

## New & Noteworthy



### **Growing Together, Resources for Job Seekers, and Summer Reading Celebration**

Parents are invited to learn about helping their children prepare for Preschool for a practical afternoon of discussion and tips presented by the Champaign Park District (7/20). Alejandra Aquero from the Illinois Department of Employment Security will provide resources for job seekers during our July Career Lunch + Learn (7/31). And the community is invited for a fun-filled afternoon at the library to celebrate the close of our Oceans of Possibilities! Summer Reading Challenge (8/3). The all-ages celebration includes performances by a Steel Band Combo and Duo Katie Flynn and Kurt Reeder, face painting, free Kona Ice, bubble stations, crafts for kids, and big games.



## Business Resources Covering Grants to Fundraising

Keli Krueger-Huhra, Illinois APEX Accelerator at Champaign County EDC Director, and Madeleine Wolske, Illinois Small Business Development Center at Champaign County EDC, will present a two part series walking through the necessary steps to become grant ready (8/4 & 8/11). Sharla Jolly, Senior Development Manager with the American Cancer Society and consultant with Fox Philanthropic Advisors, will lead a workshop on the essentials of selecting, managing, and maximizing data and fundraising systems (8/14).

The image is a promotional poster for a workshop. It features two headshots of women on the left. The woman on the left has dark hair and is wearing a blue and white patterned jacket. The woman on the right has brown hair, wears glasses, an orange headband, and large colorful earrings. To the right of the photos is a yellow rectangular area with text. The text includes the date and time 'Monday Aug 4 1-2:30 pm' and the title 'Be Grant Ready at the State and Federal Levels Part 1: SAM.gov Registration'. Below the photos, the names and titles of the speakers are listed: 'Keli Krueger-Huhra APEX Director' and 'Madeleine Wolske SBDC Director'. The background of the poster shows a modern office interior with glass partitions and blue lighting.

Monday  
Aug 4  
1-2:30 pm

Be Grant Ready  
at the State and  
Federal Levels  
Part 1: SAM.gov Registration

Keli Krueger-Huhra  
APEX Director

Madeleine Wolske  
SBDC Director

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## Program Highlights

### Kids and Teens in the Studio Creates Summer Fun

In June, we recorded 385 visits to the Studio during our weekly Kids in The Studio Summer Drop-in Hours. School-aged kids 1st through 5th grade with their caregiver or parent participated in activities, games, and crafts on Wednesdays. Teen Week in The Studio was a big success with 222 teen visits recorded during the first week of June and 262 teen visits throughout month on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Teens in The Studio Summer Drop-in hours. Drop-in hours for both kids and teens continue through July 31. With the restoration of Friday evening hours, we are also extending our Studio drop-in hours this month to Thursday and Friday nights from 5-8 pm.



## **Manufacturing Job Fair Success**

In partnership with Champaign County EDC, Parkland College, and Make It In Illinois, we hosted a Manufacturing Job Fair (June 26), welcoming 238 community members and 10+ employers and organizations.



## **Summer Reading Tally Includes 3,484 Readers**

At the midpoint of our Oceans of Possibilities! Summer Reading Challenge, 3,484 readers of all ages have signed up to participate! We have handed out 2,211 prize books to kids and teens and participants have already logged over 1.5 million minutes of reading! (1,509,945 minutes to be exact!)

## **Blown Away by BIG Bang Bubbles Show**

We welcomed 552 community members across three show times to the exciting and science-filled BIG Bang Bubbles Show by Absolute Science. Kids and grown-ups alike were dazzled by all things bubbles.

## **Crafty Adults Welcomes Summer with Flower Arranging**

Delight Flower Farm shared information about their flower farm and the cut flower industry to 38 customers on June 11 and demonstrated ways to build bouquet. Attendees were very excited to take their flower arrangements home with them.





## Juneteenth Brought 1000+ Community Members Together to Celebrate!

On June 14, we gathered with community to celebrate Juneteenth with over 1,000 attendees, community resources and vendors, incredible performers, free books, games for all ages, plus free Kona Ice for everyone. We held a prize drawing for adults and gave away Chromebooks, tablets, and tickets to Krannert Center. Presented in partnership with Champaign Park District.





## Douglass Branch



### Friday Night Jam Sessions Showcasing Community

21 teens and adults joined together at the Douglass Branch Library on June 27 for a fun and supportive night of music, karaoke, and poetry.



### Storytimes

We welcomed 318 children and caregivers to storytimes at the Douglass Branch in June.

### Money Matter\$ Continues through August

The Douglass Branch continues hosting the Financial Pathways Series with Michelle Stallmeyer from Busey Bank with upcoming workshops including Considering Homeownership (8/14) and Mortgages (8/28).

### Makerspace Drop-in Hours

We invited the community in to the Makerspace for technology demonstrations during the Juneteenth Emancipation Day Celebration and on the following Saturday, June 21, welcomed 27 customers during Saturday Drop-in Hours.

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# Customer Comments

## Thankful for Library Programming

A parent commented: "We have the best library! I'm so thankful for it." They were so happy for their child to complete the reading challenge and to be invited to Kids in the Studio on Wednesdays.

## Summer Reading Excitement

A staff member awarded the second prize level to a summer reader and listed off some of the great coupons included in the packet. The reader asked, "How many do I get to choose?" The staff member responded, "You get them all!" And the young reader beamed with excitement!

## Connecting Writers

A recent Writer's Workshop attendee expressed interest in learning more about the self-publishing process from a recent presenter. Staff was able to connect the two writers and they shared feedback saying, "Thank you so much for facilitating the meeting! It was wonderful to meet her and listen to her experiences. I truly appreciate your help!"

## A Customer Receives Cell Phone Support

Recently, a customer asked for assistance with learning how to make calls on their cell phone. While practicing, they called their mother who told the customer how proud she was of them and that she loved them. The customer thanked staff, saying that we had a really nice library and that they will visit again.

## Small Business Support at the Library

A customer came up to the service desk to ask about the types of small business supports the library offers. They recently started a small business and were looking for assistance. Staff were able to introduce the customer to the library's online tools and explained how some of them can be used for market research or other business-related purposes. Staff also shared about the Business and Career events we offer and the one-on-one support they could access through a Book-a-Librarian appointment. He was very grateful for our help and said, "This place is really just amazing!"