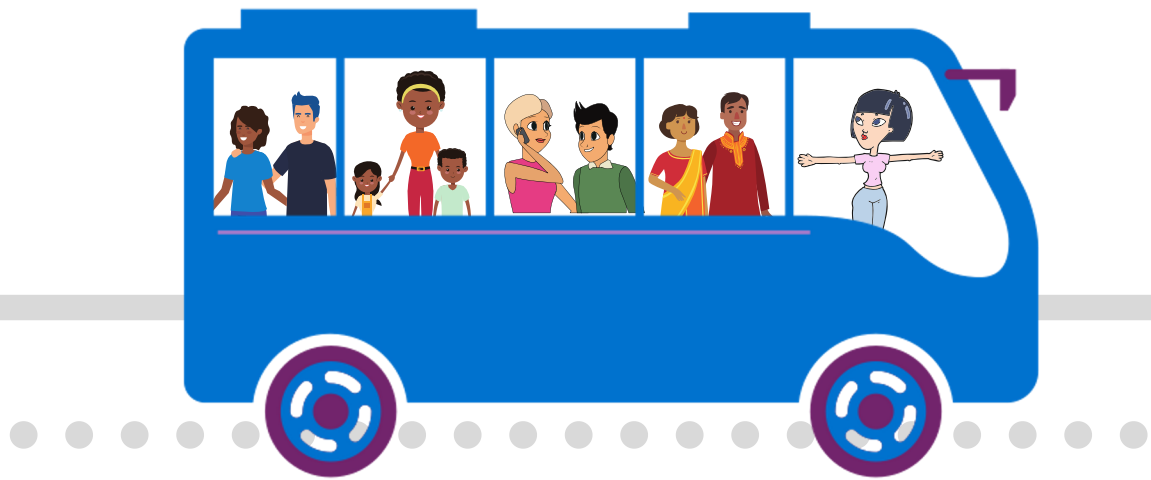


# CONNECTING COMMUNITY



# CHANGING LIVES



## A 21st Century Digital Bookmobile Case Statement



To maximize resources to fulfill our mission, this publication is prepared and printed in-house.

# Connecting Community...

Dear Friends:

The bookmobile, the mobile branch of the Aurora Public Library (APL) system, began serving Aurora 66 years ago in 1953. The current bookmobile, purchased in 2003 is 16 years old. Due to repairs and unplanned service interruptions, now is the time to invest in a new bookmobile with technology enhancements.

Aurora Public Library Foundation's goal is to raise \$400,000 to plan, design, and construct a 21st century digital bookmobile.

As you read the case statement, we are confident that you will join us in Connecting Community...Changing Lives with this indispensable service.



**Delia Nila Basile and Sherman Jenkins  
Campaign Leaders**

*Delia Nila Basile and Sherman Jenkins*



**Michaela Haberkern  
APL Executive Director**

Our theme for the bookmobile campaign, **Connecting Community...Changes Lives**, is what the bookmobile does. The new digital bookmobile will bring the same services as today's bookmobile with modern features and enhanced technology options.

The bookmobile is a community treasure and I thank you for reading this case statement and offering your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [Michaela@aurorapubliclibrary.org](mailto:Michaela@aurorapubliclibrary.org) or 630-264-4106.

# ...Changing Lives For More Than Six Decades!

**1953 - Aurora's first bookmobile was borrowed from the State of Illinois.**

"We were recently informed by the East Side Board of Education that the room which houses our East Branch Library would be needed for school purposes...our Board has had a bookmobile in mind for several years and this would appear to be the right time to try one."

APL Director Eleanor Plain, Bookmobile Memories, 60 years of our library on wheels



**1957 - This bookmobile replaced the borrowed bookmobile.**

"This first APL traveling branch was not immediately recognizable to all Aurorans. The first monthly report told of a lady who entered the bookmobile, handed a dime to the librarian on board and asked to be let off at Fifth Street."

