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AGENDA REPORT

TO: Sabrina B. Landreth
City Administrator

FROM: Jamie Turbak
Interim Director of Library
Services

SUBJECT: AAMLO Programming and Chief
Curator Recruitment and Library
Procedures for Removing Books From
the Library Collection

DATE: June 4, 2018

City Administrator Approval

Date:

8
6/14/18

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Accept An Informational Report From City Administration On: 1) Status Of Hiring And Programming At The African American Museum And Library At Oakland (AAMLO); And 2) General Library Procedures For Removing Books From the Oakland Public Library Collection, Including Responding To Recent Issue Regarding Numerous Rare African American-Oriented Books Being Discarded.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The AAMLO is dedicated to the discovery, preservation, interpretation and sharing of historical and cultural experiences of African Americans in California and the West for present and future generations. In addition to its unique non-circulating reference library that contains a collection of about 12,000 volumes by or about African Americans, an archival collection of over 160 collections, a museum on the second floor that hosts exhibitions that highlight African American art, history and culture, AAMLO also produces about four to six special programs each month.

The AAMLO Chief Curator position is currently filled on an interim basis. The recruitment process for selecting a permanent Chief Curator was initiated in February 2018 but has been paused until the selection of a new Library Director is completed.

The Oakland Public Library ("OPL" or "Library") collection is nearly 1.2 million items of which 880,000 are print books. The library spends approximately \$872,000 per year specifically on the purchase of over 26,000 print books for its collection, which represents about three percent (3%) of the total print collection. Books are officially removed from the collection to keep it responsive to patron needs, ensure its vitality and usefulness to the community, and make room for newer materials or newer formats.

Item: _____
Life Enrichment Committee
June 26, 2018

The library has dedicated African American collections at six locations, including the Main Library, AAMLO, Brookfield, Eastmont, Elmhurst, and West branches. At the Elmhurst branch, the African American collection represents about eleven percent (11%) of the branch collection; and during the one-year period May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018, about three percent (3%) of the books removed from the collection were African American titles. These books that were removed from the Elmhurst Branch were donated to the Friends of the Elmhurst Library.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On April 17, 2018, the City Administrator distributed an Informational Memorandum, available to the public, that provided a status update on the national search for a permanent Chief Curator of the African American Museum and Library.

On May 1, 2018, a community member expressed concern that African American themed books were inappropriately discarded from the Library, specifically from the Elmhurst Branch Library. On May 4, 2018, the City Administrator distributed an Informational Memorandum about the Oakland Public Library – Collection Management Policy in response to inquiries from several Councilmembers and community members.

On May 10, 2018, the City Council Rules and Legislation Committee scheduled an "Informational Report From The City Administrator On 1) The Status Of Hiring And Programming At The African American Museum And Library And; 2) Procedure For Discarding Books, Including Responding To Recent Issues Regarding Numerous Rare African American-Oriented Books Being Discarded", as requested by Councilmembers Kaplan and Gibson McElhaney.

This report is prepared in response to the Rules and Legislation Committee action.

ANALYSIS / POLICY ALTERNATIVES

African American Museum & Library at Oakland (AAMLO)

The AAMLO Chief Curator position is currently filled on an interim basis. While the recruitment process for selecting a permanent Chief Curator was initiated in February 2018, the process has been paused and will resume following the selection of a new Library Director. The City Administrator is committed to identifying a new Library Director who will be committed to the best interests of AAMLO as defined thus far by the community. On April 17, 2018, the City Administrator distributed an Informational Memorandum, available to the public, that provided a status update on the national search for a permanent Chief Curator of the African American Museum and Library. (See **Attachment A**.)

The recruitment process for the new Library Director has commenced and several stakeholder engagement meetings to seek input from community members about the desired qualifications and attributes for the new Library Director are scheduled for the week of June 11, 2018. These

meetings will be held at various locations including the 81st Avenue Branch, César Chávez Branch, Rockridge Branch and AAMLO.

The AAMLO is dedicated to the discovery, preservation, interpretation and sharing of historical and cultural experiences of African Americans in California and the West for present and future generations. In addition to its unique non-circulating reference library that contains a collection of about 12,000 volumes by or about African Americans, an archival collection of over 160 collections, a museum on the second floor that hosts exhibitions that highlight African American art, history and culture, AAMLO also produces about four to six special programs each month. The program schedule for the months of February through July 2018 is described in **Attachment B**.

OPL Collection Development Policy

On May 4, 2018, the City Administrator distributed an Informational Memorandum about the Oakland Public Library – Collection Management Policy in response to a concern that African American themed books were inappropriately discarded from the OPL collection, specifically from the Elmhurst Branch Library. (See **Attachment C**.) Since that time, three library branches were named in public discussions about this issue – the Elmhurst Branch, César Chávez Branch and West Branch. Thus, this report includes more detailed information about the books withdrawn from these specific branches.

