

# Albion College

Albion, MI

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## Reading selection: *Fahrenheit 451*

### Selection explanation:

Albion's 2016 Big Read planning committee chose Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* for two primary reasons. First, it struck us as most likely to engage and challenge our youth audience. In selecting it, we capitalize young adults' taste for dystopian fiction even as we seize the opportunity to expand their sense of that genre. We also chose Bradbury's novel because of its lack "immediate relatability." Though that may seem an odd reason to select a book, we found last year that Le Guin's *A Wizard of Earthsea* was a fantastic selection largely because it was no more immediately "relatable" to one group of readers than another. No one could claim to have experienced \*exactly\* what a particular character had experienced. The productive distance engendered by the strangeness of the novel's world made it easier for different members of our diverse community to talk about the book. And talking about it taught us how talk to and trust one another so that we could ultimately approach issues that were difficult and immediate. We believe that the same will hold true for Bradbury's novel.

## Programming and audience details:

Proposed programming beginning date: 09-17-2016

Proposed programming ending date: 11-01-2016

Number of partner organizations: 34

Number of book discussions: 12

Number of events: 24

Anticipated total participants: 750

## Financial information:

Grant request: \$13,500.00

Current fiscal year expenses: \$53,778,072.00

Previous fiscal year expenses: \$52,171,994.00

### Description of geographic area where programming will take place:

Situated in south-central Michigan on the banks of the Kalamazoo River, Albion is a once industrial town in a post-industrial landscape. Home to nearly 8,300 permanent residents and 1,300 college students, Albion is socioeconomically and racially diverse. According to the 2010 Census, over 35% of Albion's population identify as non-white (29.9% as African American). Poverty is also prevalent in Albion, with 63% of residents unable to meet basic needs. The town's economic uncertainty has had a significant impact on the local education system and on the 25% of residents who are under the age of 18. In 2013, Albion High School closed due to financial pressures, and the local school district will likely be dissolved or annexed by neighboring Marshall at the conclusion of this year. Despite these challenges, Albion is a soulful place full of history and promise, deep partnerships and authentic collaboration. The Big Read provided our community hope and common ground in 2015, and we would like to see that reaffirmed in 2016 as we do the difficult work of imagining and making a new future.

## Project Description

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Describe your programming plans in detail. Include the types of activities, target audiences for those activities, locations, timeframes, and number.

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Albion's Big Read is part of an ongoing endeavor to bridge Albion College and the town of Albion and to increase the number of local youth exposed to and ultimately attending institutions of higher learning. Doing so requires that we create opportunities for the diverse groups that make up Albion to interact meaningfully and for local students to do intellectually challenging and rewarding work. Our program does both by having local 8th-10th graders lead many of the community-wide book discussions. By placing young people at the helm of these discussions, we give them an opportunity to do something difficult and important. We will systematically prepare them to do this by way of a leadership program run by the College. Wonderfully successful in 2015, this program is even more important and timely right now given the fact that Albion's school district will soon cease to exist. The Big Read offers Albion as a community the opportunity to showcase itself and reinforce that we value our youth and their education, despite our inability to financially maintain a school district in the current moment.

Albion's Big Read month (October 2016) is modeled after our Big Read 2015, which the Vice President of Arts Midwest described as having "absolutely hit it out of the ballpark" in an email to an NEA board member. Our programming will include a kick-off event and keynote celebration as well as four different types of weekly recurring activities, hosted in several different locations. Collectively these events, all of which will be anchored in some way to the fire-y language, images, ideas, and history of Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451, aim to provide repeated and varied opportunities for meaningful interactions among diverse groups and individuals. Albion's Big Read will include the following: **BOOK EVENTS** - at least 10 discussions, author visits, and recitations; **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS** - weekly events that are not necessarily about the book but are built on themes and ideas relevant to it and our community; **ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS** - weekly events that engage with the text via a range of artistic media (e.g. a film series and concerts, among others); **SERVICE PROJECTS** - community projects that address basic needs around reading and literacy and give participants a sense of ownership in the community and the Big Read (e.g. continuing to build and install Little Free Libraries throughout Albion.)

