

Monday Morning Eye-Opener March 11, 2024

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MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



March 11, 2024

A Boardroom Webinar In April

Basically Incredible Boards

A new year of board education programs began with the ILOC Conference in January and continues with the first **Boardroom** webinar of the year in April. This webinar, **Basically Incredible Boards**, is scheduled for **April 18**, (6:00-7:30PM) It's based on a book by Iowa author Matt Booth titled Basically Incredible. Matt Booth is from Dubuque and last fall was a keynote speaker at the Iowa League of Cities Conference.



From Amazon, here's more about the book: *Matt Booth argues that despite the complexity of life, it's the simple and fundamental practices that truly make a difference whether it's at work or home, with colleagues, friends or family, he illustrates the keys to building strong habits and even stronger relationships."*

The book's subtitle lends a good description "*doing the basics consistently leads to an incredible life.*" It is critical for trustees to understand the fundamentals of serving on a governing board—that's where the good work of boards begin. But webinar facilitators will go further by putting forward this proposition: it's also important for library boards to move beyond the basics and reach for improvements in communication, in funding, in service, and in advocacy.

Here's one example of where this webinar discussion will take us. Consider this question: *your board has forged good relationships with each other, with the library director, with the staff. But is there room to strengthen relationships with city officials, with county supervisors, with the Friends Group and other community groups?*

What special efforts have propelled your library board to move beyond the basics and achieve a higher level of service success? Is your board “basically incredible?” Let’s find out!

There is no expectation that attendees read the book prior to the program.

Attendance at this webinar helps satisfy Public Library Standard #8:

“All members of the library board participate in continuing education each year...”

[Register in IALearns](#)

Calling For Bridges Selectors



Join the Team in July

The Bridges Team is looking for new people to join the Bridges Selectors Group. The application form is open now and will remain open until the end of the month. Our goal is to have a new contingent of 18 people in place by late spring, with this group of selectors taking over on July 1st

If collection development is in your wheelhouse, and if you’re willing to give some time to building the Bridges collection, then do consider applying to join this important group. Any library directors or support staff from Bridges member libraries are welcome to apply.

Collection development responsibilities will rotate among team members, with each member responsible for choosing and ordering materials—both eBook and eAudiobook formats—for two months of the year. This will be a three-year commitment, for a total of six months. Each month will have three selectors; one for adult nonfiction, one for adult fiction, and one for youth materials both children and teens. Everyone will operate within a set budget each month.

Committee members will be provided with a collection development policy, as well as instruction in how the selection process works. We anticipate the time commitment to be 5-10 hours per month only in those months when you will actually be doing the selection.

If you are interested in serving on the Bridges Selection Team, please complete the application form linked below by **March 29**. All applicants will be notified by April 19. Thank you for your willingness and your time!

[Bridges Selector Application Form](#)

Foundation Directory Reminder



Sign-Up By March 29

If you are not aware of the **Foundation Directory**, there's no time like the present to learn more about this resource and how sign up for access. The

Foundation Directory (FD) is a research tool designed to help libraries and nonprofits find the grant-makers most likely to fund their projects. This tool includes grant-maker profiles with a summary of their work, along with all the pertinent details that fundraisers need to find and approach prospective grant agencies.

The Foundation Directory is provided to all Iowa public libraries from the State Library at no cost. If your library has not yet signed up, please know that **FD** now allows new libraries access on a quarterly basis. You can submit your library's IP information on a form linked on our webpage at the button below. **FD** will process all new submissions following a deadline each quarter. The next opportunity for new libraries to be gain **Foundation Directory** access in this fiscal year is **March 29**, followed by **June 28**.

Once libraries submit their IP information to the form linked below, **FD** will contact libraries to provide further instructions on setting up access. **FD** authenticates through the library's IP address and because of that, it's available for in-library use only.

Continuing Education Consultant Samantha Bouwers has provided the titles of a few webinars highlighting the **Foundation Directory** that we've sponsored in the past, they are linked below. These recordings are all available on the State Library's Continuing Education YouTube Channel, as well as accessible inside IALearns.

- [Find Grant Money for Your Library and Community Using Foundation Directory](#)
- [Get that Grant! Best Practices to Wow Funders and Bring Money to Your Library](#)
- [Kernels! Practical Grant-seeking](#)

Included in the Foundation Directory

The **Foundation Directory** can be used by library staff themselves and also offered as a resource to patrons and local nonprofits. Iowa's public libraries have access to the "Essential Plan" which includes

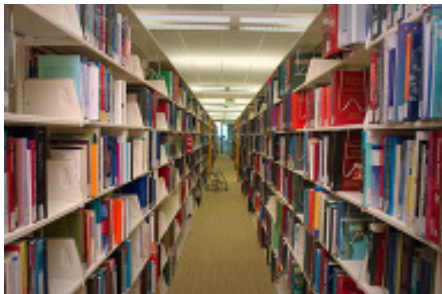
- 100,000+ grant-maker profiles
- 500,000+ key decision makers and leaders

- Keyword search IRS 990-PF Forms
- Online workspace

Access to **Foundation Directory** is supported by the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library. Our agency posts **Foundation Directory** usage stats for all libraries; find those stats and more at the button below.

[Learn More About The Foundation Directory](#)

This Week, This Month



Buy (Better) Books: A Collection Development Primer. Part 2: Purchasing Nonfiction. Online. March 12. 11:00AM-12:00PM

Tuesday March 12 is the second **installment** of this series; this time guiding you through what to look for when expanding your **Adult Nonfiction** collection. As

the first session did, this program will also cover awards and publishing sources to keep an eye on. Cookbooks and biographies are great, but there's so much more to this section of the library. You're sure to leave with some practical ideas of how to create a well-balanced nonfiction collection.

Buy (Better) Books is a four-part series from the State Library designed to help you improve your collection development skills. We'll dig into best practices for purchasing for all parts of the adult collection and then promoting your awesome finds. We'll also hear tips and tricks from front-line, in-practice collection development professionals. Come to one part or all parts ... each session will be recorded.

Pop YS Live: Deaf Children and the Library. Online. March 13. 1:00-2:00PM

This special edition of Pop YS Live is presented by Teacher Librarian Kate Kasal with the Iowa School for the Deaf. Kate will share best practices for reading with young deaf children, how to help deaf children interact with books and make print more accessible. She'll also share resources that support American Sign Language (ASL) reading and other ASL resources.

Lunch with the State Library: Specialized Consulting. Online. March 14. 12:15-12:45PM

Join Mandy Easter (Law Library) Janeé Jackson-Doering (Youth Services), and Tom Keyser (IHDC) to learn more about how they support libraries in their work. We'll also hear from Scott Dermont (Enrich Iowa) and Sam Bouwers (Continuing Ed & Endorsement) Join us in this whirlwind tour of the State Library's specialized consulting support.

Lunch with the State Library is a series of short sessions designed to give library workers a high-level overview of a featured product or service available to them through the State Library of Iowa so they can most effectively take advantage of that product or service and use it in their library to serve their patrons.

[Register For The Above In IALearns](#)

Bridges Renewal Due This Month

From the **Bridges Team** comes this reminder: in 3 weeks, your library's **Bridges Letter of Agreement for FY2025** is due. Agreements for both **renewing** and **new members** are due **March 29, 2024**. Both agreements can be found on the **Bridges for Libraries** webpage, along with your fee for next year and other consortia information. If you don't intend to renew, please notify your [District Consultant](#).

[Bridges News and Letters Of Agreement](#)

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