

Profoundly **PUBLIC.**

Dear Library Patrons and Supporters:

On March 14, the White House signed an [executive order](#), signaling its intent to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Organizations nationally, and locally, have expressed their disappointment with this move – which would claw back key funding for many libraries. Thankfully, through the generosity of Erie County and the value we all place upon our libraries, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library will be shielded from existential threat. But we are not completely immune.

How does this decision trickle down to Buffalo and Erie County?

- Since 1996, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and its Grants to States Program, has provided up to \$8.1 million annually to support the New York State Library – including a majority of its positions.
- That State Library is responsible for distributing over \$100 million in state operating aid to support libraries of all types, as well as \$45 million in construction aid. **The loss of that funding, reduction in funding, or delays in receipt would be devastating to our communities - and the excellence of our public libraries.** Every year, we rely on construction aid to help with building renovations, upgrades, and accessibility improvements for you, our patrons.

What can you do?

- Reach out to your elected officials with federal appropriations authority, Senators, and Representatives to [register your opposition](#) to these cuts.
- [Donate](#) to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library to lessen future impact – or join us at [In Conversation](#) on May 9. This timely program will highlight the value our library, and libraries in general, bring to the cultural vibrancy of our communities - as well as the importance of open access to information in an increasingly siloed society.
- Join us to celebrate **Love Your Library Month** all this month and **National Library Awareness Week** this week which highlight the value of libraries. Participate in Buffalo & Erie County Public Library programs by [visiting this link](#).
 - Today, Monday, April 7 is **Right to Read Day**,
 - Tuesday, April 8 is **National Library Workers Day**,
 - Wednesday, April 9 is **National Library Outreach Day**, and
 - Thursday, April 10 is **Take Action for Libraries Day**.

In the coming weeks, you will see significant changes to how we talk about who we are and what we do on behalf of our neighbors and patrons. For nearly 200 years, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library has been committed to intellectual freedom, open access, and free expression – and these changes will champion our firm belief that a trip to the library can empower these ideals in any community.

We appreciate your support, and commit to continuing to provide the highest level of service – every day – to the residents of Buffalo and Erie County.

With gratitude,



John Spears
Director, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

Make a DONATION

[Visit the Library's website](#) for details about hours of operation, programs and more.

Follow us at:



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