Were you to visit Albion in the first Saturday of October, you might find yourself marching in our Get Fired UP! Big Read parade from City Hall to a recently renovated park that was once the site of a segregated school. There you could pick up your copy of Fahrenheit 451 if you didn't have it already. You'd watch fire-breathers and participate in activities sponsored by local organizations ranging from the NAACP to the District Library to the Office of Public Safety. Later that same week, you might attend a concert by a black old-timey string band whose music carries a deep and fire-y history and hear a lecture about the integral role of libraries and imagination in cultivating community and hope. Later you might find yourself in a discussion led by one of our Big Read Student Leaders at the College president's house before stopping by a local pottery studio to witness and be a part of a Raku pottery firing. The following week, you could bring your children to read books about fire safety atop one of Albion's fire trucks, hear a talk by the curator of Bradbury's papers, or visit the exhibition of Albion College's first edition King James Bible. Our Work of Fire series would also give you the chance to hear a panel at the Albion District Library on the history of Albion's foundries and to bake bread in the outdoor community oven at Albion College's Nature Center. In our last week, you might attend a screening of Fahrenheit 451 or another film in our film series at the restored Bohm Theater or be a part of a discussion of the novel's French translation, or you might find yourself reciting a passage of a piece of literature you love at the local coffee shop or church with other residents. Your Big Read experience would hopefully end listening to our keynote speaker talk about the joy of subversion and the power of hope.

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## Partnerships Description

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(a) Describe your partnerships with libraries (as applicable) and community organizations. (b) Explain the role each partner will play in your program, the activities each partner will undertake with your organization, and whether these partnerships are confirmed or pending. (c) Explain how your partnerships will allow you to reach your intended audience(s) and strengthen or build new communities around the NEA Big Read activities.

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Albion's Big Read 2015 proved to be a powerful and collaborative experience for the entire community, which together is our intended audience. The community and our audience for the 2016 Big Read will include children and adults of all races, nationalities, and social classes. We will collaborate with the public schools, our district library, the NAACP, our Sister City volunteers, and the local Bohm Theater to reach the largest audience possible.

The Big Read will partner with the PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, regardless of how it is configured next year. Teachers, administrators, and support staff will engage students, parents, and teachers in the Big Read activities at the school(s) and spread the word via paper, digital, and phone communication. A powerful partner in the 2015 Big Read, the current Assistant Superintendent and Principal of Albion Public Schools is, even now, actively recruiting students to be a part of our summer leadership program, and she is serving the on the planning committee.

The ALBION DISTRICT LIBRARY will help engage an intergenerational, ethnically diverse audience of people through new programs (e.g. the graffiti art workshop) and existing programs (e.g. the ADL book club and Banned Book Week). The District Library will also host discussions, organize workshops, distribute books, and install a month-long exhibit that showcases novels and their graphic-novel companions, of which Fahrenheit 451 will be the anchor. The District Library will also host programming for our "little readers" in the Children's Room and engage kids in Big Read activities through the after school program at Albion's elementary school.

The newly renovated BOHM THEATER is a symbol of community collaboration and city revitalization. After having been closed for many years, it is now reopened and is currently drawing folks to Albion from surrounding communities. The Bohm will host a Big Read film series, the Inaugural Lecture, and the climactic celebration, which includes the keynote speaker and children's choir. Its marquee will also serve as an important way to get the word about the Big Read out to everyone who drives down Albion's main street thoroughfare. The Film Series will draw both avid and reluctant readers, and the selections, which will likely be chosen by a committee of young people working with the Bohm's executive director, will be aimed at a range of audiences.

The ALBION BRANCH NAACP hosted a very successful panel discussion about masculinity and violence during our last Big Read and is currently playing an important role hosting discussions about the changes in the Albion school system. These discussions are evidence of their leadership in town and their incredible skill at facilitating difficult conversations among and within our diverse community. The NAACP will help the Big Read conversations reach a racially diverse audience and advance the kind of empathy that will strengthen our community.