The Library spends approximately \$2,000,000 on materials each year, which includes about 50,000 e-books and print books. The total library collection is nearly 1.2 million items of which 880,000 items are print books. Of the total \$2 million, about \$872,000 is spent on the purchase of over 26,000 print books, which represents about three percent (3%) of the total print collection. Books are officially removed from the collection to keep it responsive to patron needs, ensure its vitality and usefulness to the community, and make room for newer materials or newer formats.

The OPL Collection Development Policy is attached as **Attachment D**. Removing books is one part of a wholistic collection management plan that also includes:

- Selection and Acquisition (adding materials to collections);
- Cataloging and Processing (ensuring that materials in the collection can be found);
- Use of the Collection and Promotion (monitoring and promoting collections); and
- Review and Withdrawal (removing materials from collections).

The Library offers many collections across 16 branches, the Main Library and AAMLO, as well as electronically over the Internet. A few examples of the types of collections are: Adult; African American; Asian-American; Business; Career; Chicano; Children's; Classics; Genealogy; Genres (Romance, Mystery, Science Fiction); Government Documents; East Indian; Ethiopian; American Indian; Local History; LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer); Parenting; Philippines; Picture Books; Test Preparation; Urban Literature; and Young Adult.

The Library's collections are non-archival, with the exception of the Main Library's Oakland History Room, Magazines/Newspapers, Government Documents Repository, and AAMLO. In addition, OPL collects books in 17 languages other than English including: Amharic; Arabic; Chinese; Filipino; French; Hindi; Hmong; Japanese; Khmer; Lao; Persian; Punjabi; Russian; Spanish; Thai; Tigrinya; and Vietnamese. The OPL Collection Development Policy guides the decision-making for purchases and removals from the OPL Collection with the intent of addressing the needs of Oakland's diverse and complex communities.

Formats of collections are:

- Print (books, magazines, sheet music)
- Media (DVDs, music CDs, Books on CD)
- E-materials (streaming movies/music, e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, databases)
- Electronics (laptops, tablets, wi-fi hotspots)
- Miscellaneous (museum passes, seeds, tools, toys, musical instruments, bike locks)

All print collections are composed of content for library patrons to use by "check out" (taking from the library for a period of time) or in the library.

Collections are created and maintained by librarians who are subject matter specialists for different age groups (Adult, Children, Young Adult), branch locations and types of collections-governed by the OPL Collection Development Policy. The collection management model practiced by OPL is considered "decentralized" as opposed to a common "centralized" model practiced by many library systems. A centralized collection management system might have only 1-2 librarians making selection and deselection decisions for an entire library system and region. The decentralized model that OPL practices means that librarians who interact with the many patrons who use the collections each day are the same individuals making the decisions about what materials to purchase and what materials to withdraw from the collections they manage. This helps ensure that a more localized level of expertise and variety is reflected in the collections available to patrons.

In addition, librarians are trained by Collection Management staff and professional development resources (webinars, trainings, etc.) to develop and maintain collections that are diverse, relevant to the community, accurate and appealing.

Another important consideration is community input. Fulfilling patron requests in a timely and courteous manner is one of the most important service goals for Oakland Public Library. If OPL does not own a title, in addition to purchasing it, requests are filled through OPL's Interlibrary Loan or LINK+ systems which provide access to millions of titles located at other library systems across the county.

Materials are selected monthly or bi-weekly by over 50 librarians based on what is published, peer-reviewed and of local interest. Primary consideration is given to material requested or in demand by patrons regardless of publication cycle. For some electronic material (e-books/streaming music and video), selection is made directly by the patron. Patrons can make purchase requests in person, in writing, by phone, or online through OPL's "suggest a purchase"

link. OPL purchases patron requested titles daily and this is an important mechanism to fill collection gaps and ensure that patrons have access to the materials they seek.

Removal from Library Collection

Books are officially removed from the collection to keep it responsive to patron needs, ensure its vitality and usefulness to the community, and make room for newer materials or newer formats. Librarians are trained to withdraw materials that are in unacceptable physical condition, are inaccurate, dated/superseded or that have not been used by patrons for a period of time (generally over one year).

Lack of use varies by collection and location, but is most commonly defined at a branch location as material that has not been checked out in over one (1) year. However, the length of time is determined by the librarian in charge of the collection while taking into consideration the uniqueness of item as it pertains to the rest of the collection, its availability elsewhere in the OPL system or through LINK+, and available shelf space. If a book is the sole and last copy for OPL, the book is not withdrawn by the local librarian and it requires a second-level review. It is sent to a supervisory Collection Management Librarian and may be retained in a storage collection if it is valuable or rare.

