

LIBRARY **HOTLINE**

BREAKING NEWS FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION DECISION MAKERS

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Queens Library CEO on Administrative Leave

Thomas W. Galante, the president and CEO of Queens Library (QL), Jamaica, NY, on September 11 was placed on indefinite, paid administrative leave by the library's recently reorganized board. The move followed months of negative coverage regarding his \$392,000 salary, his consulting work, library renovation projects that included his office, and an FBI investigation regarding QL's procedures for awarding construction contracts. Bridget Quinn-Carey, QL's current executive VP and COO, will serve as interim president and CEO.

Separately, "the Board directed its Audit Committee to provide [New York City] Comptroller [Scott] Stringer full access to all financial documents from state, federal, and private sources that he has requested," according to a statement released by QL.

QL had provided the comptroller's office with access to all documents related to state, city, and federal funding, but several former board members balked when asked to hand over information regarding private donations, which account for about 15 percent of the system's budget.

Galante's troubles began when

the *New York Daily News* on January 27 published "Queens Library president gets \$390G salary, luxe office makeover while shedding 130 jobs." The article described Galante's salary and allowance for a company car. It also portrayed renovations to executive conference rooms and an outdoor meeting area in QL's Central Library as a \$140,000 private lounge and private outdoor smoking deck for Galante.

Of the 130 jobs mentioned, the total included a five-year hiring freeze and the 2013 outsourcing of janitorial work to a third-party vendor. Galante's salary and raise structure were negotiated with the QL board in 2005, using data from nonprofit tracker Guidestar to determine average salaries for the CEOs of comparable nonprofit organizations.

By January 28, Stringer had announced that his office would audit all three of New York's library systems. Separately, City Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Queens) criticized Galante's salary and announced that the city council would convene a hearing to question him. Van Bramer also condemned the use of \$27,000 in library funds for the renovation of the outdoor space.

Follow-up stories in the *Daily News* revealed that Galante had also

billed a total of \$287,000 to Long Island's Elmont Union Free School District for his services as chief financial consultant from 2008 to 2010. Allegations that he may have steered renovation contracts to an acquaintance from Elmont soon surfaced as well, which resulted in ongoing investigations by the FBI and the New York City Department of Investigation.

The investigation thus far has proven inconclusive, and no charges have been filed. Meanwhile, QL has faced unfortunate fallout from the case, with city government scrutinizing every aspect of its budget.

In April, the library's board was locked in a 9-9 vote over suspending Galante and began resisting demands from the comptroller's office to hand over financial records. Stringer froze more than \$20 million in public funding, and by June the New York State Senate had passed S-6893, a bill that enables the offices of the Queens borough president (QBP) and New York's mayor to dismiss QL board members at will and cuts the terms for board members from five years to two.

In July, QBP Melinda Katz and Mayor Bill de Blasio dismissed eight of the nine trustees who had voted not to suspend Galante. The six trustees dismissed by Katz later sued to

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Who Moves You?

The editors of *Library Journal* need your help in identifying the emerging leaders in the library world. Our 14th annual Movers & Shakers coverage will profile 50-plus up-and-coming individuals who are innovative, creative, and making a difference. Learn more and submit your nominations, visit <http://ow.ly/B8NYa>.

Postmark deadline: November 7, 2014

have their positions reinstated, but the case has gained little traction.

The mayor and QBP have since each made two appointments, and it was this

board that ousted Galante. Quinn-Carey explained that Galante has been placed on paid administrative leave pending further action and that it was her understanding that the board's ultimate decision is not contingent on the outcome of the contracting investigation.

Interview

Interview with Ann Leckie



Ann Leckie recently won the 2014 Hugo Award and the Nebula Award for Best Novel for her debut novel, *Ancillary Justice*. That book began the story

of Breq, whose journey continues in *Ancillary Sword*, out this October.

I love the complexity of the Radch culture and was particularly intrigued by their lack of gender. Why did you decide to have it not be a gendered society? Is it significant that the feminine “she” and “her” are the pronouns of use?

Honestly, I just thought it would be cool and interesting. I wanted to see if I could construct a society that had gender but truly didn't much care about it.