Responsible for bringing French youth to Albion and sending Albion youth to France, the ALBION SISTER CITY COMMITTEE will host a discussion of the French translation of Fahrenheit 451; they will also sponsor the Film version of the novel, which is directed by François Truffaut. This committee will help us reach a local audience interested in global cultures and, importantly, will help carry word of our program across the ocean to our friends and colleagues in Baille and Noisy-le-Roy, France.

Partners such as KIDS AT HOPE, an organization that supports youth in our community, and WOMEN UNITED, a newly found women's cooperative, will enable us to reach and engage Albion's low-income population by helping us develop relevant programming that responds to both the interests and needs of that population.

These confirmed partners listed above is critical. But the success of the Albion's Big Read last year was rooted in the twenty or so additional partners who hosted events: Association of American University Women, Sisters Influencing Society, the Albion Historical Society, local churches, community centers, and more. Those partners, all of whom are on board for Big Read 2016, will target different constituencies in Albion and ensure that our programming and attendance is as diverse as our community.

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## Promotional Description

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(a) Describe how you will promote your Big Read programming. Discuss any proposed or existing partnerships with specific media outlets. (b) Explain how your program will utilize the digital guides found on neabigread.org, and copies of your reading selection.

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The 2015 Big Read is still with us. Even now artistic symbols associated with the 2015 Big Read decorate downtown windows, and community leaders continue to refer to and celebrate the Big Read, affirming for all of our different constituencies the association of the Big Read with feelings of pride and continuity, feelings we need very much to experience in Albion. Promotion for the 2016 Big Read in Albion will build on our community's familiarity with and excitement about what the Big Read is and what it does.

Throughout the winter and early spring promotion for the Big Read will take the form of recruiting participants into our Summer Leadership Program, which will train as many as 20 rising 8th-10th graders to lead community-wide discussions during our Big Read month. (This program and these discussions will occur under a different name if we don't secure the NEA grant, though their power would be considerably diminished.) That recruitment process and the students' experience in the leadership program will build important human relationships that are rooted in and associated with the Big Read. If last year's program is any indication, the participants and their families will become some of our most important spokespeople within the community, particularly among low-income populations that we might not otherwise reach. Their positive experience in it gives other community members a reason to attend events in the fall. Word of that experience will travel beyond the students' immediate support networks through print and digital publications produced and circulated by Albion College's Office of Institutional Advancement, stories will be printed in our local and regional newspapers, and updates on our Big Read facebook page and website will be routine.

Our use of print, digital, and face-to-face promotion will intensify as August becomes September. We will distribute postcards that feature our web address and facebook page in the second week of September; hang beautiful posters detailing the month's program during the third week; and hand out magnets that include key events as well as our online addresses at our kick-off. We will sponsor an issue of a local community events publication that reaches an audience of 10,000. At the Festival of the Forks, a huge community event that draws thousands of people from Albion and the surrounding areas in late Septmeber, local dancers will perform what we are calling "Albion 4:51," a flash mob performance at 4:51pm. Those dancers will be wearing the Big Read t-shirts (purchased with non-match funds) that we will then distribute at our kick-off. The brand for Albion's 2016 Big Read that our institutional advancement office will develop will begin to appear throughout the campus and town in the form of posters, stamps, temporary tattoos, and vinyl cutouts.

During the Big Read month, we will advertise via our facebook page and those of our partners, make weekly paper schedules available at specified locations, and send those schedules to our local faith groups through the Albion Ministerial Association. We will use the communication structures available through the schools (websites, robo-calls, daily announcements, etc.) to get word out to students and their parents. We will remain aware of emerging opportunities for members of the planning committee to speak publically about the amazing things the Big Read makes possible.

By combining the personal outreach of presentations, workshops, and community events to get the community engaged in the Big Read, along with more traditional media and public outlets using our own press materials as well as materials provided by NEA, we expect to maximize the level of impact from our promotion plan.

The Director of the Big Read will make use of the NEA materials about Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 in the work she and her staff do with the local students the Summer Leadership Program and will circulate those materials among the teachers in our public school district. She will also make them available to the leaders of all the groups that volunteer to host a discussion.

