

Central Arkansas Library System

Board of Directors Meeting

September 25, 2025, at noon

Hybrid Meeting: Main Library & Zoom Video Call

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

Staff in attendance were Nate Coulter, Jo Spencer, Tameka Lee, 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, Amy Miller, Alison McKeever, Michael Chambers, Amanda Orgel, Heather Zbinden, Stu Nichols, Rebecca Beadle, Andre Thornton, Drew Hergert, and Glenn Whaley.

Also in attendance were Amanda Sturgell with Polk Stanley Wilcox, Joe Flaherty with the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, and Matthew Lehner, Blake Helm, and Johnathan Runnels with CDI.

Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes

Neal asked the Board to approve the August Minutes.

Underwood moved to approve the August Minutes as presented. Sims seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Approval of August Financials

Underwood reported that as of August 31, 2025, CALS' assets totaled approximately \$103,023,993. Liabilities are \$7,787,325. Income through August is \$16,300,000. CALS has \$26,800,000 in taxes receivable.

Neal filed the August Financials for audit.

3. Approval to Borrow from Reserves for Capital Campaign Pledges

Spencer asked the Board to approve the use of funds from the CALS reserves, to supplement pledges to the Capital Campaign. The amount is \$1,100,000. That amount is totaled from the amount already collected and what is anticipated to be collected. Spencer added that the reserve funds will be used for construction costs, while pledges come in. The amount will be repaid by the Foundation as it collects outstanding pledges. Sims asked about the time donors have to make their donations to the Campaign. Spencer answered that donors have three years to complete

their payments. Underwood asked about the remittance of payments from the Foundation. Spencer answered that a quarterly remittance repayment would be easiest.

Underwood made a motion to approve the use of reserve funds. Shroff seconded the motion, and it 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 Sturgell with Polk Stanley Wilcox. Coulter mentioned the inspection walkthrough on September 26, which if successful, would grant CALS its Certificate of Occupancy.
- Coulter reminded the Board of some upcoming important dates, which include opening to the public on September 29 and the opening day ceremony on October 4. Tameka mentioned the agenda for the opening festivities. She noted that the ceremonies will conclude before the Six Bridges Book Festival activities begin that day, so as not to compete. He also noted the success of the recent donor reception on September 18.
- Coffey updated the Board about the patron counters, installed at the entrance of Main. These counters are more accurate than previous models and will provide CALS with better, more accurate data.
- Hergert discussed the line-up for the Six Bridges Book Festival. Some of the authors include Eli Cranor, Shelby Van Pelt, and Kevin Brockmeier, Susie Drumond, Jared Lemus, Wright Thompson, Alex Grecian, and Dolen Perkins-Valdez.

Move to Adjourn

Davis made the motion to adjourn. Underwood seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. Davis called the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.



President



Secretary