Jesse White Awards More Than $2.6 Million in Construction Grants to Four Public Libraries

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded more than $2.6 million in construction grants to library districts in Palatine, Hanover Park, Hillsboro and Walnut. The grants are the first awarded for the Public Library Construction Act Grant Program, and funded by the $45 billion capital plan that was passed by the Illinois General Assembly in 2019.

The following libraries have met criteria for local cost share and are the first to be awarded a grant:
- Palatine Public Library District – $1,841,568. The award will be used toward a $5,261,623 major interior renovation project of all of its public spaces.
- Poplar Creek Public Library District – $95,556. The award will be used toward a $349,321 addition of an 800-square-foot meeting and activities room to its Hanover Park Branch.
- Hillsboro Area Public Library District – $643,186. The award will be used toward a $1,043,070 project to convert a former bank building into a library to replace the over 100-year-old current library.
- Walnut Public Library District – $23,177. The award will be used toward a $36,000 project to replace all of its exterior windows.

Applications for the grant program are accepted annually and are due by April 15. Information concerning the Illinois State Library's Public Library Construction Act Grant Program can be found at: https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/publib_construction.html.

FY2021 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant Available

The Deadline to apply is March 15, 2021. To be eligible for the Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant, a public library shall show that it provides library services that either meet or show progress towards meeting the Illinois Library Standards as most recently approved by the Illinois Library Association (75 Illinois Compiled Statutes 10/8.1 (1)).

The FY2021 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant application is a series of questions to determine the status of the library in relationship to "Serving Our Public 4.0 Standards for Illinois Public Libraries." Review the checklist at the end of each chapter to navigate the application and evaluate if the library meets, is making progress towards meeting, or does not meet each standard.

FY2021 grant information can be found at: https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/plpc_equalization.html

Questions should be directed to the Illinois State Library at percap-grant@ilsos.gov or 1-800-665-5576 extension 2.

Illinois State Museum Publishes COVID-19 Collecting Initiative on IDA

In April, a few weeks into the “shelter in place” order, the Illinois State Museum launched “Share Your Story: Illinois in the COVID-19 Pandemic.” This digital collecting initiative asks the people of Illinois to share their pandemic experiences in any format that feels comfortable to them. The Museum’s goal in collecting these submissions is to provide inspiration to the people of today and information for future generations.
To date the Museum has received hundreds of photographs, artworks, poems and stories from Illinoisans trying to make sense of a world turned upside down. These submissions are now accessible through the Illinois Digital Archives in the "Illinois Stories - COVID-19" collection. http://www.idaillinois.org/digital/collection/p16614coll64/

The Museum continues to welcome submissions to this collecting initiative. Stories from healthcare workers, communities of color, people who have survived the virus and parents and students experiencing remote learning are especially welcome. To make a submission, visit www.illinoisstatemuseum.org and click on the button that says "Share your Story."

WebEx Webinar on Using CONTENTdm to Build Narratives for Digital Collections
Andrew Bullen, Information Technology Coordinator of the Illinois State Library, will be conducting a CONTENTdm webinar on Dec. 8 at 1 p.m. The subject of the webinar will be using images and metadata in CONTENTdm collections to build narratives. The webinar will discuss how to use common web tools like Wordpress, Omeka and Scalar (as well as custom programming) in conjunction with CONTENTdm. The event will show how to use IIIF manifests to extract metadata and images as well as CONTENTdm's set of APIs. Additionally the webinar will touch on building custom pages using PHP and JavaScript.

Register for the webinar at: https://oclcwebinar.webex.com/oclcwebinar/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0f6177ad790e9c5056b1fbe641d9e2d2"

ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey Underway

School districts should provide data based on interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing activity for all school buildings within the school district. Libraries can also view their ILL statistics online.

For questions regarding the ILLINET ILL & RB Statistical Survey or for the username and password, contact the Illinois State Library at 1-800-665-5576, ext. 2. Contact Counting Opinions for technical assistance by email at rpatrick@countingopinions.com or by phone at 1-866-850-8366.

Jesse White Announces Spotlight Awards For Outstanding Literacy Students and Tutors
Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has announced the winners of the 2020 Spotlight on Literacy Awards, which recognizes participants in Illinois literacy programs. Ten students received the Spotlight on Achievement Award and 10 volunteer tutors received the Spotlight on Service Award. Due to restrictions involving the COVID-19 pandemic, an in-person ceremony was not held this year.

In FY2020, the Secretary of State and State Librarian awarded funding to 113 programs that supported adult, family and workplace literacy efforts statewide. These programs helped 10,162 adult students learn from 4,856 volunteer tutors. Spotlight Achievements and Service awardees are as follows:

2020 Spotlight on Achievement:
Fall Issue of Illinois LITERACY NEWSLETTER:
The fall 2020 issue of “Illinois Literacy” is now available at the following link - https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/il-literacy-fall20.pdf. Literacy programs are encouraged to submit stories and photographs of special events and achievements to the Illinois State Library Literacy Office for possible inclusion in upcoming issues. Please contact the Literacy Office at 800-665-5576, ext. 3, or email literacy@ilsos.gov if you have any questions.

Literacy Spotlight
This month’s Literacy Spotlight highlights World Relief Refugee Services in DuPage/Aurora and Chicago. After arriving to the United States, a refugee from Syria in her early 60s was matched with an English as A Second Language tutor in the Spring of 2018. During their first meeting, the refugee was noticeably pleased to receive a tutor yet remained quiet and reserved, content to let her adult granddaughter do most of the talking for her. After the learner and her tutor had been meeting for four months, a staff member conducted a visit to see how their tutoring sessions were going. Upon entering the woman’s apartment, the staff member was warmly greeted by the woman and her family and invited to sit down. The learner proceeded to show off all the English she had learned, pointing to different areas of the house, stating their names, and throwing in any additional vocabulary she happened to know. Throughout the visit, both the learner and her tutor were so proud to demonstrate the language gains that the woman had made in such a short amount of time.

Salute to Veterans
This issue of E-News is saluting Sharonda Marshall as this month’s featured veteran. Ms. Marshall served in the United States Air Force during the Iraq War and the Afghanistan War as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, respectively. Her service dates range from 1999 to 2005. She was interviewed as part of the Carbondale Public Library’s Project Next Generation Grant program; and the interview can be found on the Illinois Veterans Project YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDFxK4-q3TQ.
State Library’s comprehensive online calendar
To view the State Library’s calendar of events and deadlines, visit

Sign up for E-News
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