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## Organization Description

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Describe your organization's history, programming, and achievements.

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Albion College is a small, residential college located in south-central Michigan at the forks of the Kalamazoo River. Founded in 1835, Albion College educates roughly 1,300 undergraduates in the liberal arts tradition, cultivating students' ability to think critically, their capacity for empathy, and their impulse for civic engagement. The College teaches its students to do as individuals what it has committed itself to do as an institution: namely, to take on the urgent social, educational, and economic challenges that our town and region face by collaborating in rich and productive ways with the people who make up the community, broadly conceived.

Albion College's ability to act as effectively as it does comes from our small size and strategic partnerships and is visible in the regional and national recognition we have garnered in recent years for collaborative programs. In 2015, we won a Big Read grant (more on that later) as well as a \$294,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Fund to create a hub for several regional trail networks. In 2014 the Mellon Foundation awarded the College a \$100,000 grant to develop arts and humanities courses designed to address local community needs via the arts and humanities. Our 2013 the Senator Paul Simon Award for Internationalization recognized the collaborative and transatlantic work of many partners, including many academic departments, local government and public schools, and our French Sister Cities. Importantly, these awards, grants, and partnerships testify not just to the organizational capacities of the College but also to the deep extant and evolving collaboration between the college and the town of Albion. The College and town have champions at the ready, people of influence who are deeply dedicated to moving our town and college into the future. The President of Albion College has committed significant financial and human resources to ensuring that the College lives out its civic mission here in the place where it lives. The Big Read is a part of that larger endeavor.

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Describe your organization's experience with presenting community-wide programming that demonstrates an ability to conduct a successful NEA Big Read.

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The most powerful and immediate evidence of our organizational capacity and commitment to community engagement is our 2015 Big Read. In a series of events that testified to the incredible power of literature and the arts to create and cultivate community, Albion's Big Read reached deep into many different constituencies in our town and across the lines that tend to divide us, lines of age, class, race, and education. Almost every day of October offered residents a chance to come and experience lectures, art exhibits, a film series, concerts, and craft projects. And they did come in great numbers. At the center of our program were local 8th-10th graders who spent a good part of their summer in our Summer Leadership Program preparing to lead almost half of our Big Read discussions. Those students enabled our community to rise to its best self and to feel its own value. Even today, almost three months after our programming came to an end, you can see, hear, and feel the impact of the Big Read. Our Big Read student leaders have assumed real, visible leadership roles in our community at a time of considerable turmoil. The words "The Big Read" have become synonymous with hope and pride.

The robust personal and institutional relationships that served as the foundation for last year's success remain in place, stronger than ever. The Big Read Planning Committee continues to have committed members who lead our community. They serve on some of the most important Boards in our town: the Albion District Library, the Board of Education, the Community Foundation, and the NAACP. Those community leaders have not only been outspoken in their support of the Big Read but have done the heavy lifting of mobilizing their organizations and constituencies. This year, we have expanded our committee to include faculty and staff from Marshall Public Schools, the district that may well have annexed the Albion public school district by the fall of 2016. Those relationships promise to extend the reach and impact of this incredible program.

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## Organizer Biographies

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Outline the key staff and/or volunteers who will plan and implement the programming, including their titles, roles and responsibilities, and experience or capacity for managing an NEA Big Read. Include partner organizations' staff as applicable.

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Many of this year's key organizers have been members of the Big Read Planning Committee since June 2014. The committee represents both the diversity of the town of Albion and the intimate and evolving relationships between the major players in the town's primary institutions, creating a program that is deeply relevant to the diverse population and whose strength is greater than the sum of its parts. Indeed, there are many names in addition to the following that deserve recognition.

Chair of the Big Read Planning Committee, secretary of the Albion District Library Board of Trustees, and associate professor of English at Albion College, Dr. JESS ROBERTS directed the 2015 Big Read and will direct the 2016 Big Read. During the fall of 2016, Jess will teach a reduced load in order to oversee all aspects of the Big Read programming. She will work with relevant divisions of the college, youth leaders, and key community partners to promote events, ensure participation, and make sure that everything goes according to schedule. MADELINE DRURY will continue in her role as Assistant Director of Albion's Big Read. Madeline will revise our Big Read website to reflect this year's programming and update the Facebook and Instagram pages regularly, documenting the evolution of the Summer Leadership Program. She will also coordinate events and develop the art programming.

