

REPORT

Oakville Public Library Board

Meeting Date: September 22, 2022

FROM: Oakville Public Library

DATE: September 13, 2022

SUBJECT: CEO Update – September 22, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

That CEO Update report be received for information.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- October is Canadian Library Month with October 16-22 being Ontario Public Library week.
- October's Community Conversation focuses on Intellectual Freedom with special guest James Turk and will be hosted by OPL Board Chair, Jeff Knoll.
- Oakville Community Foundation offers a free Reconciliation, Equity and Anti-Racism Program.
- An artist has been selected for the Glen Abbey Art project. An announcement will be made once the contract is finalized.

BACKGROUND:

N/A

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Canada Library Month / Ontario Public Library Week

October is Canadian Library Month. During this month, libraries and library partners raise awareness for the valuable role libraries play in the lives of people across Canada.

In Ontario, the first week of October features First Nations Public Library Week (October 3-7), and the third week of October is Ontario Public Library Week (October 16-22).

Branches will be holding special events throughout Ontario Public Library week including hosting special performers and customer appreciation days. Events will be listed at [OPL.ca](https://www.opl.ca) as the dates/activities are confirmed.

Community Conversations: Intellectual Freedom

In celebration of Canadian Library Month, OPL's Community Conversations series is hosting a discussion on intellectual freedom between OPL Board Chair, Jeff Knoll and our special guest speaker, James Turk, Director for the Centre for Free Expression and distinguished visiting scholar at the Toronto Metropolitan University. The discussion will focus on intellectual freedom, how it impacts society as a whole and in everyday life, and what we can all do together to protect intellectual freedom into the future.

October 6, 6pm-7:30pm at Central Branch

Oakville Community Foundation offers free Reconciliation, Equity and Anti-Racism Program

Co-developed with Enable Education, the online course supports the development of an inclusive community, proposing actionable steps to work towards truth and reconciliation, equity and anti-racism. Through this course participants will benefit from the guidance of subject matter experts, champions and knowledge keepers. Participants are able to move through the course at your own pace.

Topics include:

- *Board diversity*
- *The Indigenous Perspective*
- *Gender Equality*
- *Equity and Anti-Racism*

[You can sign up for the course here.](#)

North Park Development Update

The team is currently working on reviewing the FFE (furniture, fixtures and equipment) matrix and all of the A/V requirements. This phase should be wrapped up by the end of September.

Glen Abbey Art Project – Stage 2

At the July meeting, the voting jury was asked to submit their top seven candidates with a goal of using these submission to narrow down the field to three artists. The three artists were then asked to prepare specific proposals for review by the jury in September.

On September 7, the artists presented their proposals to the jury and after some intense deliberation, an artist for the project was selected. An announcement of the selected artist will be made once the contract has been finalized and signed. Details on the project and timeline will be brought forward to the OPL Board in October.

Thank to you the voting jury for their time and thoughtful consideration. The voting jury members were:

1. Susan Fanelli, *OPL Board Member*
2. Bill Smith, *OPL Board Member*
3. Tazeen Qayyum, *Artist, Oakville resident*
4. Rafia Shafiq, *Artist, Oakville resident*
5. Frances Loeffler, *Oakville Galleries Curator*

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

September 30 marks Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. All OPL Branches are closed to commemorate and honour the survivors of the residential school system, their families, and communities. All OPL staff have been provided with a list of events and places of learning (Appendix A) to encourage them to take an active role in the Truth and Reconciliation process and commemorate the day as intended.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – List of Events

Prepared and Submitted by:
Tara Wong, CEO