
LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION

The Columbus Public Library Board (the board) serves as a liaison between the general public and the Columbus Public Library (the library). The board has the legal authority and responsibility to see that the library is well managed and operates in accordance with the library's by-laws as well as with policies established by the board itself and laws of the State of Nebraska.

The Columbus Public Library Board is composed of five to seven members that are appointed by the mayor of Columbus for a term of four years. A board member must be at least 18 years of age and be a resident of Columbus.

Duties and Responsibilities of Columbus Public Library Board Members

- Appointment of the library director
- Budget oversight
- Policy development
- Developing and implementing a strategic plan
- Liaison between the general public and the library
- Advocating for the library

The board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. and additionally if needed. Potential candidates should have interest in public libraries and must be willing to devote the time and effort necessary to fulfill their obligations as board members. After meeting with the Library Director and/or current Columbus Library Board members, a nominee for each vacancy will be selected and recommended to the mayor for appointment.

Prospective board members should be aware of the following criteria that will be used by the other board members to evaluate candidates for the vacant position. A board member must:

1. Commit the time necessary to carry out the duties of a member. This includes a commitment to learning about public library issues, to attend board meetings, to serve on a subcommittee(s), and to carry out board assignments.
2. Be genuinely interested in public libraries and understand their importance in meeting the educational, recreational, and informational needs of the community.
3. Understand the local community, its social and cultural needs, and be willing to communicate these needs to the board.
4. Be able to collaborate with others to reach a common goal.
5. Be open-minded, intellectually curious, and respectful of the opinions of others.
6. Have the courage to plan creatively and to effectively implement the plans.
7. Be able to support intellectual freedom and equal access.
8. Have personal experience in one of the following areas: 1) education, 2) accounting/finance, 3) architecture/construction, 4) personnel management, 5) technology, 6) law/government, 7) humanities, 8) the arts, 9) special interest groups, such as seniors, teens, college students, non-English speaking populations, and families.

Name: _____ Home phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Cell or Business phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

Street Address (if different than above): _____

Email Address: _____

____ Resident of Columbus (Inside City Limits)

____ Resident of Platte County

What skills and experiences would qualify you to serve on a balanced Columbus Library Board?

Affiliations/Clubs: _____

On what other boards have you served? _____

Name charitable or community activities in which you have been involved. _____

Do you have a current library card? ____yes ____no

If yes, please specify which of the library's services and/or equipment you use. _____

Your Availability to Serve

Could you regularly attend Board meetings? _____yes _____no

How many hours per month, in addition to board meetings, could you serve the library? _____

Would you attend a training session for new board members? _____yes _____no

Please, write a brief statement explaining your understanding of the Columbus Public Library’s purpose.

Why are you interested in serving on the Columbus Public Library Board?

References:

(Please list three names, addresses, and phone numbers)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please attach your resume to this application.

(Signature)

(Date)

Submit completed application to the Director of the Columbus Public Library

2419 14th St., Columbus, NE 68601