public Library

Chesterfield County Public
Library
Roanoke County Public Library
Virginia Beach Public Library

WASHINGTON

Fort Vancouver Regional Library
District
King County Library System
Pierce County Library System
Sno-Isle Libraries

WISCONSIN

Madison Public Library
Milwaukee Public Library

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About Urban Libraries Council

Urban Libraries Council (ULC), founded in 1971, is the voice for public libraries and the force that inspires them to evolve. ULC creates the tools, techniques, and ideas to make ongoing improvements and upgrades in services and technology. ULC also speaks loudly and clearly about the value public libraries bring to communities and secures funding for research that results in the development of new programs and services. And by serving as a forum for library leadership, ULC produces innovative ideas and best practices that ensure community impact.

About Saint Paul Public Library

Saint Paul Public Library connects people in Saint Paul with the imperative and the joy of learning through a lifetime. Saint Paul residents can enjoy free access to technology, books, movies, music, classes and more. We are at 12 neighborhood libraries, George Latimer Central Library, the Bookmobile, and online at sppl.org