Assistant Superintendent of Albion Public Schools and Principal of the Albion Community School, JONI PARKS was the most critical partner for the 2015 Big Read. We will work closely with Joni in order to navigate the changes in the Albion public schools. Her insights, voice, and practical ability to make things happen will be utterly essential to our continuing to develop and execute programming within the school system. Joni Parks has earned the trust of our community, and her support of the Big Read will continue to lend it credibility.

Deeply committed to cultivating reading in Albion, CINDY STANCZAK serves as the director of the Albion District Library and the head of Adult Services. She is the primary organizational force within the library and will coordinate a range of programming that will improve our outreach to local youth and adults and the greater Albion community. Cindy has experience planning and implementing programming intended to engage a range of audiences in the shared experience of reading.

HARRY J. BONNER, SR. is the executive director of Substance Abuse Prevention Services and Kids at Hope, and he is what Albion College President Mauri Ditzler has called "an elder statesman." He coordinates volunteer and mentoring opportunities that benefit local families who for many reasons are at risk. A member of the NAACP and a key player in helping our community navigate the complicated situation regarding our schools, he has considerable experience in community-wide programming that engages marginalized and disenfranchised populations.

Former principal of a local elementary school, a leader in Albion's chapter of the NAACP, and member of the Albion College Board of Trustees, MAE OLA DUNKLIN continues to work closely with our town's youth population through a program she runs called ASCEND. This program inspires and empowers local young women and men in the age group our programming targets to realize their potential through mentoring.

MARY SLATER is a member of the Bohm Theater's Board of Trustees, the Sister City Committee, and Association of American University, and a local business owner. Mary will not only facilitate programming at the Bohm, spearhead an essay-writing contest to be administered by the AAUW, and work to engage an international youth audience through our Sister City relationships.

While it is not formalized at this time, all indications suggest that Albion College will be the recipient of an expansive AmeriCorps VISTA program beginning summer 2016, with up to 10 volunteers being placed in the community to help build organizational capacity and address issues of poverty. Several of these volunteers will be focused on educational programming, such as the Big Read. AmeriCorps VISTA, coupled with the Big Read, will be a powerful complement of our community programming supported by Arts Midwest and two recognized federal programs.

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# NEA Big Read: Proposal Budget

Use this form to illustrate the funding sources for your program, including the required 1 to 1 match and details of how you intend to spend the grant and matching funds. For additional directions on how to complete this form, refer to the budget instructions document. Please call the NEA Big Read team at Arts Midwest with any questions at 612.238.8010.

## Albion College

### Revenues

In the revenues section of this form (page 1), indicate all anticipated income for the program from all sources.

#### Grants and cash contributions

Input your grant request and any other grants or cash contributions you expect to receive. Federal funds (direct or indirect) may not be used toward the 1 to 1 match. Examples of eligible matching items for this section are cash donations from individuals, community grants, or cash from your partner organizations. Indicate if items are confirmed or pending.

Funding Source	Detail	Amount
NEA Big Read	Grant request (pending)	\$ 13,500.00
United Way	General use (confirmed)	\$ 3,500.00
Binda Foundation	General use (pending)	\$ 3,000.00
Albion Community Foundation	General use (\$3,000 confirmed; \$2,000 pending)	\$ 5,000.00
Marshall Community Foundation	General use (pending)	\$ 3,000.00
Local businesses & organizations / private donations	General use (\$1500 confirmed; \$1500 pending)	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Grants and cash contributions subtotal:</b>		<b>\$ 31,000.00</b>

#### Applicant organization contributions

Include any funds that the applicant organization will contribute to the program. Examples of eligible matching items for this section are staff salaries, wages, and benefits from the applicant organization, administrative overhead, and facility space. To qualify as matching resources, these items also must be listed in the program budget as expenses.