In addition to librarians removing materials from collections, items are withdrawn from the collection by patrons through loss, theft, accident or failure to return the item.

After being withdrawn from the Library, physical items that are damaged are recycled or thrown away. Materials that are in usable condition are donated to "Friends of the Library" organizations per Oakland City Council Resolution No. 74175 C.M.S., which authorizes the disposal of surplus city property. The "Friends of the Library" organizations, in turn, make every effort to repurpose this material. Some of the current repurposing efforts are:

- Free giveaways at library branches and community events
- Book sales
- Schools
- Day care centers
- Hospitals
- Art/craft organizations
- Library programs

Specific to the César Chávez, Elmhurst and West Branch libraries, **Attachment E** provides a summary of books withdrawn from the collections during a one (1) year period between May 1, 2017 and April 30, 2018. The César Chávez branch houses 2,375 African American titles which is about five percent (5%) of its collection. During the one year period reviewed, 77 African American titles or two percent (2%) of the total removed from the collection were African American titles because the books were either lost or missing for over five years, there was no circulation for over one year, or the books were damaged/worn.

The Elmhurst and West Branch libraries both have dedicated African American collections. At the Elmhurst Branch, the African American collection represents about eleven percent (11%) of

the branch collection and during the one-year period reviewed, about three percent (3%) of the books removed from the collection were African American titles. At the West Branch, the African American collection includes 4,444 titles, representing fourteen (14%) of the branch collection. The West Branch had not removed books for about three years and removed 274 African American titles during the one-year review period, or 10% of the total number of books removed. All books that were in usable condition were donated to the respective Friends of the Library organizations.

Next Steps

OPL is committed to working on a number of initiatives toward advancing racial equity in Oakland. The OPL departmental Race and Equity Team is engaged as a resource for the library as it embarks on these initiatives and changes. Examples include considering the removal of fines and fees to reduce barriers to use of library, expanding library hours at all locations and establishing a library in East Oakland to be open on Sundays, reviewing the suspension policy, and revisiting the computer use policies to allow patrons more computer time and install laptop kiosks at all locations. These initiatives and others will require broad community input, especially those that may not be current frequent users of the libraries. Finally, the OPL Race and Equity Team will continue work on a Racial Equity Impact Analysis guided by the City of Oakland Department of Race and Equity. This analysis will provide recommendations for more equitable policy options and mechanisms for measuring racially equitable outcomes to track and improve access to library services and collections moving forward.

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational report with no fiscal impact.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

No public outreach was conducted for the preparation of this report.

COORDINATION

The Library is in communication with the Department of Race and Equity to assist the Library in conducting a Racial Equity Impact Analysis.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: No specific, additional economic opportunities have been identified.

Environmental: No specific, additional environmental opportunities have been identified.

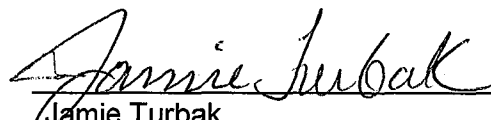
Social Equity: The services of the Oakland Public Library are available at no charge to all residents of all ages and races to acquire knowledge and develop skills they need toward equity in educational, employment, housing, entertainment and engagement opportunities. The OPL Race and Equity Team will continue work on a Racial Equity Impact Analysis guided by the City of Oakland Department of Race and Equity. This analysis will provide recommendations for more equitable policy options and mechanisms for measuring racially equitable outcomes to track and improve access to library services and collections moving forward.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff recommends that the City Council accept an informational report from City Administration on: 1) Status of hiring and programming at the African American Museum And Library At Oakland (AAMLO); and 2) General library procedures for removing books from the Oakland Public Library collection, including responding to recent issue regarding numerous rare African American-oriented books being discarded.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Jamie Turbak, Interim Library Director, at (510) 238-6610.

Respectfully submitted,


Jamie Turbak
Interim Director of Library Services

Attachments (5):

- A. Informational Memorandum re: AAMLO Chief Curator Recruitment Update dated April 17, 2018
- B. AAMLO Programming February – July 2018
- C. Informational Memorandum re: Oakland Public Library – Collection Management dated May 4, 2018
- D. Oakland Public Library Collection Development Policy
- E. Summary of Withdrawn Books from Chávez, Elmhurst and West Branch Libraries

Item: _____
Life Enrichment Committee
June 26, 2018



DISTRIBUTION DATE: 4/17/18

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Sabrina B. Landreth
City Administrator

SUBJECT: AAMLO Chief Curator Recruitment
Update

DATE: April 17, 2018

INFORMATION

The national search for a permanent Chief Curator of the African American Museum & Library at Oakland (AAMLO) will follow the selection of a permanent Director of the Oakland Public Library (OPL).

