RESOLUTION

Background

Recently discussions have escalated, at both the national and local levels, around reading material censorship and bans. Institutions such as schools and libraries have considered (and some have implemented) bans on certain books and other learning resources.

The Des Moines Public Library (DMPL) encourages freedom of thought and free speech within its walls and the community, as evidenced by its pioneering role in developing and adopting the Library Bill of Rights. Article I of the Library Bill of Rights states that: “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.” Article III further states that: “Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.”

DMPL serves as a neutral and open forum for the exchange of ideas and learning resources. Since the Des Moines Public Library Foundation’s mission is to raise funds and advocate for the Des Moines Public Library system, we support DMPL’s mission and values.

Declaration of Action

Be it hereby resolved that the undersigned Directors of the Des Moines Public Library Foundation affirm our support and commitment to the Library Bill of Rights. We believe that libraries should serve the public purpose of educating their patrons by expanding their knowledge and views, and that this is best achieved through welcoming all ideas, so long as they are expressed in a non-violent manner. The Board of Directors of the Des Moines Public Library Foundation hereby denounce book banning or any other forms of thought censorship in our library system and in libraries the world over.
Dated: July 25, 2023

/s/ Paul Melde  
Paul Melde, President

/s/ Brianne Sanchez  
Brianne Sanchez, Vice President

/s/ Sara Ennis Henderson  
Sara Ennis Henderson, Secretary

/s/ Chris Nebons  
Chris Nebons, Treasurer

/s/ Belinda Alexander  
Belinda Alexander, Past President

/s/ Andrea Elliott  
Andrea Elliott

/s/ Oma Ford  
Oma Ford

/s/ Wes Graham  
Wes Graham

/s/ Sasha Kamper  
Sasha Kamper

/s/ Nicole Krueger  
Nicole Krueger

/s/ Cory McAnelly  
Cory McAnelly

/s/ Chris Nelson  
Chris Nelson

/s/ Laura Palmer  
Laura Palmer

/s/ Amy Randeris-Schultz  
Amy Randeris-Schultz

/s/ Christine Riccelli  
Christine Riccelli

/s/ Samuel Reed  
Samuel Reed

/s/ Martha Stephenson  
Martha Stephenson

C: Kelly Shrock, Executive Director, DMPL Foundation
Sue Woody, Director, DMPL