I found that using “she” drew attention to the existence of a default to begin with—which I liked. One of the things about defaults is they're invisible and just saying, “You know, there's this thing,” doesn't necessarily make something visible. Using “she”... was like employing a stain or a black light—it made that default assumption pronounced that otherwise wouldn't have been.

Breq is a collector of songs and also sings, sometimes without realizing it, throughout the novels. In fact, Breq's crew in *Ancillary Sword* takes Breq singing or not singing as a cue to their captain's mood. Why the singing?

When I was first contemplating the character of Justice of Toren One Esk, I thought to myself, “You know what I'd do if I had 20 voices? I'd sing choral music.” I resisted it for a while, because I think that music is often badly handled in fiction, but the idea was too compelling to ignore.

Transformation Through Philadelphia Library Grant

On September 11, the Free Library of Philadelphia (FLP) unveiled the Building Inspiration: 21st Century Libraries Initiative, a multiphase undertaking to reposition FLP as a central resource. The project will renovate and expand the Parkway Central Library and revitalize five branch libraries, piloting a model for future redesigns. Underwriting this effort is a \$25 million grant from the William Penn Foundation—the largest private gift ever received by the library.

Other funding partners for the \$60 million project include the City of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Free Library Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, solicited significant private contributions. Other major project partners include the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the School District of Philadelphia.

The plan for Building Inspiration draws on three main components:

1. Fully renovating the 100-year-old Parkway Central Library.
2. Modernizing and reimagining five neighborhood branches.
3. Strengthening community partnerships.

Six years ago, the library was in crisis. In November 2008, Mayor Michael Nutter (*Library Journal* 2005 Politician of the Year along with Frank DiCicco when the two were Philadelphia City Councilors), reeling from an attempt to balance a \$100 million deficit in the city's budget, handed the

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FLP a 20 percent budget cut. The commonwealth slashed state library funding by 34 percent. The FLP Board of Trustees voted to shutter 11 branches indefinitely.

Philadelphia citizens fought back. They quickly formed a Coalition To Save Libraries group, filing a lawsuit against Nutter for closing city-owned facilities without council approval. A judge ruled in their favor, and the branches stayed open but with drastically reduced hours.

As the recession eased and funding began to trickle back, the library began rebuilding, launching a five-year strategic plan in 2012. FLP president and director Siobhan A. Reardon hired an organizational design consultant who partnered with staff to design a new structure. The result: a cluster model, grouping six branch libraries together and allowing staff to be interchangeable by expertise. The model is in its pilot phase now.

The dream of redesigning the FLP's physical spaces, especially the Parkway Central Library, remained front

and center. The William Penn Foundation, which granted the library \$18 million in 1996, was approached as a funding partner. From there, Reardon said, the conversation—and the idea of a larger plan—kept expanding.

Reenvisioning New York's Branch Libraries

The Center for an Urban Future (CUF), a New York City-based think tank, published a report September 15 titled "Re-Envisioning New York's Branch Libraries." The report, funded by the Charles H. Revson Foundation, focuses on the challenges facing the buildings that make up New York City's three library systems: New York Public Library (NYPL), Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), and Queens Library (QL). It lays out the problems that need to be addressed and explains the difficult processes required for the city's libraries to secure funding and carry out various projects. In addition, the report offers "20 actionable steps that city government and

the libraries themselves could take."

CUF's research team visited 50 libraries in all five boroughs and surveyed more than 300 librarians, analyzing branch metrics and performance data as well.

Currently New York's library buildings require at least \$1.1 billion in capital needs funding: \$812 million for repair and renovation and \$278 million for site acquisition and new construction. Even libraries built in the past 40 years were not designed for the populations they currently serve and often cannot accommodate technology needs. Many buildings are too small, and existing layouts do not reflect the needs of either patrons or staff.

A DIFFICULT FUNDING PROCESS

Libraries have no capital budget and receive most of their funding from the discretionary funds of individual city council members rather than through a process of empirical needs assessment.

This means they are forced to shop projects to their elected officials on an individual basis. Library repairs often have to compete with higher-profile projects, such as cultural offerings and parks, so funding levels tend to fluctuate widely. The lack of an ongoing capital budget makes it difficult for libraries to plan efficiently for their long-term needs.

