

## July 2022 Funding Requests

We are submitting three programming funding requests. One is for Read for the Record in October. The second is for the Mexican dance troupe to help celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The third is for a Banned Books Week program in September.

### **Funding Request – Read for the Record**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Once again, we plan to participate in Read for the Record, an international program that encourages libraries and schools to read a high-quality children’s book on the same day. This year’s selection is *Nigel and the Moon*, written by Antwan Eady and illustrated by Gracey Zhang (HarperCollins, 2022). Read for the Record Day is Thursday, October 27, 2022.

In addition to reading the book at Thursday Storytime and online, I would like to give away copies to families who attend Storytime or comment on our online reading. I request \$358.42 to order 50 English copies and 5 Spanish copies of *Nigel and the Moon*.

#### **REQUESTED FUNDS:**

\$380 to purchase 50 copies of *Nigel and the Moon* and shipping costs.

### **Funding Request – Hispanic Dance Troupe**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

We have had continued contact with the Hispanic dancing troupe from Sioux City. They are available September 10 to perform in Mitchell. We are considering a 1:30 performance time. We would promote this performance as the start of Hispanic Heritage month (September 15 – October 15). This event would support the Forward 2040 strategic pillar to “Create a supportive and inclusive community culture”. Their fee is \$500 plus \$500 for travel expenses. We also would need to feed them a meal.

We plan to partner with a Mitchell church for the meal. We will seek funding from partner groups in Mitchell to help pay for transportation. Having partner groups will also help with promotion of the event. We also want to partner with Main Street and Beyond or some other group to schedule some Hispanic food trucks to be available that day in Mitchell.

#### **REQUESTED FUNDS:**

\$500.00 for the performance fee.

## Funding Request – Banned Books Week Program

### BACKGROUND:

September 18-24, 2022 is the annual celebration of banned books week. The annual event celebrates intellectual freedom and the freedom to read. Part of the Mitchell Public Library collection development policy includes the adoption of the Library Bill of Rights, as published by the American Library Association. Section III of the Library Bill of Rights calls on libraries and librarians to “challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.”<sup>1</sup>

In 2021, the American Library Association tracked 729 challenges to 1,597 books across the United States. These challenges target books about race, gender, and LGBTQIA+ issues for removal from shelves.<sup>2</sup> The ALA also notes that 82% to 97% of book challenges remain unreported to the Office of Intellectual Freedom at the ALA and receive no media.<sup>3</sup>

Organized challenges to titles are the actions of a minority of the populace. A report published by the American Library Association showed that 71% of voters oppose efforts to have books removed from local public libraries.<sup>4</sup>

Additionally, consider that one of the most banned and challenged books is George Orwell’s 1984.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

“Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us.” is the motto of banned books week. Books and libraries provide an avenue to engage with new ideas, see diverse perspectives and provide equitable access to education. I would like to provide free copies of challenged and banned books for people to keep while featuring the materials in our collection that have also seen challenges and bans.

### REQUESTED FUNDS:

\$600.00 to purchase Adult and Young Adult materials commonly found on the challenged and banned books lists from the last 5 years and provide them as prizes for a banned books week activity.

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<sup>1</sup> "Library Bill of Rights", American Library Association, June 30, 2006.  
<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill> (Accessed April 19, 2022)  
Document ID: 669fd6a3-8939-3e54-7577-996a0a3f8952

<sup>2</sup> "State of America's Libraries Report 2022", American Library Association, April 1, 2022.  
<http://www.ala.org/news/state-americas-libraries-report-2022> (Accessed April 19, 2022)  
Document ID: 4352037b-9c53-4f7f-bab4-2db525931781

<sup>3</sup> "Top 10 Most Challenged Books Lists", American Library Association, March 26, 2013.  
<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10> (Accessed July 22, 2022)  
Document ID: 8417fa9e-ceff-4512-aca9-9fbc81b8bd81

<sup>4</sup> "Voters Oppose Book Bans in Libraries", American Library Association, March 21, 2022.  
<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/voters-oppose-book-bans-libraries> (Accessed April 19, 2022)  
Document ID: ef0f9c38-9eb2-486f-bbea-751f083f4b7a