Funding Source	Detail	Amount
Director Salary + Fringe	1 unit (1/6 annual load) course buyout in fall 2016 for Jess Roberts to coordinate	\$ 12,880.00
Art Department	Staff Time, creation of art exhibit, help with local craft projects	\$ 1,000.00
English Department	Cash for support of keynote speaker	\$ 600.00
Indirect Overhead	Albion College uses an approved 58.3% F&A rate based on salary/fringe	\$ 7,510.00
Marketing and Communications	Big Read promotion will reach 10,000+ audience (paper/postage and electronic)	\$ 3,000.00
AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer	Volunteer support / capacity building of Big Read program (\$1600 non-match)	
Schleg Lecture Funds	Endowed Lecture funds to bring in curator of Bradbury papers	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Applicant organization contributions subtotal:</b>		<b>\$ 25,990.00</b>

#### Third party (in-kind) contributions

List items and services partner organizations will contribute. Examples of eligible matching items for this section are partner organizations' salaries and wages, donated space, donated supplies, the cash equivalent value of volunteer services, etc. To qualify as matching resources, these items also must be listed in the program budget as expenses. The dollar value of these non-cash donations should be calculated at their verifiable fair-market value. Proper documentation must be maintained for all items noted as "in-kind."

Funding Source	Detail	Amount
Albion District Library	Staff time to run workshops, create and install exhibits, "little readers," publicity (100 hrs at \$18.50)	\$ 1,850.00
Albion Public Schools/Marshall Public Schools	teachers' prep and in-class time on books and craft projects (100 hrs @ \$18.50/hr)	\$ 1,850.00
Professional volunteers	running community connections events, planning committee (70 hrs at \$18.50/hr)	\$ 1,300.00
Local churches / businesses	donated space for events and discussions (8 locations, 2 hrs / piece, \$50/hr)	\$ 800.00
Community volunteers	nonprofessional volunteers, \$8/hour, 250 hrs total	\$ 2,000.00
<b>Third party (in-kind) contributions subtotal:</b>		<b>\$ 7,800.00</b>

#### Anticipated earned revenue

In the following section list estimates of earned revenue from your Big Read programs. Examples of eligible matching items for this section would be ticket sales or entry fees to events.

Funding Source	Detail	Amount
<b>Anticipated earned revenue subtotal:</b>		<b>\$ -</b>

<b>Total match:</b>	The sum of all revenues except the NEA Big Read grant request. The total match must be equal to or greater than the NEA Big Read grant request.	<b>\$ 51,290.00</b>
<b>Total revenues:</b>	The sum of all revenue subtotals.	<b>\$ 64,790.00</b>

## Expenses

In the expenses section of this form (page 2), illustrate how you plan to spend the grant funds and the additional revenue.

### Program expenses

Program expenses might include book purchases, consultant and speaker fees, artist fees, speaker travel and per diem, contractual services, access accommodations (e.g., sign language interpretation, large-print brochures), administrative overhead, rental of space or equipment, marketing costs, etc. **Do not include unallowable expenses such as: fundraising, hospitality activities (e.g., receptions, refreshments/concessions, meals, etc.), gifts/prizes, or costs incurred prior to the receipt of an executed grant agreement. Note: sub-granting federal funds is not allowed. Food is an allowable expense for visiting parties as part of travel costs only.**

