Next Stop, Libraries!

Libraries have been at this “changing lives” gig for a long time. From providing information and literacy access to new immigrants in the late 1800’s, to riding donkey’s over the appalachians in the Depression, to teaching patrons how to use rotary phones, to building Maker spaces, libraries have always been changing and developing.

So how do we keep going? How do we keep innovating to affect change in our communities? We hope you can find the answer here at the Urban Librarians Conference. Hang out, talk to other librarians, listen to speakers and participate in discussions. Then go back to work and do something awesome

What’s your next stop?
Sponsors

Thank you to the sponsors who made today’s conference possible. Without them we wouldn’t have had any; pie, coffee, printed programs, space to be in, speakers, or hotel rooms for them to stay in. Basically, it would have been us, in a room, with stale coffee. Staring at each other.

So THANK YOU!!!
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Keynote

Demand more: how big ideas will transform communities
Matthew DeLaney

In a world of practically infinite information and immediate access to streaming everything, it’s hard not to question the evolving role of librarians. Confronted daily with an epidemic obsession with violence, corruption, unemployment, economic disparity, and a struggling public education system, it’s easy to feel small and disempowered. However, in a dynamic knowledge economy, our role is more critical than ever before. Our communities are faced with new challenges daily, and librarians are tasked with maintaining a vigorous focus on community building, knowledge-creation, lifelong learning, and social justice. In order to be effective, we must constantly rethink how best to serve our communities and reexamine our mission against these challenges.

Every day, librarians have the opportunity to change someone's worldview, to be a catalyst for social change, and to create meaning in the world around us. Our vision is ambitious and to realize our potential we must be exceptional. As librarians, activists, and library advocates we must be relentless in our fight for democracy and our struggle against mediocrity. We have amazing technology to assist us, a brand that inspires excellence, and a network of partners so strong that the possibilities are limitless. Our responsibility is great and this is an exciting time to step up to the challenges before us.

Bio
As director of Tully Free Library, Matt DeLaney worked with a small team to transform a rural, underfunded library into a vibrant community center. In less than a year, Tully Free developed an online grocery store, created a weekly farmer’s market, launched a district wide enrichment program, opened a mobile library branch on the beach, and ran a student-led newsroom out of the library. Matt is now the director of the Manlius Library in central New York. Recognized as a 2013 Star Library in LJ, Manlius Library works with local partners to inspire greatness in its community. Matt believes that with the correct balance of passion, imagination, and ambition, librarians can be a catalyst for social change and transform communities.
Library Programs and Services That Empower and Engage Teens

Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel

Involve and engage the teens who use your library by starting or revitalizing a Junior Friends group. Junior Friends allow for the growth of leadership skills, responsibility, activism, and increased positive interaction w/peers and the community at large. In addition we’ll examine socially conscious programming for teens, which addresses diversity and the need to empower youth regardless of their backgrounds. The programs can be adapted and replicated by teen librarians in any location.

Bio

Ms. Kendrick-Samuel has been working in the field of public librarianship since 2001. She is currently the Head of Teen Services at Uniondale Public Library. She’s authored several articles and essays about young adult programming, Junior Friends' groups and her experiences as an African-American Librarian.
The “silver tsunami” of retiring Baby Boomer librarians did not occur as expected for many younger librarians with dreams of upward mobility. Despite the undeniable influence of younger librarians on areas such as advocacy and out-of-the-box programming, library administration still skews Boomer and discussions of generations in the workplace are rife with stereotypes and ridicule. With the hiring of a new Assistant Director in November 2013, the San Rafael Public Library’s management team is now a unique duo comprised of a Gen X Director (Sarah Houghton) and a Millennial Assistant Director (Vanessa Christman). This session will delve into the unique perspective that an X/Millennial team brings to management philosophy, operational strategy, and the future of library leadership.

Bios

Vanessa Christman recently accepted the gig of Assistant Director for the San Rafael Public Library and prior to that was the Director of the Dixon Public Library District (California) and a public law librarian. Frequently looking outside of libraries for inspiration, she once developed a library customer service training program based on the organizational culture of popular delicatessen.

Sarah Houghton is best known as the author of the award-winning LibrarianInBlack.net. She is also the Director for the San Rafael Public Library. Sarah is a big technology nerd and believes in the power of libraries to change lives. Combined, they make a fearsome cocktail.
Get HIP: Highly Interactive Programs for Multicultural Communities

Natasha Dass-Ford, Kimberly Lord and Angelique Simmons
Learn how to embrace the diversity of your community through HIP multicultural programs. Presenters will share programming tips and techniques such as fingerplays, action rhymes, current books, music and more designed to get all participants excited about fresh ‘HIP’ programming for your community.

Bios
Natasha Dass-Ford is a Youth Services Manager at the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center with over 11 years’ experience in children and teen programming. Natasha obtained her Master of Library Science degree from North Carolina Central University as a recipient of the IMLS Diversity Scholars Program. Natasha has been awarded the Exceptional Employee Award twice during her years at the library because of her significant contributions towards children and teen programming.