Bookmobile Memories, 60 years of our library on wheels



**1976 - This mobile library replaced the 1968 bookmobile. The photo below is the bookmobile with new graphics in 1983.**



**2003 to today!**



**In 2017, new graphics were added to the bookmobile purchased in 2003.**



# Connecting Community...Changing Lives

Why  
now is  
the  
time:

Aurora's current bookmobile, put into service in early 2003, has 120,000+ miles. Repairs are interrupting service. To date, it has been off-road 31 days in 2019. APL has taken excellent care of the bookmobile and it has served Aurora well; however, it is time to replace it. Aurora Public Library's operating budget is comprised mainly of property taxes (2.9% of your property taxes is allocated to APL). While APL will fund ongoing operations, if this service is to continue, the Aurora Public Library Foundation must raise \$400,000 through donations, grants and fundraising events to purchase a new digital bookmobile.



"There is something inspiring about doing a job where the customer gets excited when you show up to do your work. When we arrive, the children run to the bookmobile to get the latest book in their favorite series. Nursing home residents wait patiently for us to arrive and open our doors."

Outreach Services Staff June 10, 2019



# The Bookmobile Serves Many In Our City

**And so will the digital bookmobile!**



# Connecting Community...Changing Lives

The digital bookmobile will build upon early literacy learning to expand knowledge in the areas of digital, media, visual, data and health literacy.

## The digital bookmobile will primarily serve:

- Residents in outlying areas
- People with disabilities
- Immigrants to welcome them to America
- Homeless families, children and individuals

### Educators

Bookmobile services extend educators' resources for home, public and private schooling. When school is not in session and especially in the summer, children experience what educators call "the summer slide." Children from lower income households, slide the furthest (Erikson Institute).

# Connecting Community...Changing Lives

## The digital bookmobile will serve:

- Children/Families from lower income households

All of Aurora!

According to SPARK (Strong Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten):

- Aurora is one of Illinois' most under-served communities for early learning services
- Only one in four children in Aurora have the skills they need to be successful in school
- 20,000 children in Aurora are age five and younger and...
  - Forty-four percent live at or below 185% of the federal poverty level
  - Half have family incomes that qualify for Medicaid and free/reduced meal programs
  - Over 62% live in households isolated by language barriers

Today's bookmobile is the primary library for District 131 students (and the digital library will be too.)

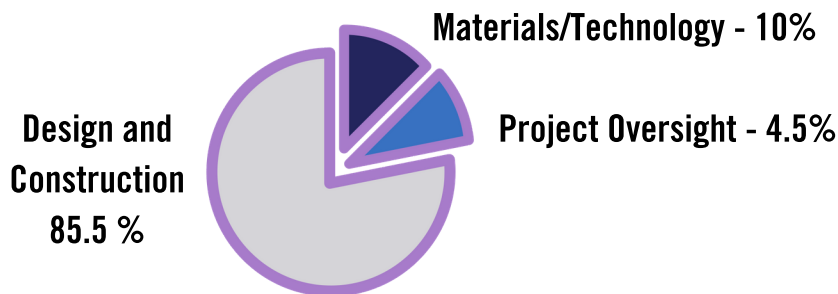


In 2017/18, 350 lunches were provided at the Plum Park bookmobile stop in partnership with Northern Illinois Foodbank.



# Connecting Community...Changing Lives

The digital bookmobile will cost \$400,000\*

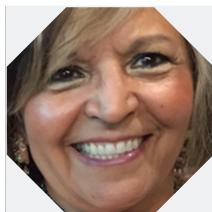


The campaign goal is \$400,000. Additionally, we plan to establish an endowment for the digital bookmobile's maintenance, materials and new technology.

It will take approximately 18 months to plan, design and construct the digital bookmobile.

The digital bookmobile will have demonstration/interactive space for STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) learning. The design will incorporate features like exterior scene lights and speakers, wireless PA, and on-board elements that will set in motion knowledge, information and ideas.

