



ZION-BENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Equality: A Statement from the Zion-Benton Public Library

The Board of Trustees of the Zion-Benton Public Library District, along with the director, staff, and volunteers stand with the Black Lives Matter movement. To be clear, at the very minimum, Black lives matter, but we strive to do more to show that Black lives are valued, celebrated, promoted, supported, treated equitably and are unequivocally integral for a healthy society. We are living through a time when Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and their allies are demanding justice to the historic and systematic injustices that continue to destroy lives and livelihoods; we echo their sentiments.

To the best of our abilities, the Library aims to dismantle the pervasive racism and prejudice that continues to oppress BIPOC and other underrepresented groups in our community and in the library world. We commit to helping our community to better understand the impact of these injustices and we will do everything we can to exhibit the kind of changes that must be made in order for everyone to thrive in our society. This advocacy includes consciously evaluating equity, diversity and inclusion for public facing areas such as the collections, programs, and services but also examining our own internal policies and practices to dismantle institutional white supremacy and end micro aggressions against BIPOC and other marginalized groups.

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