

From: Amy Weist <aweist@urbanlibraries.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 6:52:28 PM
To: Felton Thomas <felton.thomas@cpl.org>
Subject: Wrap-Up of the Barbershop Books Pilot

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Dear Felton,

The end of July marks the conclusion of ULC's Barbershop Books pilot, of which Cleveland Public Library has been a key part over the last year. I want to express ULC's sincerest appreciation for your team's time, commitment, and hard work to establish partnerships with 10 local barbershops and host programming for youth in the community.

We believe that across library systems, the pilot program increased access to books for an estimated 15,113 Black and African American males aged 5-9. Additionally, children interacted with the books an estimated 81,016 times over the year. You can read more about our findings from the pilot program in our recent white paper, [Community Engagement Matters: Learnings from the Barbershop Books Pilot for Libraries](#). We were also pleased to feature Cleveland's efforts in a [recent blog post](#) on the library's partnerships with barbers and in a July 18 [national webinar](#) on the pilot.

Our team had a great experience working with DiFranco Barnes, Alexander Leonard, and Isabelle Rew on this work. As Cleveland Public Library moves forward with this work however you all determine, please know that ULC is here to provide any support that is needed.

Best,
Brooks

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5 Jul 2024

Felton Thomas, Director
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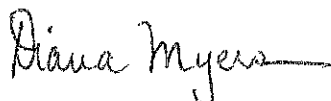
Dear Mr. Thomas,

I am writing to let you know that my uncle, Michael Myers, passed away in Lakewood on 30 May 2024. In going through his papers, my siblings and I realized immediately how much our uncle valued the public library system – and what an avid user he was. He filed all correspondence related to his requests and library usage and kept a close eye on how the library system was doing via annual reports and budgets. Some time back, he even wrote to Rep. Dennis Kucinich to extoll the work of your large team and advocate for evening hours. And he regularly noted, with pride, Ohio's strong public library usage!

My siblings and I were able to locate the library items outstanding for return at the time of his passing and take them to the Eastman Branch, where we spoke with Nancy Somerville about the user you knew most recently as "Patron" Myers. She kindly shared recollections of working with him, and certainly gave us the sense that the library team was in some ways his "family." She also suggested that I write to you. A few days later, we received a call from Steve Wohl, who likewise reminisced with some humor about his encounters with our uncle, and said that Patron Myers was "just kind of famous throughout the system."

My siblings and I would like to thank everyone on the Cleveland Public Library team for attending so thoughtfully to our late uncle's broad interests and enabling him to enrich his life by utilizing the library and its resources. We would also appreciate your sharing the news of his death with all of those who knew or might have known him.

With deep appreciation,

 (dkmyers9@gmail.com)

Diana Myers (niece), Clark and Christopher Myers (nephews)