

# Central Arkansas Library System

## Board of Directors Meeting

June 23, 2022, at noon

### Hybrid Meeting: Darragh Center & Zoom Video Call

Board members in attendance were Stephanie Gibson-Branton, Stacey McAdoo, Brandon Grice, Audrey Evans, Andre Guerrero, Bob Brown, Esperanza Massana-Crane, Marian Berry, Jennifer Jamison, Ryan Davis, Madhav Shroff, and Sybil Jordan Hampton. Mandy Gill was absent.

Staff in attendance were Nate Coulter, Jo Spencer, Lance Ivy, Lisa Donovan, Nathan James, Tameka Lee, Nathan Smith, Joe Hudak, Kate Matthews, Mark Christ, Joseph Cole, Katie Adams, Liz Wooley, and Tara Protiva-Brown.

Also in attendance was Joe Flaherty from the Arkansas Democrat Gazette and Kyle Elmore with FORVIS, LLP.

#### **Action Items**

##### **1. Approval of Minutes**

Gibson-Branton asked the Board to approve the May Minutes as corrected.

Grice moved to approve the May Minutes as corrected. Shroff seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

##### **2. Approval of May Financials**

Grice reported that as of May 31, 2022, CALS assets totaled \$109,492,799.39 with a net income of \$4,956,942.88. Grice pointed out that expenses were in line with the budget and tax collections for the year were up about 12% as of the middle of June.

Gibson-Branton filed the May Financials for audit.

##### **3. Presentation of 2021 Audit**

Kyle Elmore with FORVIS, LLP (formerly BKD) spoke about the company's audit of CALS for the 2021 fiscal year. Elmore began by mentioning that the Finance Committee of the CALS Board had met earlier that day to go over the audit in detail. As of December 31, 2021, FORVIS, LLP gave CALS a clean, unmodified opinion on the financial statements submitted by the CALS finance team. Elmore clarified that the CALS Foundation was included within the numbers. He said CALS had a strong balance sheet of assets compared to liabilities with about \$12M in unrestricted cash compared to about \$4.5M in bonds payable. He mentioned that the City of Little Rock carries some of CALS debt, so some items appeared on the City's balance sheet instead of the library's. He also highlighted an upcoming standard with a change in accounting for leases, which

was not expected to have a significant impact on CALS. Overall, Elmore reported that the audit went smoothly and commended the CALS team for providing accurate information.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Grice recommended that the Board approve the CALS 2021 audit draft as presented. It was approved unanimously.

## **Information Items**

### **1. Director's Report**

Coulter noted that he submitted his report in writing ahead of this meeting, but had a few items he wanted to highlight:

- *Capital Improvement Update:* Coulter asked Spencer and Ivy to update the Board on progress with the capital improvement bonds. Spencer said that she has been working with Crews & Associates and Wright, Lindsey, & Jennings on the bond process. She said they were currently waiting for the City of Little Rock's financial statements to be issued in the form of an audit which was expected to happen on June 30. According to the projected timeline, Spencer said the project funds associated with the bonds should be issued by late October. CALS planned to spend some money before the funds were scheduled to arrive, with a reimbursement resolution approved by the City of Little Rock. She said that the only purchase made with project funds so far was a deposit for a bookmobile. Ivy reported that he hoped to have a rendering of the bookmobile by the next Board meeting. Due to supply chain issues, CALS likely would not receive the bookmobile until Fall 2023. Ivy also reported that CALS began running legal notice ads for RFQS for architect firms interested in working on renovating Main Library, with a submission deadline of July 25. He said that Gibson-Branton and McAdoo agreed to sit on an interview committee for the architect firms.
- *Night Market at Library Square:* Coulter highlighted the Night Market at Library Square held June 3, the first Night Market event since the pandemic began. A large, diverse crowd enjoyed food trucks, small business vendors associated with the Rock It! Lab, a band, and games for children. Celebrants at the Night Market enjoyed the expanded downtown entertainment district policy adopted by the city which allowed alcoholic beverages to be taken outside of the business where they are sold. Cole reported that sales of alcoholic beverages at Ron Robinson Theater were excellent. The next Night Market will be held in August.
- *Sue Cowan Williams Branch Anniversary:* CALS hosted a block party to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sue Cowan Williams Library. Around 150 attendees gathered to celebrate with food, games, and music. Lee attended the event and said she received positive feedback regarding the community-focused aspect of the event.
- *Ron Robinson Theater:* Cole highlighted recent events hosted by Ron Robinson Theater such as the Made in Arkansas film festival featuring 50 locally made films and bringing in over 200 filmmakers and film lovers. The theater also partnered with the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts to co-present Doodle Pop, a multi-sensory children's production based out of South Korea, which served over 600 patrons. In partnership with the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and Arkansas PBS, the theater hosted a free event celebrating Juneteenth titled *9<sup>th</sup> Street & Beyond: Black Communities That Sustained Us Then &*



Now. Cole said plans are also in place to continue the Rocky Horror Picture Show, which has historically been one of the top revenue generators for the theater, and highlighted the upcoming concert of two-time Grammy award winner, Blues Hall of Fame member, fourteen-time Blues Music Award winner, and B. B. King Entertainer of the Year, Bobby Rush. Terror Tuesday and Bingoflix will also be returning.

- *CALS Staff Distinction:* Coulter reported that Ellen Samples, Youth Services Coordinator, was asked to make a presentation at the 2023 American Library Association conference in conjunction with her participation in an Urban Libraries Council cohort. The cohort is working to expand partnerships with underutilized community resources to enhance library engagement among under-reached children in the community. Donovan added that the cohort is focusing on ways to emphasize learning during Summer Reading Club in addition to establishing summer reading goals. She said Samples was the second CALS staff member in recent memory to be invited to present at ALA.

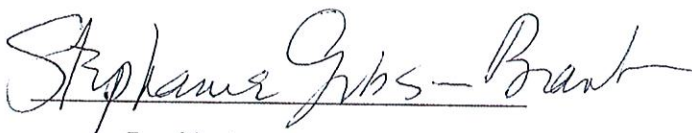
## 2. Other

Brown and Evans asked Coulter about efforts to increase staff safety in light of recent mass shootings. Coulter said, along with ample active shooting training resources for staff facilitated by CALS security team, CALS is considering a crisis alert system designed by Centegix. The system would include a proxy card for each library staff member to carry at all times which can be used to request help from security or police for situations ranging from unruly patrons to extreme emergencies. Ivy added that each CALS property has prominent signage prohibiting firearms.

Coulter congratulated Brown on the publishing of his memoir, *All Rise: How Race, Religion, and Politics Shaped My Career on the Arkansas Supreme Court*.

## 3. Move to Adjourn

Gibson-Branton called the meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.



President



Secretary