



MEDIA RELEASE

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LIBRARY SYSTEM RECEIVES \$10,000 COMPETITIVE FEDERAL HUMANITIES GRANT *Will be Used to Expand Programming for Teens*

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the *American Library Association's American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries* to provide free, enriching literary programs for pre-teens and teens. The grant supports the expansion of the **Reader's Quest Book Club**, a middle school-age book club, and **Graphic Novel Classroom Kits**.

"These programs are designed to encourage reading among pre-teens and teens, and engage them during this critical stage in their lives when this age group often loses interest in reading," said Interim Library Director Jeannine Doyle. "This grant will further our work with teens and teachers to cultivate a desire to read beyond the teen years."

The Reader's Quest Book Club is targeted for youth in grades 5-8. Monthly programs are currently being held virtually to discuss age-appropriate, peer-selected books of interest and are moderated by a Teen Services Librarian.

Graphic Novel Classroom Kits contain 30 copies of a selected title, subject-specific audio/visual material and support materials. Titles that will be added, as a result of this funding, include *March* by John Lewis, *They Called Us Enemy* by Gi and *Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation*.

For over 180 years, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System has served as a community leader, providing valuable free resources including books, movies and music; online resources and virtual and onsite programming for all ages. Popular offerings for pre-teens and teens include the annual *Battle of the Books* competition, Manga Club, the Teen Advisory Group and *Brain Sparks: Creative Fuel for the Mind*, a free program that combines art, creativity and literacy.

American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA), made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System is one of 200 libraries nationwide selected to receive a \$10,000 grant.

For more information about the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System or to sign up for a free library card, visit any Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, call 716-858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org. You can follow the Library on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#), [TikTok](#) and [Flickr](#), and check out *All Booked Up*, the Library's podcast, on [SoundCloud](#).

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