BACKGROUND

In October 2017, the former OPL Director appointed an Interim Chief Curator (Susan D. Anderson) of AAMLO while an executive search firm, The Hawkins Company, initiated a process for selecting a permanent Chief Curator. Recognizing that stakeholder engagement is a critical component of the recruitment process for the AAMLO Chief Curator, The Hawkins Company was asked to conduct a stakeholder engagement process that included gathering feedback about the desirable attributes and experience sought by the community.

The Hawkins Company developed an online survey and facilitated two public community meetings that were held on March 21 and March 22, 2018. Twenty-one people completed the online survey and thirty participants attended the community meetings. The community identified notable qualities for an AAMLO Chief Curator through this process including:

- A demonstrated passion, commitment and understanding of African-American culture, history, identity and community. Many people requested that the Chief Curator be African-American.
- Belief in constant outreach and ongoing dialogue with the community.
- Values and engages youth, adults and seniors; and provides exciting programming to these groups.
- Effective communicator and listener; friendly, charismatic and approachable.
- Experience with historical artifacts and exhibition development techniques.
- Experience with community engagement; someone who is accessible and has worked with the African-American community.

The community feedback was insightful, informative and clear. It emphasized the crucial role that AAMLO fills within the City of Oakland and, even more importantly, for the Oakland community and African-American patrons.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
Subject: AAMLO Chief Curator Recruitment Update
Date: April 17, 2018

Page 2

NEXT STEPS

As this process was underway, the OPL Director (Gerry Garzon) retired and an Interim Library Director (Jamie Turbak) was appointed in early March 2018.

The City is committed to honoring and fulfilling the mission of the AAMLO. After hearing the feedback from the community on the AAMLO Chief Curator recruitment, the City Administrator has decided to move forward with the OPL Director recruitment now, and place the AAMLO Chief Curator recruitment on a temporary pause while the new Director is being selected. This management decision to select a permanent Director of the Oakland Public Library prior to the AAMLO Chief Curator position is an intentional effort to ensure that the mission and vision for the AAMLO and its programs are aligned between the permanent Library Director and the AAMLO Chief Curator, who is supervised by the Director.

Pausing on the permanent hire of the AAMLO Chief Curator position also gives the opportunity for the community to inform the recruitment process for the permanent Library Director, who is responsible for providing the leadership and effective management of the Oakland Public Library, including the AAMLO.

For continuity, the City Administration is engaging The Hawkins Company to conduct the recruitment for the permanent Director of the Oakland Public Library. The timeline for the search process is expected to take between four to five months. The City Administrator's Office will oversee the recruitment that will include stakeholder input, including community and internal staff, in the process. The recruitment for the AAMLO Director position will resume following the placement of a permanent Library Director.

City Administration is deeply committed to a timely and transparent process that results in matching the high-quality attributes and experience that the Oakland community seeks, expects and deserves with the placement of a Library Director and AAMLO Chief Curator who will be committed to the best interests of AAMLO as defined thus far by the community.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

SABRINA B. LANDRETH
City Administrator

AAMLO PROGRAMMING, FEBRUARY – JULY, 2018

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

World War II veteran, Ivan J. Houston presents, “WITH ONE HAND TIED.” This 57-minute documentary tells the story of the Italian town that annually celebrates its liberation by black soldiers of the 92nd Infantry during WWII. Ivan’s book “BLACK WARRIORS: THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS OF WWII” will be available.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Post-Vietnam era veteran, Diane Williamson presents “FINDING OUR PLACE: THE OAKLAND BLACK VETERAN EXPERIENCE.” This 20-minute film essay focuses on DeFremery House and segregation of the USO during WWII, utilizing local historical photographs and an interview with Bay Area civil rights leader, Frances Albrier (1898 – 1987).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Vietnam-era veteran, Frederick Penn, a National Park Service ranger at the Presidio of San Francisco presents, “COL. CHARLES YOUNG AND THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS AT THE PRESIDIO.” This PowerPoint slide presentation provides a revealing look at the time spent in the Bay Area by one of the most significant African American military figures in U.S. history.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Oakland native and former Bay Area newscaster, Ricki Stevenson, founder of Black Paris Tours, speaks on THIS YEAR'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS ARRIVING IN FRANCE TO HELP WIN WWI. Among them, James Reese Europe, leader of the band for the 369th Regiment known as the Harlem Hellfighters, credited with bringing jazz to France.

MARCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, LISE PEARLMAN

Considered the country’s leading expert on the 1968 Huey Newton death penalty trial in Oakland, Judge Pearlman studied law at Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley, and practiced law in Alameda County before taking the bench. She appeared in the acclaimed 2015 documentary, “The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution,” and wrote the award-winning book "American Justice on Trial: People v. Newton" in 2016 to accompany the documentary project she is producing with that same name - "a world-changing true story" that won the Berkeley Film Foundation 2017 award for civil rights projects. She will be showing that film sample and talking about her acclaimed new book “With Justice For Some: Politically Charged Criminal Trials in the Early 20th Century That Helped Shape Today’s America.”

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, CARETH REID

Ms. Reid is a native of Berkeley and a lifelong educator and champion of community service in the Bay Area. She is a recipient of the San Francisco State University “Alumna of the Year” award and an inductee in the university’s Hall of Fame. She signed copies of her book, “The Picture Man: From the Collection of Bay Area Photographer E.F. Joseph, 1927 – 1979” which she wrote with co-author, dance legend, and Oakland native, choreographer, Ruth Beckford.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, HALIFU OSUMARE

A participant and witness, scholar and advocate, Ms. Osumare continues to be a force in the Bay Area dance scene. Her new book, “Dancing in Blackness: A Memoir” traces her coming of age as a dancer and choreographer, and her collaborations with Katherine Dunham, Pearl Primus,

and Donald McKayle, among others. In the words of Ntozake Shange, Ms. Osumare has “tackled the mystery that is the magic of contemporary African American dance.”

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, HONORING THE WOMEN

The Women’s Committee of the Oakland NAACP will honor several generations of women leaders, past and present, by recognizing them for their achievements in various spheres.

Following the NAACP program, Cultivating Gardens will present health and wellness for women: a self-care experience through gardening, herbal infusions, yoga and meditation.

Wellness is not just about freedom from sickness it also means being aware of healthy choices that give us a totally fulfilled life.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, OAKLAND CITY

COUNCILWOMAN LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

Councilwoman McElhaney is serving a second term representing Oakland's Council District 3. Known as a bridge builder and advocate, she will speak on "Women, Power, and Change," addressing issues swirling in society, with the national and local women's marches as a focal point for organizing. What do African American women want for themselves and their communities? How are they using their power? Are they learning from their forebears and black women leaders of the past?

APRIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 7 HUGHES’ DREAM HARLEM

Poet Langston Hughes successfully fused jazz, blues, and common speech to celebrate the beauty of African American life. The multi-layered documentary, “Hughes’ Dream Harlem,” shows the poet’s lasting impact on the spoken word and hip-hop communities of today.

Narration and interviews by the late actors/activists Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14 OAKLAND YOUTH POET LAUREATE

The six finalists competing for the title of Oakland Youth Poet Laureate will be participating in a promotional video and photo shoot. This is a rare opportunity to see these talented young poets behind the scenes as they perform their inspiring work for the film crew.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 “AND WHEN I DIE, I WON’T STAY DEAD”

Director Billy Woodberry’s lyrical documentary film, “And when I die, I won’t stay dead,” portrays the life and work of the late San Francisco African American “Beat” poet, Bob Kaufman. The film has been shown at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, opened MOMA’s Doc Fortnight, and won Best Investigative Documentary at Doclisboa International Film Festival.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, “THE MUSIC, THE ARTIST, THE WORD”

Enjoy performances by three talented young Bay Area artists, pianist and composer, Jelani Newsome-Noble; dancer and Oakland School of the Arts (OSA) senior, Joshua Ponton, and; Nicia De’Lovely, poet, and founder and director of Nicia De’Lovely Presents.

MAY

SATURDAY, MAY 5. “OF POETRY AND PROTEST: FROM EMMETT TILL TO TRAYVON MARTIN”

San Francisco poet Michael Warr is editor of “Of Poetry and Protest: From Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin,” and will read from this extraordinary volume which presents poems of 43 of

America's most talented African American poets. Each is accompanied by a photograph of the poet along with a first-person biography. The anthology also contains works by Harry Belafonte, Amiri Baraka, and the Reverend Dr. William Barber II, architect of the Moral Mondays movement, as well as iconic images of the Black Lives Matter movement, Malcolm X, and the Black Panther Party. Books will be available for purchase.

SATURDAY, MAY 12, "NORTH OF DIXIE: CIVIL RIGHTS PHOTOGRAPHY BEYOND THE SOUTH"

Mark Speltz is a historian and author of "North of Dixie: Civil Rights Photography Beyond the South" published by the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. His book "begins with newspaper photographs taken in the early twentieth century and ends with a cell-phone picture depicting a protest in response to the 2014 death of Michael Brown...The photographs in *North of Dixie*...inform us about the various American stories...that have been lost to public memory...Photographers saw themselves as change makers – some because they were participants in the movement and others because they were creating images of freedom." Books will be available for purchase.

