



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 19, 2017

ULC Press Contact

Paul Guequierre

(202) 750-8657

pguequierre@urbanlibraries.org

North American Libraries Send Strong Message of Commitment to Racial and Social Equity

129 urban libraries sign-on to statement aimed at achieving racial and social equity

WASHINGTON – In a strong act of commitment to a more equitable society, 129 public libraries across North America signed the Urban Libraries Council’s statement on race and social equity. This statement serves as a baseline upon which libraries can build policies and actions that make their communities more inclusive and just. The statement reads as follows:

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 help achieve true and sustained equity through an intentional, 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.

The following libraries have signed-on to the above statement:

ALASKA

Anchorage Public Library

ALBERTA

Calgary Public Library
Edmonton Public Library

ARIZONA

Pima County Public Library

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Surrey Libraries

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

Anythink
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
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

IOWA

Cedar Rapids Public Library
Des Moines Public Library

KANSAS

Johnson County Library
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
Wichita Public Library

KENTUCKY

Lexington Public Library
Louisville Free Public Library

LOUISIANA

East Baton Rouge Parish Library
New Orleans Public Library
Shreve Memorial Library

MAINE

Portland Public Library

MARYLAND

Anne Arundel County Public Library
Baltimore County Public Library
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
St. 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

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

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

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

Austin Public Library
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
Chesterfield County Public Library
Newport News 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