During FY04–13 New York City spent \$503.7 million on capital improvements for public libraries, a 57 percent increase over 1994–2003. But over the past 20 years, the portion of the city's capital spending devoted to libraries has remained consistent at about one half of one percent of the total budget.

OPTIMISM AT CITY HALL

Fortunately, Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration is already inspiring optimism in the library community. The city will submit a new ten-year capital plan in January 2015, and CUF research

People

Stacy L. Brown was named Assistant Director of Conyers-Rockdale Library System, GA. She was previously a Librarian at Georgia Highlands College, Dallas.

Orolando Duffus was appointed Diversity Resident at University of North Carolina Libraries, Greensboro. He received his MS in Library Science from North Carolina Central University, Durham.

Ramona Grimsley was named Digital Projects Librarian, Berkeley County Library System (BCLS), SC. She was previously Special Projects/Public Relations Librarian at BCLS.

Jen Inglis was named Chief of Public Services at Boston Public Library. She was previously Director, Nahant Public Library, MA.

Josh Jones was promoted to Librarian in the Research & Catalog Services Department at the State Library of Ohio, Columbus. He was previously Library Assistant in Circulation & Special Services.

Anne Krakow was named Director of the Post Learning Commons and Drexel Library at Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia. She had been serving as Interim Director since June of this year.

Nancy Pack was appointed Director of the Alabama Public Library Service, Montgomery, following the retirement of **Rebecca Mitchell**. Pack was previously Branch Chief of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Baltimore.

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director David Giles said, “I think this mayor is discovering that libraries belong in the discussion with schools and affordable housing developments.”

The CUF report lays out a number of ideas for New York’s libraries, including bringing QL into NYPL and BPL’s joint floating collection system; creating a “Director of Libraries” position in city hall; developing a hub-and-spoke system with smaller spaces extending the reach of centralized branches; encouraging libraries to manage their own construction projects; making libraries an important component in disaster planning; and involving communities in library strategies.

Giles feels that the report’s message is reaching the desired audience. He hopes that the library community will find inspiration in CUF’s ideas. “There is a need for libraries to get better at transparently engaging their communities and envisioning the future,” he told *Hotline*. “Libraries need to come up with strategy for...where they want to go and how they can get there.”

Four Universities Are Obama Library Finalists

The Barack Obama Foundation (BOF) announced on September 15 that four academic institutions have qualified as potential sites for the Barack Obama Presidential Library (OPL). Columbia University, the University of Hawaii (UH), the University of Chicago (UChicago), and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) were selected from 13 applicants that responded to the BOF’s Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued March 2014. The four will now respond to a Request for Proposals by December 11. The foundation will then evaluate them, with the president and first lady making the final decision.

The facility’s campus will house the OPL, plus the Barack Obama Presidential Museum, foundation of-

Libraries Welcome Writers in Residence

Starting this fall, the Public Library of Cincinnati’s Writer-in-Residence program and the CHP in the Stacks residency program from publishing company Coffee House Press (CHP) will give select writers stipends to do their work in a library while helping publicize that library’s resources to the community.

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (PLCHC) Foundation launched its first ever writer-in-residence program this year for writers who live in southwest Ohio. According to Director Kimber L. Fender, she was inspired by the artists’ residency programs that were found in local museums. She decided that having a residency program of its own was right in line with how the library had always supported writers in the area.

Over a dozen writers applied before the August 31 deadline, submitting works from poetry to nonfiction to works of journalism. The writer will be given a \$10,000 stipend and required to conduct a writer’s workshop, speak at four community events, and participate in select library promotions. Because of a generous donation by local philanthropist Naomi Gerwin, the library plans to continue the program for three years. For now, Fender said, this will be a learning year for the library to see what works and what doesn’t for the next year’s residency.

CHP, a Minnesota publishing company, has arranged for novelist and es-

sayist Valeria Luiselli to be a writer-in-residence in New York City’s Poets House in October. It is part of the CHP in the Stacks program, launched over a year ago, which creates residencies in Minnesota libraries with help from a grant by the McKnight Foundation.

This is the first time CHP in the Stacks has placed a writer in another state as part of the program’s expansion to produce more library residencies nationwide and to create a program to serve as a model for other libraries.