SATURDAY, MAY 19, "WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD"

When artist Mildred Howard, daughter of legendary Berkeley activist Mable Howard, loses her South Berkeley home due to soaring rental prices, it costs Berkeley a piece of its history and its legacy. This story of an African American family illuminates both personal power to create possibilities in adversity, and the broader issue of gentrification and a housing crisis that threatens a community's diversity. Pamela Uzzell, director of "Welcome to the Neighborhood," is an award-winning documentary producer, director and editor. Following the film screening, she will be joined by fellow panelists Mildred Howard, Berkeley City Councilman Ben Bartlett, and Gloria Bruce, executive director of East Bay Housing Organizations.

SATURDAY, MAY 26, "EARLY BLACK PIONEERS OF ALAMEDA"

Alameda native and historian Rasheed Shabazz lectures on Alameda history, geography, race, housing and community development. African Americans have inhabited Alameda since the Gold Rush era, and include prominent and influential families such as the Hacketts and others. Using census documents, historical newspapers, photographs, and other materials, Shabazz reveals surprising and hidden aspects of Alameda history that have consequences for all of California.

JUNE

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

In partnership with Donor Network West, AAMLO is presenting programs that explore the need for African Americans to participate as organ donors and recipients.

A QUESTION OF FAITH. Producer Angeles White will be on hand to screen and discuss her film starring Richard T. Jones and Kim Fields about families facing life-changing decisions.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

GIVING ME LIFE. A photography exhibit provides a visual journey of African American organ and tissue transplant recipients. With opening reception and panel discussion.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

YOU BET YOUR LIFE: HOW I SURVIVED JIM CROW RACISM, HURRICANE-CHASING, AND GAMBLING. Emmy award-winning TV weatherman Spencer Christian discusses his memoir. Books will be available.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

FREEDOM RIDERS. Stanley Nelson's inspirational documentary is the first feature-length film about this courageous band of civil rights activists.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

Director Susheel Bibbs presents her award-winning documentary about these 19th century California opera singers who created the first civil rights musicals.

JULY

SATURDAY, JULY 7

TELL THEM WE ARE RISING: THE STORY OF BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (STANLEY NELSON, 2017)

America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have educated the architects of freedom movements and cultivated leaders in every field. Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities examines the impact these institutions have had on the nation for over 150 years.

SATURDAY, JULY 14

FREEDOM RIDERS (STANLEY NELSON, 2010)

Freedom Riders chronicles the inspirational story of American civil rights activists' fight against racial segregation on buses and trains over six months in 1961, deliberately violating Jim Crow laws in order to test and challenge a segregated interstate travel system. The documentary film is based on Raymond Arsenault's book Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice.

SATURDAY, JULY 21

FREEDOM SUMMER (STANLEY NELSON, 2014)

Freedom Summer recalls the events of the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer, when more than 700 student activists worked together to register African-American voters in violently segregationist Mississippi and shatter the foundations of white supremacy in the nation's most segregated state.

SATURDAY, JULY 28

AAMLO ARCHIVE FILMS: FROM THE VAULTS (VARIOUS)

Drawn from the vast collection in the African American Museum & Library at Oakland archives, this program will feature a diverse set of short films, from home movies to an episode of the legendary Jay Payton Show featuring the pioneering dance group the Black Resurgents.



DISTRIBUTION DATE: 5/7/18

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Sabrina B. Landreth
City Administrator

SUBJECT: Oakland Public Library – Collection
Management

DATE: May 4, 2018

INFORMATION

Recently, several books titles from the Oakland Public Library were brought to our attention as being inappropriately discarded. Upon research, these particular books, in addition to others, were withdrawn from the Elmhurst Branch Library, having been published between 1990-2007, about 11-28 years ago. These particular books were not from the African-American Museum and Library of Oakland (AAMLO) collection. All of the book titles referenced are still available to the public through the Oakland Public Library at multiple branches and through the Library online LINK+ system.

The development and management of library collections is guided by the American Library Association and is a necessary function of libraries across the globe. In effectively managing the Oakland Public Library collection, the Library follows the guidelines of the American Library Association. The Library acts to fulfill its mission and core values by selecting and providing access to a collection of materials and electronic resources that address the needs of Oakland's diverse communities in a timely manner. Oakland librarians are professionals that receive formal training in the care and management of the OPL collection. Decisions about what to have in the collection are made by subject specialists at each location based on the needs and interests of the community. The OPL Collection Development Policy is available on the library website. [Click here](#) (or go to <http://oaklandlibrary.org/about/policies>) to view the policy.

