

Recruitment of a City Librarian

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| Date: | March 24, 2014 |
| To: | Toronto Public Library Board |
| From: | Director, Human Resources |

CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Human Resources recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the appointment of Mr. Larry Alford as the external member of the Selection Committee for the recruitment of a City Librarian.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Summary

Mr. Larry Alford has agreed to have his name submitted in a recommendation to the Board to be the external member of the Selection Committee for the recruitment of a City Librarian, on a voluntary basis. Mr. Alford has been made aware of the anticipated time-lines and time-commitments involved in being a member of the Selection Committee, and he has indicated his availability to serve on the Committee

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact on the 2014 Operating Budget as a result of this recommendation.

The Director, Finance and Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and is in agreement with it.

Comments

Below is biographical information about Mr. Alford.

Larry P. Alford is Chief Librarian at the University of Toronto, a position he assumed in August 2011. The University of Toronto Library System includes 44 libraries and is the largest academic research library system in Canada with a staff of over 700 FTE and budget of over \$75 million not including allocated costs. It ranks third among North American university research libraries. He also serves as a member of the board of directors of the University of Toronto Press. Prior to joining the University of Toronto he was Dean of University Libraries at Temple University where he was also responsible for the Temple University Press which publishes approximately 60 scholarly monographs per year.

Prior to joining the Temple Libraries in February 2005, he worked in a variety of positions in the libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill over a 30 year period, including serving as Deputy University Librarian and Interim University Librarian. He has extensive experience in library budgeting and management, collection development, licensing, scholarly communication, digitization, technology implementation, facilities planning, and program planning.

Mr. Alford has also had extensive involvement in a variety of library cooperative activities. From 1992 through 1996, he served as a member of the Atlanta-based Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) Board of Directors and as Chair of the SOLINET Board in 1995. He was an elected SOLINET representative to the OCLC Members Council. Headquartered in Dublin, Ohio, OCLC Online Computer Library Center is a \$200 million nonprofit organization that provides computer-based cataloging, reference, resource sharing and preservation services to 72,000 libraries in 170 countries and territories. He served as president of the Members Council in 2000-01. In May 2002, the Members Council elected him to a six-year term on the OCLC Board of Trustees. In 2008 and again in 2010, he was elected to a Board appointed term as a trustee. In November 2007 he was elected to chair the OCLC Board of Trustees and served as chair until November 2012. He has also served as chair of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Committee at the Library of Congress. He was the NC LIVE resources co-negotiator for six years. NC LIVE provides electronic information resources to public and private universities, to community colleges, and to public libraries throughout North Carolina.

Mr. Alford is a member of the American Library Association (ALA) and has served as chair of the ALA Directors of Large Research Libraries Discussion Group. From 2004 -2006 he served as chair of the Collection Management and Development Section of the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services. He served a four year term ending in December 2009 as an elected member of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) Steering Committee. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Research libraries having previously served as a member of the ARL Special Collections Working Group, the ARL Committee on Statistics, and the ARL Transforming Research Libraries Committee. From 2005 – 2011 he served as a board member of the Abraham Lincoln Foundation in Philadelphia, PA. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Canadiana.org, a Canadian non-profit providing digital access to Canadian heritage collections.

Mr. Alford has spoken extensively on a variety of library topics. He holds a B.A. and M.L.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award (http://sils.unc.edu/news/releases/2005/04_alford.html) from the University of North Carolina School of Information and Library Science in May 2005. He was chosen as a Senior Fellow of Massey College in the University of Toronto in 2012.