CHP hopes that by devising residencies in libraries, it might publicize resources specific libraries offer, such as unique collections that might often be overlooked. In the case of placing a prose writer like Luiselli in Poets House, CHP publisher Chris Fischbach said he wants it to highlight how collections of poetry should be viewed as a resource for all types of writers, not just poets. At the same time he hopes the library’s location will speak to Luiselli’s fascination with cityscapes.

“Valeria is very interested in architecture, cities, spaces, urban landscapes, which she writes about in a very fascinating way in her essay collection, *Sidewalks*. We hoped that she would also be interested in the building, the location, and its part in the redevelopment of downtown Manhattan,” Fischbach said.

Luiselli’s residency will culminate with a public presentation and reading on October 21 at Poets House.

CHP is looking for more writers and libraries throughout the United States to collaborate with for future residencies.



The Reed Foundation Library and Margo Viscusi Reading Room at Poets House

fices, and an academic institute.

The OPL will be the 14th presidential library operated and maintained through the federal government's National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Presidential libraries are funded through congressional appropriations, which go to

NARA for administrative costs, and private sources, which generally cover construction and programming.

These private funds are being raised by the BOF, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in January 2014 by Martin Nesbitt, a Chicago civic organizer, and businessman Kevin Poorman.

Former White House senior adviser David Plouffe and Maya Soetoro-Ng, Obama's half-sister, have been added to the board, with former White House social secretary Julianna Smoot leading the fundraising. (Nesbitt is also cofounder and co-CEO of the Vistria Group, a private equity firm that recently purchased Media Source, parent of *Library Journal* and *Library Hotline*.) The BOF will help the Obamas vet the final proposals and negotiate an agreement with NARA for transfer of the presidential records. The OPL will cost roughly \$500 million. So far, the BOF estimates that it has raised \$850,000–\$1.75 million.

TIES TO OBAMA'S HISTORY

Because the OPL will have an academic component, possibly including a degree-granting program, the strongest applicants were all established universities. Each has its own connection to Obama's history.

Chicago, with two sites in the running, is the Obamas' home. The president has strong ties to the city, where he worked as a community organizer, joined a local law firm, and served as state senator representing Chicago's South Side. He also taught at the University of Chicago Law School for 12 years, and UChicago is considered a strong contender for the site award.

UIC is Chicago's only public research university, which Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares believes aligns its values with Obama's: "Only a research university with a public mission can extend the president's legacy to all who could benefit from it, locally and worldwide."

A website explaining the Hawaiian project's goals also invokes the president's ideals. Obama's parents met while students at UH; Obama was born in Hawaii, and spent most of his childhood and adolescence in Honolulu. Soetoro-Ng currently teaches at UH's College of Education.

Branching Out



Better late than never, the Santa Monica Public Library (SMPL), CA, opened **Pico Branch** (pictured), its first new library in 54 years (see *Hotline*, 8/27/12) and the first branch to be constructed within a park environment. Set in the Virginia Avenue Park, the 8,690 square foot, single-story, two-structure facility is the fifth branch in the system. It houses a children's space, three group study rooms, 20 public access computers, three early literacy computers, a copy center, a self-checkout/checkin station, and an automated materials handling system. The second section of the \$9.7 million project is the Annex, a community room that will host after-school activities, book clubs, film screenings, an art gallery, and more. The 27,000-item collection features large-print titles and materials in Spanish. Designed by local firm Koning Eizenberg Architects, the branch is shooting for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification. The Virginia Avenue Park carries a LEED distinction as well, being the first Silver-certified park in the country.

Moving up the coast, the San José Public Library, CA, broke ground on September 6 for the new **South-east Branch Library**. The 16,000 square foot building is the final project funded through the 2000 Branch Library Bond Measure, which made available \$212 million for 20 new and renovated library facilities within the city. Built on the site of the former Mirassou Winery, the library is the only branch in the system to reside within a multi-use commercial and residential development.