Kimberly Lord is a Library Associate at the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center with over 11 years’ experience creating and developing engaging programs that promote early literacy and the importance of libraries to both children and teens. Kimberly obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology which has been very useful in helping her develop programs that stimulate and engage the minds of children and teens. Kimberly is currently working on developing a library campaign towards the prevention of bullying.

Angelique Simmons is the Chief Librarian at the Ft. Bragg, NC military base library and has more than ten years of experience as a librarian working in North Carolina, Maryland, Washington D.C., Virginia and Germany. Angelique obtained her Master of Library Science degree from North Carolina Central University and will receive her Master of Business Administration degree, May 2014. Angelique’s expertise involves providing fun, engaging and interactive programming for children, all the while showing them the importance of early literacy.
Breakout Sessions

Well, what do you think? You do this stuff everyday. Be part of the conversation about urban libraries, and participate in one of our group discussions.

Matthew DeLaney
If libraries and librarians are limited only by a lack of imagination, why are many libraries struggling to fulfill their mission and why do we feel like we’re constantly asked to do more with less? What are some of the real challenges and obstacles in front of us that prevent us from realizing the lofty goals that we set for ourselves? This breakout session will be a participatory workshop exploring some of the real-world obstacles that we confront daily and how best to deal with them. From poor communication to maddening bureaucracy to cynical coworkers, we'll identify some of the common frustrations we face every day and brainstorm ways to work through these barriers to achieve greatness in our libraries.

Miriam Tuliao - Library Reads
Many of the smartest and most passionate readers work in urban libraries. Every day, staff across New York State share the books they love with patrons. Now, they can reach beyond the library walls and local communities and tell the rest of the country about the books they can’t wait to share.

Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel, Natasha Dass-Ford, Kimberly Lord and Angelique Simmons
Youth services is one of the most important aspects of service in any library. Join the days presenters in an open discussion of issues in children’s and teen services.

NYC City Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer - How to Talk to Politicians
Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer is a champion of the library wars. He is a former grassroots organizer, government affairs director of Queens Library, and now the Majority leader in the New York City Council. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to sit down and talk to a high power politician in an intimate setting about how best to work with your own elected officials to further your library’s goals.

Val Forrestal
The College of Staten Island library recently launched a new website, switching from the Joomla CMS to WordPress. This discussion group will talk about that transition. We can focus on any aspect of the migration, including the factors involved in choosing a new content management system, planning the migration process, as well as customizing WordPress themes and building queries to create dynamic pages. We'll also share some tips we learned along the way, including using jQuery and CSS to replace unsecure plug-ins, and backing up and updating the site.

Jama Shelton
Jama Shelton has been working to get everyone aware of and working together to address teen LGBTQ homelessness. This small group session will be an opportunity to get real workable tools to help you care for this population in your community as well as a chance to sign up to be part of the 40 to none network, a group attempting to address this issue head on.
Conference to be held at:
S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture, Brooklyn Public Library

Conference Social!!!
5:00pm - 8:00pm

Missed a breakout session?
Didn’t quite get enough conference?
Just exhausted and want a beer?

Just like the Urban Librarians Conference, it’s bigger on the inside! Come geek out with us at the Waystation.

683 Washington Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11238
Lunch Suggestions

Tom’s
782 Washington Ave
(between Sterling Pl & Lincoln Pl)
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Bkln Larder
*Sandwiches, Take-out
228 Flatbush Ave
(between Dean St & Bergen St)
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(718) 783-1250

Bogota Latin Bistro
*Vegetarian, Latin, Gluten-free
141 5th Ave
(between Lincoln Pl & St. John’s Pl)
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(718) 230-3805

Bombay Masala
*Indian, Vegetarian
678 Franklin Ave
(between Prospect Pl & St Marks Ave)
Brooklyn, NY 11238
(718) 230-7640

Cheryl’s Global Soul
*American
236 Underhill Ave
(between Lincoln Pl & St Johns Pl)
Brooklyn, NY 11238
(347) 529-2855

City Sub
*Sandwiches
450 Bergen St
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(718) 398-2592

The Islands
*Caribbean
803 Washington Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11238
(718) 398-3575

Kaz An Nou
*Caribbean, French
53 6th Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(718) 938-3235

Natural Blend
*Vegetarian, Caribbean
769A Washington Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11238
(718) 783-1737

Purbird
*American
82 Sixth Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(718) 857-2473

Scottadito Osteria Toscana
*Italian
788A Union St
Brooklyn, NY 11215
(718) 636-4800

Taro Sushi
*Japanese
244 Flatbush Ave
(between Bergen St & 6th Ave)
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(718) 398-5240
Urban Librarians Unite (ULU) is a professional group created to promote and support libraries, library staff, and librarianship in urban settings. Urban Librarian Unite facilitates dialog between libraries and library workers, encourages new developments in library science, and advocates for libraries and librarians in urban areas. We accomplish this through trainings, networking events, information resources, advocacy, publications, and presentations. While ULU is principally focused on libraries in urban settings it recognizes all forms of librarianship with particular support for libraries at risk.

Interested in learning more or volunteering? Find us online!

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