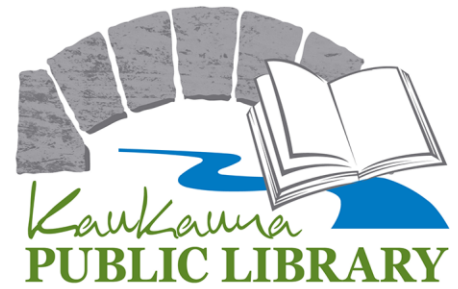


To: Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustees
From: Library Director Ashley Thiem-Menning
Date: 3/23/23
Re: Libraries in Bloom



The Community Engagement Librarian at Menasha Public Library, Pa Ja Yang, created her own mentorship program to amplify voices of color within the field of library science. Pa Ja reached out to our library to see if we would be interested in being a potential site for the program if we matched with a candidate, to which we agreed.

Libraries in Bloom (LIB) has launched an inclusive paid-apprenticeship initiative within the NE Wisconsin region that connect young adults of color with library professionals who share similar identities and experiences. Apprentices will complete a 12-week paid apprenticeship to design and implement a project/program/event that serves the community more fully. Their mission is to cultivate a diverse library workforce by bridging professional pathways to librarianship for young adults of color.

I was notified that we have been matched with a candidate who would like to participate in the program at our site, who will be able to start with us in July. The City Attorney has approved the MOU for the project, which will be signed soon.

Library Assistant Kim Cachowski has agreed to be matched with the candidate and will work several hours a week with the apprentice on the project they select. Kim brings 18 years of library experience into the program having worked at Green Earth Branch Library, Oneida Community Library, and now our library. Kim has a wide range of library experience including programming, collection development, circulation, technology, and management. She has already participated in a LIB podcast episode and will be an incredible asset to the apprenticeship.