The **Ames Public Library** (APL), IA, completed its nearly two-year renovation and expansion effort on September 14 (see *Hotline*, 12/17/12). Originally opened in 1904, the library has grown from 48,000 square feet to 73,000 square feet, at a cost of approximately \$20 million, according to the *Ames Tribune*. The money had been approved in a 2011 referendum. Led by MSR Architecture of Minneapolis, the project blends aspects from the library's first incarnation with its two subsequent remodels and provides more areas for civic engagement, Director Lynne Carey told the *Tribune*. Additionally, the expansion put a major focus on youth services, with a portion of the ground floor dedicated to children's activities, including the "little theater," and the teen zone. The second floor is home to adult services, the computer center, and three meeting rooms.

The money had been approved in a 2011 referendum. Led by MSR Architecture of Minneapolis, the project blends aspects from the library's first incarnation with its two subsequent remodels and provides more areas for civic engagement, Director Lynne Carey told the *Tribune*. Additionally, the expansion put a major focus on youth services, with a portion of the ground floor dedicated to children's activities, including the "little theater," and the teen zone. The second floor is home to adult services, the computer center, and three meeting rooms.

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Columbia, in turn—where Obama received his bachelor’s degree in political science—offers the resources of an Ivy League university and the milieu of New York City.

FINANCIAL AND SPACE CONCERNS

The *Chicago Tribune* polled 800 registered voters before the finalists were announced, reporting on September 17 that a majority of Illinois voters did not want their tax dollars used for a presidential library. Chicago city residents were more positive, with 61 percent in favor.

Accessibility will also be an issue. While the UH site is located on eight acres of coastline district, it is still at a disadvantage compared with the accessibility of the mainland universities. However, the Chicago and New York campuses will need to find space for a new building complex that was not part of their original plans.

UChicago would not situate the BPL on its Hyde Park campus, but in a neighborhood on Chicago’s South Side, where it would help stimulate needed development. UIC’s proposal includes three possible sites: two on campus and one in a neighboring area. Columbia would locate the OPL on its Manhattanville campus, a 17-acre site in upper Manhattan.

BOF chair Nesbitt said, “These four potential partners have come the farthest in meeting our criteria and have each demonstrated a strong vision for the future Obama Presidential Library. We look forward to working with each

Kent State University School of Library and Information Science, OH, named young adult and children’s author Angela Johnson as its Writer-in-Residence. She is the first author to be given the title by the school.

Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, MO, has partnered with **Bibliotheca** to convert its collection from barcode to RFID (radio-frequency identification) technology. More than three million items will be tagged in the process.

ProQuest has partnered with Irish booksellers **O’Mahony’s** to deliver content to libraries across Ireland and the UK. More than 600,000 titles will be accessible through ProQuest’s ebook companies ebrary and EBL.

The **Metropolitan Library System**, Oklahoma City, implemented the CARL•X integrated library system from The Library Corporation.

It was previously using an in-house-developed system.

The **Institute of Museum and Library Services** has awarded OCLC a grant to continue growing its “Health Happens in Libraries” program. The money will help to increase the role of public libraries in community health efforts.

The **University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science**, Columbia, announced the winners of its state Annual Literacy Leaders Awards: the Call Me MISTER program at Clemson University; Dianne Johnson, a member of the university’s English Language and Literature Department; and the Literacy Volunteers of the Lowcountry, Beaufort County. Ida Thompson, Director of Richland School District, and Leslie Tetreault, Manager of the Children’s Room at Richland Library, received the Peggy Parish Prize.

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institution to further refine their proposals over the coming months and to presenting our recommendations to the president and first lady next year.”

12 Years a Slave in High Schools

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) has partnered with New Regency, Fox Searchlight, Penguin Books, and the filmmakers to make copies of the feature film, book, and study guide *12 Years a Slave*

available to public high schools. Educators are required to get their principal’s approval in order to receive materials, according to the site.

From the release: “This nationwide educational initiative was the brainchild of director Steve McQueen and Montel Williams, and now...educator toolkits are available to all public high school teachers timed to the 2014–15 school year. Educators who gain permission to teach Solomon Northup’s *12 Years a Slave* to their students will receive a free...DVD copy of the film (edited version with disclaimer/parental consent requested); a paperback copy of the Penguin book; the ‘12 Years a Slave’ printed study guide; and a letter from McQueen.

“Any U.S. public high school teacher with permission to add this to the high school curriculum may go to www.12yearsasave.com and click on the button for teachers to...request an educators’ toolkit for their school.”



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