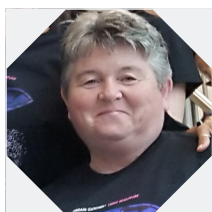
## Volunteer Campaign Leadership



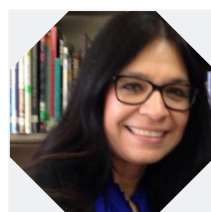
**Delia Nila Basile**



**Sherman Jenkins**



**Kelly McCleary**



**Christina Campos**



**John Savage**



**Jeff Butler**



# Bookmobile "Magic in Motion"



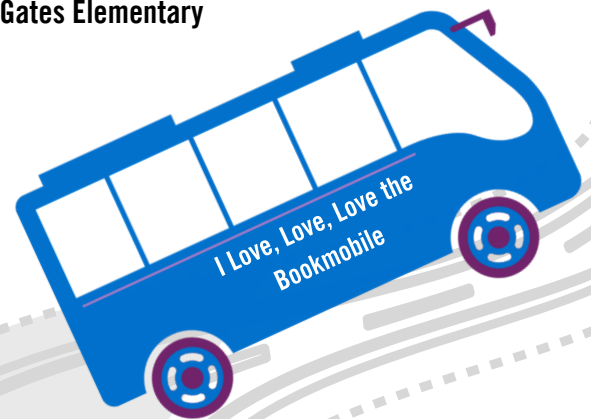
I have been a student. I am a lifetime Aurora resident. I am a teacher, mother and an avid reader. The bookmobile has been a part of each of these life characters. The bookmobile opened my eyes to the world of reading. I thought it was so fun to get on a bus full of books. As a teacher for East Aurora Public School District 131, I use the bookmobile to share my love of reading with my students.

Mrs. Zepeda, first grade teacher at Gates Elementary



**I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE the bookmobile! It provides me with convenience, accessibility and materials that benefit my family, students and myself.**