OPL spends approximately \$2 million per year in the purchase of new additions to its collection. Books are officially withdrawn periodically to keep the collection responsive to patron needs, to ensure its vitality and usefulness to the community, and to make room for newer materials or newer formats. When OPL discards a book, it is typically donated to the local branch of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library. In this way, the Friends of the Oakland Public Library can sell the book at a discounted price and keep the book in the local community.

The Oakland Public Library encourages involvement by the community in the selection process of bringing new items into its collection. Several mechanisms are provided for this purpose, including analysis of pending reserve requests, purchase suggestions submitted by library users, and questionnaires and surveys administered by the library. User suggestions for purchase are evaluated in accordance with the standards for selection.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

SABRINA B. LANDRETH
City Administrator



OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This document describes the purpose and nature of the library's collection and gives guidance and direction to library staff for collection development and maintenance.

The Collection Development Policy will be re-evaluated and revised as necessary by OPL Collection Management librarians and Library Management.

MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

The mission statement of the Oakland Public Library is: "Your Oakland Public Library empowers all people to explore, connect and grow."

The Library acts to fulfill its mission by selecting, acquiring, organizing, preserving, maintaining, and providing access to a collection of materials and electronic resources that address the needs of Oakland's diverse and complex communities in a timely manner. The Library's collections provide general reference resources as well as information and entertainment. The collections affirm and uphold the public's rights to intellectual freedom and access to the full range of information and ideas. They seek to be sensitive to the expressed needs and concerns of the community.

INSTITUTION AND CLIENTELE

The Oakland Public Library is made up of a Main Library, 16 neighborhood branches, an adult literacy program, a Tool Lending Library, and the African American Museum and Library of Oakland. The Library's primary service area is Oakland, Emeryville and Piedmont. The Library is also used by residents of the wider East Bay community.

OVERVIEW OF COLLECTION

The Oakland Public Library's collection includes books, CDs, DVDs, periodicals, microforms, online materials and more. The Library collects in multiple languages. Current collection development emphasizes popular works, basic reference and academic support. The Library's collection is non-archival, with the exception of the Main Library's Oakland History Room and Government Documents Repository, and the African American Museum and Library at Oakland.

Individual branch collections reflect the interests and needs of local communities. Many branches have collections in Spanish, and several collect Asian languages. The map, music score, and government document collections are unique to the Main

Library. The Main houses the largest DVD, CD, audiobook, magazine and newspaper collections in the system.

The Library offers our patrons access to a greatly expanded collection via its interlibrary loan service, including Link+. The Library also provides service electronically on a 24-hour basis via its online catalog, website, subscription databases, and a collection of e-media that currently includes e-books, e-audiobooks, video, music and periodicals. The Library's e-resources are available to anyone present in the library, and offsite to the Library's cardholders via the library's website and vendor websites and apps.

PRINCIPLES

STANDARDS FOR SELECTION

Collection development decisions are made on the basis of staff judgment, expertise, knowledge of what is already in the collection, and by evaluating reviews in library review journals and other library selection tools.

The Library selects materials on a variety of criteria including:

- Demonstrated or perceived community interest, need or demand by Library users or potential users
- Contemporary significance or permanent value
- Relevance to the experience and contributions of diverse populations
- Quality, including accuracy, clarity and usability
- Significance and/or reputation of the author and/or any other contributors
- Relation to existing collections
- Format, durability, and ease of use
- Value of resource in relation to its cost

These criteria are applied as appropriate across all subjects, languages, material types, and formats.

Works are not excluded because of frankness or coarse language. In each case, the material is judged on the volume as a whole, not by detached excerpts. On controversial questions upon which there are divergent points of view, the Library policy is to provide factual material on all sides as far as availability permits. Significant works may be acquired or retained despite features that may be objectionable to some residents.

The Library does not purchase the following types of material: costly books of little demand, collectibles, textbooks (unless they are of general interest and the best in the subject field) or family genealogies. Abridged, expurgated or condensed materials are generally not acquired.

GIFTS

Gifts are evaluated with the same criteria as purchased materials. Acceptance of donated items is subject to the discretion of the appropriate selector in conformity with library selection standards. Gift materials not added to the collection are not returned to the donor. Unused gifts may be offered to the Friends of the Oakland Public Library for public sale, discarded, or disposed of in some other way.

Collections of donated materials may not necessarily be kept together as a group, and the Library may not be able to accept gifts with this requirement.

The Library cannot be responsible for the appraisal of gifts for income tax or any other purpose. The Library will provide a receipt describing number and type of donated material.

REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION

Persons raising an objection to a book or other materials in the library will be asked to provide a written explanation of their objections, citing specifics from the material in question. The supervisor of the unit receiving the complaint will refer the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form to the Collection Development librarian who will appoint a committee composed of selectors whose expertise or reading background is related to the material in question. The committee will evaluate the material and compose a report with recommendations for action for the Library Director. If requested, the Director will respond to the individual or group making the request.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM STATEMENT

The library neither approves nor disapproves of the views expressed in materials included in the collection. The inclusion of an item is not to be considered an endorsement, official or otherwise, by the library. Selections for the library will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the material in relation to building the collection and serving the needs and interests of users, and in accordance with this policy.

Materials are not marked or identified to show approval or disapproval.

The library endorses the principles of the Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements and the Library Bill of Rights adopted by the American Library Association.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

The ultimate responsibility for materials selection resides with the Library Director. Under the Director, selection is delegated to the professional staff. Staff collection management decisions reflect the Library mission statement and the standards and principles in this document.

The collection needs continuous evaluation in order to be sure that the Library is fulfilling its mission to provide material in a timely manner to meet patrons' interests and needs. Statistical tools such as circulation reports, collection turnover rates, and hold fill rates are studied to determine how the collection is being used and how it should change to answer patron need.

The Library encourages involvement by the community in the selection process. Several mechanisms are provided for this purpose, including analysis of pending reserve requests, purchase suggestions submitted by library users, and

questionnaires and surveys administered by the Library. User suggestions for purchase are evaluated in accordance with the standards for selection.

DESELECTION

Systematic deselection is required to keep the collection responsive to patron needs, to ensure its vitality and usefulness to the community, and to make room for newer materials or newer formats. The deselection process identifies materials that are damaged, out of date, or no longer used. Deselection also helps the Library evaluate the collection by identifying areas or titles where additional materials are needed, older editions that need to be updated, and subjects, titles, or authors that are no longer of interest to the community. If Library staff is uncertain about a title to be withdrawn, standard bibliographic tools are consulted to see if the title has historical or literary value.

REPLACEMENT

Materials that have been lost or damaged may be replaced using the same criteria as for selection. Other factors considered when deciding on replacements include the number of copies the Library system owns, the availability of newer materials on the subject, the number of duplicate copies, existence of adequate coverage of a field, other similar materials in the collection, and demand for and intrinsic value of a specific title.

Adopted by Oakland Public Library, January 2017

APPENDIX

ALA Freedom to Read Statement

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound

responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*
2. Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.
3. *Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*
4. Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.
5. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*
6. No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.
7. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*
8. To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.
9. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*

10. The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.
11. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*
12. It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.
13. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*
14. The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.

A Joint Statement by:
American Library Association and
Association of American Publishers
Association of American Publishers.

ALA Freedom to View Statement

The FREEDOM TO VIEW, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore these principles are affirmed:

1. To provide the broadest access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video, or other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979. This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989.

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 18, 1948.

Amended February 2, 1961, and January 23, 1980, inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996, by the ALA Council.

Summary of Withdrawn Books from Chávez, Elmhurst and West Branch Libraries May 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018

César Chávez Branch		Number of Books Withdrawn from 5/1/17 - 4/30/18	African American (1)	Percent of Total
	Adult	2,475	61	
	Child	1,839	13	
	Young Adult	246	3	
	Total	4,560	77	
	Lost/Missing Books (2)	1,424	35	
	No Circulation Over 1 Year	2,459	29	
	Damage/Worn Books (Average "circ" per item: 28)	677	13	
	Total	4,560	77	2%

Current Number of Books as of June 1, 2018	African American (1)	Percent of Total
22,295	1,515	
19,710	617	
4,100	243	
46,105	2,375	5%

Elmhurst Branch		Number of Books Withdrawn from 5/1/17 - 4/30/18	African American (1)	Percent of Total
	Adult	743	39	
	Child	733	11	
	Young Adult	152	1	
	Total	1,628	51	
	Lost/Missing Books (2)	140	18	
	No Circulation Over 1 Year	915	21	
	Damage/Worn Books (Average "circ" per item: 42)	573	12	
	Total	1,628	51	3%

8,527	1,610	
11,192	452	
2,248	263	
21,967	2,325	11%

West Branch		Number of Books Withdrawn from 5/1/17 - 4/30/18	African American (1)	Percent of Total
	Adult	1,168	236	
	Child	1,430	33	
	Young Adult	211	5	
	Total	2,809	274	
	Lost/Missing Books (2)	934	131	
	No Circulation Over 1 Year	1,557	120	
	Damage/Worn Books (Average "circ" per item: 18)	318	23	
	Total	2,809	274	10%

14,405	3,224	
15,269	869	
2,479	351	
32,153	4,444	14%

(1) African American titles determined by Library of Congress Subject Headings. There may be books of African American content that do not have this subject heading.

(2) "Lost/Missing Books" refers to items that cannot be found or have not been returned for over five years.