



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2020

ULC Press Contact

Curtis Rogers

(202) 750-8658

crogers@urbanlibraries.org

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

182 urban libraries sign statement aimed at achieving racial and social equity

WASHINGTON – In a strong act of commitment to a more equitable society, 182 public libraries across North America have 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:

ALABAMA

Birmingham Public Library

ALASKA

Anchorage Public Library

ALBERTA

Bibliothèque de Beaumont Library

Calgary Public Library

Edmonton Public Library

Lethbridge Public Library

ARIZONA

Pima County Public Library

ARKANSAS

Central Arkansas Library System

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Fort St. John Public Library

Surrey Libraries

CALIFORNIA

Alameda County Library

Berkeley Public Library

Carlsbad City Library

Contra Costa County Library

Fresno County Public Library

LA County Library

Los Angeles Public Library

Marin County Free Library

Oakland Public Library

Pacific Library Partnership

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

Sonoma County Library

Sunnyvale Public Library

COLORADO

Anythink

Aurora Public Library

Denver Public Library

Douglas County Libraries

Jefferson County Public Library

Poudre River Public Library District

CONNECTICUT

Bloomfield Public Library

The Ferguson Library

Hartford Public Library

Manchester Public Library

New Haven Free Public Library

Norwalk Public Library System

Otis Library

Pequot Library

Russell Library

Wallingford Public Library

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DC Public Library

FLORIDA

Broward County Library

Jacksonville Public Library

Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach

Miami-Dade Public Library System

Palm Beach County Library System

Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

GEORGIA

Athens Regional Library System

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries

DeKalb County Public Library

Gwinnett County Public Library

ILLINOIS

Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Bloomington Public Library

Chicago Public Library

Oak Park Public Library

Schaumburg Township District Library

Skokie Public Library

INDIANA

Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library

The Indianapolis Public Library

Johnson County Public Library

Lake County Public Library

IOWA

Cedar Rapids Public Library
Coralville Public Library
Des Moines Public Library
Marion Public Library
North Liberty 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
Howard County Library System
Montgomery County Public Libraries
Prince George's County Memorial Library System

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Public Library
Cambridge Public Library
Springfield City Library
Turner Free Library

MICHIGAN

Detroit Public Library
Grand Rapids Public Library
Grosse Pointe Public Library
Kalamazoo Public Library
Kent District Library
Loutit District Library
Monroe County Library System
West Bloomfield Township Public Library

MINNESOTA

Hennepin County Library
Saint Paul Public Library

MISSOURI

Kansas City Public Library
Mid-Continent Public Library
St. Charles City-County Library
St. Louis County Library
St. Louis Public Library

NEBRASKA

Do Space
Lincoln City Libraries
Omaha Public Library

NEVADA

Douglas County Public Library
Las Vegas-Clark County Library District
Washoe County Library System

NEW JERSEY

Jersey City Free Public Library
Newark Public Library
Paterson Free Public Library

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

NEW YORK

Brooklyn Public Library
New York Public Library
Queens Public Library
Rochester Public Library

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
Durham County Library
Forsyth County Public Library
Greensboro Public Library

OHIO

Cleveland Public Library
Columbus Metropolitan Library
Cuyahoga County Public Library
Dayton Metro Library
East Cleveland Public Library
The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

The Public Library of Youngstown &
Mahoning County
Stark County District Library
Toledo Lucas County Public Library

OKLAHOMA

Metropolitan Library System
Pioneer Library System
Tulsa City-County Library

ONTARIO

Brampton Library
Hamilton Public Library
Kitchener Public Library
Markham Public Library
Milton Public Library
Mississauga Library System
Ottawa Public Library
Toronto Public Library
Vaughan Public Libraries

OREGON

Hillsboro Public Library
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 Libraries
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
San Marcos Public Library

UTAH

Salt Lake City Public Library
Salt Lake County Library Services

VIRGINIA

Alexandria Library
Arlington Public Library
Chesterfield County Public Library
Fairfax County Public Library
Newport News Public Library
Prince William Public Library System
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
Spokane Public Library
Tacoma Public Library

WISCONSIN

Madison Public Library
Milwaukee Public Library