Type of expense	Detail	Amount
Kick-off Event	Tent rental, performers, artists, photo booth	\$ 4,000.00
Books	500 Fahrenheit 451 & 200 companion titles @\$8/copy	\$ 5,600.00
Films Series	Films to be selected by committee of local youth (public performance costs + theater rental)	\$ 2,000.00
Keynote lecture	Speaker's stipend, travel, room and board.	\$ 4,000.00
Inaugural lecture	Speaker's stipend, travel, room and board.	\$ 4,000.00
Schleg Lecture	Speaker's stipend, travel, room and board. (Curator of Bradbury papers)	\$ 1,000.00
Transportation costs	Bus rentals (to-from) Marshall Public Schools	\$ 1,700.00
Supplies for art exhibits	Paper, ink, etc.	\$ 500.00
Craft supplies	Materials for community and school art projects	\$ 800.00
Concert	Artists' fee, venue rental	\$ 4,000.00
Marketing and Advertising	Posters, mailings, etc.	\$ 3,000.00
Albion District Library Staff Time	Staff time to run workshops, create and install exhibits, "little readers," publicity (100 hrs at \$18.50)	\$ 1,850.00
Albion Public Schools/Marshall Public Schools Staff Time	Teachers' prep and in-class time on books and craft projects (100 hrs @ \$18.50/hr)	\$ 1,850.00
Professional volunteers	running community connections events, planning committee (70 hrs at \$18.50/hr)	\$ 1,300.00
Local churches / businesses (space use)	donated space for events and discussions (8 locations, 2 hrs / piece, \$50/hr)	\$ 800.00
Community volunteers	nonprofessional volunteers, \$8/hour, 250 hrs total	\$ 2,000.00
Art Department Staff Time	creation of art exhibit, help with local craft projects	\$ 1,000.00
Indirect Overhead	Albion College uses an approved 58.3% F&A rate based on salary/fringe	\$ 7,510.00
<b>Program expenses subtotal:</b>		<b>\$ 46,910.00</b>

### Salaries and wages

Outline compensation for personnel from your organization and your partners. Salaries and wages count towards the 1 to 1 match. Include staff who are donating their time. You may calculate salaries and wages as a percentage of annual income or based on an hourly rate. Think about the realistic amount of time it will take to complete the project from the planning to the final report phase. Funds for contractual personnel and compensation for artists/speakers/performers who are paid on a fee basis should be included under the "program expenses" section of this budget form.

Title and/or type of personnel	Total anticipated project hours	Amount
Director	1 unit (1/6 annual load) course buyout in fall 2016 for Jess Roberts to coordinate	\$ 12,880.00
Assistant Director	270 hrs @ \$18.50/hour	\$ 5,000.00
AmeriCorps VISTA Service	salary of volunteer working to increase capacity of Big Read program (\$1600 non-match)	
<b>Salaries and wages subtotal:</b>		<b>\$ 17,880.00</b>

<b>Total Expenses:</b>	This total must be at least twice the number as your grant award amount so that the 1 to 1 match is represented.	<b>\$ 64,790.00</b>
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Use the space below to provide any additional information about your proposed budget.





# ALBION DISTRICT LIBRARY

January 25, 2016

Dear Big Read Selection Committee Members,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the Albion District Library for Albion College's application for a "Big Read" grant. As a board member and now president of the District Library I saw first-hand the impact that the Big Read 2015 had on our library and our community. I have personally been an active Big Read Planning Committee member, so I am also intimately familiar with the work and dedication that has gone into making this month-long event a powerful experience for the students, the community and the many partners that this program engages. Having Albion College, and in particular Jess Roberts, coordinating and supporting the needs of the program and keeping all of the partners active has been instrumental.

More than any other organization in the community, save perhaps the schools, Albion District Library engages an intergenerational and ethnically diverse audience in reading and learning. The Big Read will be a centerpiece to our 2016 programming if a support grant is awarded. Our staff and community members are already busy developing new programs, including a graffiti art workshop around the selected novel, Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. The District Library will also host book discussions, workshops, distribute books, and install a month-long exhibit that showcases *Fahrenheit 451* and the Big Read program. Existing programs, such as our ADL book club and our Banned Book Week, will be used to engage avid and new readers in the Big Read. The District Library also hosts a "little readers" program that will engage young children in age-appropriate Big Read activities.

As evidenced in the success of the Big Read 2015, the City of Albion has sustained hope and identity in the face of serious and sometimes insurmountable challenges. So much is up in the air with our local education system, and with all the change and upheaval sure to come, Albion District Library and the Big Read are more committed than ever that we continue to be sources of positive and engaging stability for the Albion community.

