

Central Arkansas Library System

Board of Directors Meeting

August 28, 2025, at noon

Hybrid Meeting: UALR Downtown & Zoom Video Call

Board members in attendance were Karama Neal, Alexis Sims, Dustin McDaniel, Ginann Swindle, Audrey Evans, Esperanza Massana-Crane, Madhav Shroff, Luke Underwood, and Ryan Davis. Stacey McAdoo, David Finkbeiner, Jennifer Jamison, and Joyce Elliott were absent.

Staff in attendance were Nate Coulter, Jo Spencer, Tameka Lee, Ellen Samples, Kate Matthews, Hannah Saulters, Nathan Smith, Eliza Borné, Carol Coffey, Joe Hudak, Ray Terry, Brant Collins, Sarah Jane DeYoung, Gonzalo Hernandez, Pamela Bandy, Leslie Blanchard, Elizabeth Clements, Amanda Orgel, Heather Zbinden, Stu Nichols, Katherine Blake, Rebecca Beadle, Andre Thornton, and Glenn Whaley.

Also in attendance were Becca Kiser with Forvis Mazars, Amanda Sturgell and Reese Rowland with Polk Stanley Wilcox, Daniel McFadin with the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, and Matthew Lehner with CDI.

Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes

Neal asked the Board to approve the July Minutes.

McDaniel moved to approve the July Minutes as presented. Swindle seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Approval of May and June Financials

Underwood reported that as of July 31, 2025, CALS' assets totaled approximately \$106,000,000. Liabilities are \$7,800,000. Income through July is \$15,000,000. Interest income is \$434,000. Underwood reported that everything is coming in better than the Budget anticipated.

Neal filed the July Financials for audit.

3. 2024 Audit Report

Underwood introduced Kiser with Forvis Mazars. Underwood noted that Forvis produced a "clean, unqualified opinion" for the 2024 CALS audit. No issues were found with CALS finances, and no adjustments were needed. Neal mentioned to the Board that the CALS Finance Committee met on August 26, 2025, and heard an in-depth report from Kiser on the audit. Neal and Coulter both thanked Kiser and her team for their work. Both also thanked Spencer and the CALS Finance Department for their work and record-keeping. McDaniel thanked Spencer's team and noted the importance of receiving a clean

audit, especially when dealing with public monies. McDaniel made a motion to adopt the findings of the audit report. Schroff seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

1 . Director's Report

Coulter highlighted a few items from his written report:

- Coulter thanked individuals involved with the ongoing construction at Main. This included Lehner with CDI and Hernandez with CALS. Coulter updated the Board on the smoke partitions for the basement and first floor. These were delayed at Customs in Houston. Blanchard updated the Board on the reshelving of books at Main. At the time, ninety percent of the books at Main had been reshelved.
- Samples updated the Board on upcoming programming, specifically events related to Main's reopening and the Six Bridges Book Festival. This includes the Fancy Nancy event scheduled for Main's reopening. Samples mentioned the Community Meal event (part of Hunger Action month) at Williams Library on September 13th. Samples also mentioned the Children's Business Fair, also at Williams Library, on September 27th.
- Borné thanked the donors to CALS' Capital Campaign. She also thanked Lehner and Sturgell for allowing hard hats tours of Main for potential donors. Borné also mentioned the recent programming grant to CALS from the Windgate Foundation. The grant amounted to \$250,000, with a \$250,000 challenge grant.
- Lee mentioned upcoming events related to Main's reopening. Those include the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra performance and the Fancy Nancy event. Lee also mentioned that September is Library Card Sign-Up month.
- Coulter recognized the work being done by the newly created Main Hospitality Task Force. The group discusses events related to the reopening of Main and items relevant to patron experiences once Main is open and operational. These items include spot availability in the CALS parking deck, patron safety on the Main rooftop, and rules and fees for meeting rooms.
- Evans asked about ways Board members could help with the reopening event. She also asked about ways Board members could help with the Greenspace across from Main. Lee mentioned having Board members play a role in the Reopening ceremonies. Coulter added that Board members could contact their local elected representatives and urge them to act. McDaniel asked Lee to share the timeline for reopening day activities with Board members.

8/28/25

Move to Adjourn

Underwood made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Evans, and the motion was carried unanimously. Neal called the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.



President



Secretary