

Irving Public Libraries Sign Declaration for the Right to Libraries

IRVING, TEXAS, *Feb. 18, 2014* — Every day in thousands of ways, libraries across our nation empower individuals, strengthen families and build communities. Through literacy programs to teach our children the fundamentals of reading, to job fairs and computer classes that help workers improve the skills needed for our information-based economy, libraries change lives.

In recognition of the important role libraries serve in our communities, the City of Irving and the Irving City Council is launching the “Declaration for the Right to Libraries” campaign.

The campaign begins with an official proclamation at 7 p.m. Feb. 20, during the Irving City Council meeting at City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd. Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne will issue the proclamation and be the first to sign the Declaration for the Right to Libraries; from there, the document travels to each Irving Public Library location over the next four weeks. The public is invited to sign the Declaration and show its support for strong public libraries.

“Libraries are about so much more than books. We help people solve problems, share ideas, and discover new interests,” said Chris Dobson, Director of Library Services.

The campaign, created by the American Library Association, highlights the role of school, public, university and special libraries in promoting democracy and enriching the educational, cultural and economic welfare of Americans.

Irving’s libraries are a prime example of the vital role libraries serve in the community. In the past ten years the Central Library’s job fairs connected more than 8,500 job seekers with local employers. Its computer and job skills classes empower people to look for new employment or train for using a computer.

With the loss of bookstores, Irving residents count on the library to support readers of all ages. All four libraries host story time programs, which help the city’s youngest generation develop fundamental reading skills before entering school. Community reading programs like Summer Reading Challenge and the Big Read encourage people at all ages and socio-economic levels to participate and reconnect with a love for reading.

“Irving libraries are special gathering places for our community,” Dobson said. “We encourage Irving residents to visit their local library and show their support by signing the Declaration.”

Upcoming signing opportunities:

- 7 p.m. Feb. 20: Irving City Council meeting, 825 W. Irving Blvd.
- 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Feb. 22: Central Irving Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd.
- 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., March 1: Valley Ranch Library, 401 Cimarron Trail
- 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., March 10: East Branch Library, 440 S. Nursery Road
- 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., March 15: West Irving Library, 4444 W. Rochelle Road

About the City of Irving

Irving is the second city in the nation and the first in the State of Texas to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (2012) as well as the first municipality in Texas’ history to receive the Texas Award for Performance Excellence (2011). Irving is the 13th largest city in the state with 217,000 residents and is home to the largest office park in North Texas, where a number of Fortune 1000 companies are headquartered.

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