I write this letter as an official representative of the Albion District Library, but I am also writing as a long-time resident of Albion. While I know that the Big Read alone does not solve our issues, I cannot say enough about how much it means to have this program happen again, and for Albion residents to have something uplifting on the horizon to look forward to. More than any other program in recent memory, the Big Read is a fertile ground for collaboration and affirmation of who we are and what we value as a community. Thank you so much for your consideration and support of Albion and the Big Read Program.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Arndts,  
Albion District Library President, and Big Read Planning Committee member

## Board of Trustees

**Kimberly Arndts (2017)**

*President*

*Albion School District*

**Paula Pheley (2016)**

*Vice President*

*Albion Township*

**James Seidl (2018)**

*Treasurer*

*Albion Township*

**Jess Roberts (2019)**

*Secretary*

*City of Albion*

**Dixie Grant (2018)**

*Trustee*

*City of Albion*

**Carolyn Gilg (2019)**

*Trustee*

*Albion School District*

**James Behling (2017)**

*Trustee*

*City of Albion*

## Library Administration

**Cynthia Stanczak**

*Library Director*

## Albion District Library

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*Transforming Minds,*

*Changing Lives*



# Albion Public Schools

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To the Members of the Big Read Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to write today in support of Albion College's application for a 2016 Big Read grant. I serve as the principal of the Albion Community School, the Assistant Superintendent of the Albion school district, and a member of the Big Read Planning Committee. My experience in each of these roles has convinced me that 1) Albion is collectively ready to execute another outstanding Big Read and 2) the town of Albion and particularly its children will need the Big Read this fall more than ever.

Students are at the heart of the Albion Big Read. Building on our incredible success last year, we will again offer a Summer Leadership Program that will prepare a group of our 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders to lead community-wide discussions, this year about *Fahrenheit 451*. I have seen firsthand the way that this program empowers students, many of whom are low-income, by giving them a leadership role and preparing them to facilitate real and meaningful conversations. That experience equips them with practical skills that enable them to succeed in their lives, and maybe most important it changes their relationship to reading. It shows them that books can—that book *do*—create community.

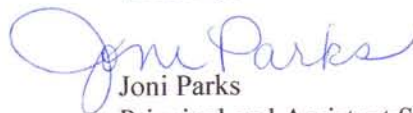
Such an opportunity would be powerful to a student in any district, but it is particularly powerful here and now in Albion. Our students have witnessed and experienced a series of school closures that, as of today, January 25, means that our 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are all educated in schools outside our district. In fact, Albion Public Schools may not exist as a governing district after the conclusion of this year, having either been annexed by the neighboring district of Marshall or dissolved entirely. Many of our families worry that students in Albion will lose an important aspect of their identity when they go away to school and that students and others will associate Albion with a failure to value education. The Big Read offers our children, our community, and surrounding communities evidence of what I know is true: that this town places a high value on education, reading, and most importantly our children.

Last year's Big Read is a powerful example of success, thanks in large part to Dr. Jess Roberts and a very dedicated Big Read Planning Committee. Children and young adults came to possess an identity as *Albion Big Read Leaders*. They expressed pride in themselves and their community. That pride extended to the other children in our schools, and it will again this year. When our Big Read speakers visit Marshall Middle School, where our children now go, they will be associated with Albion. When students in Marshall read companion books, those books and the positive experience they create will be associated with Albion. When Albion children invite their Marshall classmates to concerts and kick-off events, to lectures and art exhibits in Albion, it will affirm the richness of the place they come from. It will help our kids feel secure and proud, and that security and pride will help us all make a smooth transition to whatever our school situation will be in the fall.

From a strictly practical standpoint, I know that relationships are in place that will ensure rich and productive collaborations with the public schools. I am working closely with Dr. Roberts and teachers and administrators in the Marshall Public Schools even now to prepare for the summer and fall, whatever that looks like.

Many eyes are on Albion and Marshall right now because of the situation in our schools. That, of course, means that the audience for our Big Read has increased considerably. The words "Big Read" have been uttered by many school officials in Albion and Marshall as evidence of the importance of youth and community. Those words are unambiguously positive. The impact of the Big Read has already and will continue to reach far beyond the borders of our small town.

Sincerely,



Joni Parks  
Principal and Assistant Superintendent of Schools