

## Sample Press Release

*This template press release provides a framework for announcing your library's participation in signing the Urban Libraries Council's Declaration of Democracy. We urge you to add specifics of your library not included in the summary below, a quote from your library director and information about how your library is building policies and actions that preserve and protect democracy in our communities.*

### **[Insert Library Name] Joins Urban Libraries Council's Call to Action on Democracy in Public Libraries**

[Insert Your City Name] – [Insert Library Name] has signed on to the Urban Libraries Council's Declaration of Democracy, committing to build policies and actions that preserve and protect democracy in our communities. ULC's Declaration of Democracy was unveiled to ULC members during the 2022 ULC Annual Forum held in Washington, DC this November.

Public libraries are critical cornerstones of democracy, and democracy's future is diminished when people's access to power, information, a diversity of voices and the ability to influence policy are restricted. The battle to protect democracy is a global struggle playing out at the local level and libraries have landed on the front lines. Democracy can only thrive with strong community level support and engagement.

"We are proud to launch this vital initiative, and we celebrate [Insert Library Name] for joining us in our commitment to preserving democracy in our communities," said ULC President and CEO Brooks Rainwater. "Library leaders serve as civic educators and play an essential role in taking on censorship and ensuring free access to information for all. The public library has a responsibility to cultivate a democracy grounded in respectful, yet robust, public engagement."

[Insert information about the library's work on democracy]

[Insert quote from your library director or someone affiliated with the program]

[Information about the library]

ULC member libraries can sign on to the Declaration of Democracy at [ULC's website](#).

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### **[Boilerplate for your library]**

#### **About Urban Libraries Council**

The Urban Libraries Council is an innovation and impact tank of North America's leading public library systems. ULC drives cutting-edge research and strategic partnerships to elevate the power of libraries as essential, transformative institutions. More than 160 urban member libraries in the U.S. and Canada rely on ULC to identify significant challenges facing today's communities and provide new tools and techniques to help libraries achieve stronger outcomes in education, digital equity, workforce and economic development, and race and social equity.



**Learn More About the ULC Declaration of Democracy  
and Download this Template**

[urbanlibraries.org/initiatives/declaration-of-democracy](https://urbanlibraries.org/initiatives/declaration-of-democracy)