

## New & Noteworthy



**Great Authors at the Library** Launched in 2016, the Great Authors at the Library series has brought nine literary luminaries to Champaign, connecting with more than 1,000 community members. In the fall, we welcome #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Colson Whitehead (September 13, 7 p.m.), who won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Underground Railroad*; bestselling and award-winning author of seventeen books, Luis Alberto Urrea (September 29, 3 p.m.), who wrote *The House of Broken Angels* and *Into the Beautiful North*, which is partly set in Kankakee, Illinois; and Nnedi Okorafor (October 18, 7 p.m.), award-winning author of the *Binti* and *Akata Witch* series and Black Panther writer at Marvel Comics. Urrea's talk is part of The Pygmalion Festival's Literature series.

### **Branch Manager Essie Harries Wins Illinois Library Association Award**

Douglass Branch Manager Essie Harris has been awarded the Hugh C. Atkinson Award by the Illinois Library Association for her "contributions that have had a lasting impact on librarianship." The award presentation will be at the ILA Annual Conference in October.

**3rd Annual Food Truck Rally** On Wednesday, August 8, from 4:30–7:30 p.m., we're looking forward to hosting a Food Truck Rally with 10+ food trucks; live music including jazz, hip-hop, salsa; and vintage vocals by Katie Flynn. This event draws many first-time visitors to the library.

**Getting Started Tech Workshops** We're offering workshops introducing computers and devices to help people who are getting started with tech. July and August include workshops on Getting to Know Android Devices, iPhones, and iPads; Intro to Microsoft Word; Ebooks and More for devices; and Intro to Microsoft Excel. You can sign up yourself or a family member at (217) 403-2070 or online at [champaign.org/events](http://champaign.org/events).

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## Program Highlights



*Library staff premiered the Goosemobile at the Freedom Day Parade on July 4, promoting the new Mother Goose on the Loose storytime initiative. Along the route they heard shouts of "I love to read!"*

**Summer Reading Game** As of early July, nearly 3,000 participants have signed up for the Power Up at Your Library! Summer Reading Game (May 20–August 19), including 1,733 kids, 782 teens, and 455 adults. For kids, we've given out 2,251 prize books and 1,155 Power Up book bags. For teens, 122 middle and high school participants have earned a 20-hour backpack. Participants of all ages will have a chance to win grand prizes.

**Book-a-Librarian** Library staff met individually with 81 community members to offer expertise, provide guidance on starting and growing a business, and help with computer questions, research strategies, setting up email, job applications, and accessing ebooks, downloadables, and more.

**Summer Workshops for Teens** Teen workshops included Painting & Pizza and a mosaic workshop led by Cracked Glass staff. On drop-in days, teens had a chance to try 3D pens, the new VR station, and a trivia challenge. June's events drew 74 participants.

**"Getting Reading to Read" Storytime Sessions Reach 1.8K** In June, we presented 13 weekly storytime sessions and drop-in play times designed especially for birth through age 5, reaching 1.8K children and families at both locations.

**Connecting with the Champaign Community** Community connections in June included library staff participating in the One People summer arts camp at Garden Hills Elementary School and the Champaign Farmer's Market. Business Librarian Stephanie Pitts-Noggle recorded a spot for Central Illinois Business Radio with Alex Ruggieri to promote Entrepreneurship 101 for Teens. She also networked on behalf of Launch at the Library business services at the Women's Business Council Luncheon, Working Women's Expo, Entrepreneur-in-Residence Pitching Workshop with Karin O'Connor, CU Young Professionals, Data & Drinks, and iVenture & EDC/SBDC Social at Sipyard. Children's Services staff reached 428 kids and community members during area school visits and at the downtown Champaign Farmer's Market.

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## Douglass Branch Highlights



*Douglass Branch staffer Jamil shakes hands with Kevin Wood, aka Mr. Lincoln, during the Juneteenth Emancipation Day festivities on June 16, which drew 400 community members and help from 50 volunteers. In addition, members of the U of I football team and women's basketball team stopped by to offer their help. Inside, Douglass Branch librarian Amanda signed up readers of all ages for the Power Up at Your Library! Summer Reading Game. Social media reach for the event and topic was 25.7K people via Facebook alone, including a Facebook live video that reached 2.3K people.*

**Kids Create Apps** Presented in partnership with the iSchool, we are offering a six-week app design workshop again this summer. The workshop meets Monday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. and included 38 participants (ages 9–11) in June. The final meeting will be July 16 and the Kids Create Apps Showcase will take place on July 23 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. This project is funded with an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant.

**DIY Kids** meets weekly on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. During June, 104 school-aged kids and family members created a pop-up garden, made superhero and Fourth of July-themed crafts, and enjoyed a friendly Plastic Cup Challenge competition.

**Tech Help Tailored to Customer Needs** Douglass Branch staff and volunteers conducted 51 one-one-one custom technology training sessions in June.

**Community Outreach** Lobna worked closely with the Champaign Park District, collaborating with Darius White to present a successful Juneteenth Celebration. Branch staff invited the Chicago-based South Shore Drill Team and local singer Lizzie Carter to perform and Abraham Lincoln impersonator Kevin Wood to read the Emancipation Proclamation. In addition, Amanda participated in the Community Coalition's Walk As One forum on gun violence (June 28).



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# What Library Users Are Saying

"The librarians here are so great! I love my librarians." (Douglass Branch)

"In China, they don't have libraries like this. There is so much going on for families here. In China, there would be a little corner for the children, nothing like this. So much space and color!" (Kristin H., Children's Services)

An 11-year-old girl was browsing the spines of the nonfiction books and I overheard her saying, "There are so many amazing things here. I just wanna stay here forever!" (Ginny O., Children's Services)

A customer at Douglass said, "This will always be my favorite library!" (Esther Y., Douglass Branch)

After yoga with Laurel, an adult complimented: "That yoga was amazing! She does a GREAT job!" (Ginny O., Children's Services)

This is from a mom who used to bring her children to storytime a few years ago and is now coming again with a younger child. We were admiring the new light board and she said, "You guys are getting better and better every day! It's a lot different than it was in 2013." (Ginny O., Children's Services)

"I'm not sure I ever formally thanked you and the library for hosting this year's Battle of the Books! So, belatedly, I would like you to know how much our students appreciated the opportunity to read some wonderful books and show off their knowledge in competition. I am retiring this summer and I don't know if a replacement has been hired yet, but I hope our school and the Champaign Public Library continue to have a close relationship. I know many of our students are enthusiastic CPL patrons, and I'll certainly encourage our school to participate in any future Battles!" (Amanda R., Douglass Branch)