Anne McDonald



# Kids Love the Bookmobile!

Connecting Community...Changing Lives

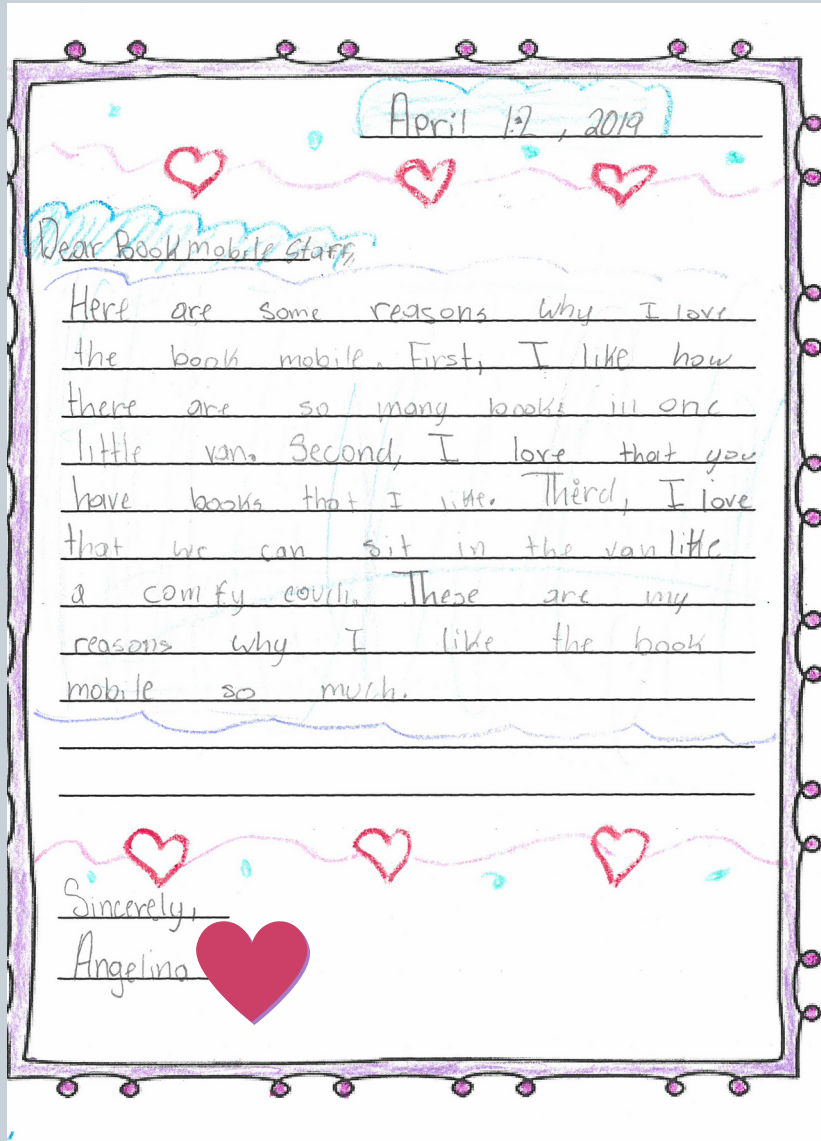
Dear Bookmobile Staff,

Here are some reasons why I love the book mobile. First, I like how there are so many books in one little van. Second, I love that you have books I like. Third, I love that we can sit on the van's little comfy couch. These are my reasons why I like the book mobile so much.

Angelina

Dear city of Aurora,

We need the bookmobile for we can get different types of books. It helps us finish our book reports. The bookmobile also helps me with my language. It also helps with are goals. This is why we need the bookmobile. Seleste (not pictured)



Elementary School Students - These letters appear as written by the students (they did pretty well for being so young!).



Share your bookmobile memories and why you feel the bookmobile is invaluable to Aurora at [Foundation@aurorapubliclibrary.org](mailto:Foundation@aurorapubliclibrary.org).

# Questions You May Have:

Connecting Community...Changing Lives

## How does the bookmobile make a difference in people's lives?

If a person is to reach his/her full potential, education is essential. Aurora's bookmobile services extend educators' resources for home/public/private schooling. Its flexibility to deliver services augments education and workforce infrastructures in our city. Research from child development experts like the Erikson Institute confirm that children in lower income households lose more skills when school is not in session than children from middle/high income households. The bookmobile reaches at-risk children and families. Moreover, visiting senior citizens is a core service of the bookmobile. Many older people are not able to visit APL's main library or branches so we bring the library to them. Page four of the case statement lists other constituents who benefit from bookmobile services including immigrants who may need help acclimating to America, adults in need of their General Education Diploma and our homeless residents. The digital bookmobile will continue making a difference in these ways and others with greater technology and space options! For more information, please call 630-264-4124 or email [Foundation@aurorapubliclibrary.org](mailto:Foundation@aurorapubliclibrary.org).

## Why are donations needed to purchase the digital bookmobile?

APL's budget is comprised mainly of property taxes. In Aurora, 2.9 % of your property tax is allocated to APL. With this budget, ongoing operational needs are included but not the plan, design and construction.

## Does the bookmobile (and will the digital bookmobile) serve the entire city?

Yes, it does and in many different ways. The bookmobile partners/collaborates with school districts to help children discover, create, connect and succeed. School collections are supplemented by the bookmobile which delivers additional resources for learning, homework and projects. Storytimes in parks, farmers markets and restaurants like Panera Bread keep children reading and learning while having fun. The bookmobile is a library and it provides traditional library services like issuing library cards, answering reference questions and assisting with databases. Also the bookmobile is at festivals, community events, parades and other places throughout our city.

## Why don't people go to the main library or branches?

Barriers like transportation, language, work schedules and residential locations may prohibit people from visiting Santori Library or the branches.

# Questions You May Have:

Connecting Community...Changing Lives

## What is the timing for the digital bookmobile and when will we see a rendering?

The plan, design and construction will take approximately 18 months. As soon as we have a rendering, we will let you know!



## How do teachers use the bookmobile to support early literacy?

APL's School Success and Early Literacy librarians work in tandem with the bookmobile, school librarians and educators to promote, encourage and provide programming and materials for early literacy. Moreover, teachers may (and they do!) request materials from APL. We gather the materials, deliver them to the school and pick them up. The bookmobile also supports teachers by providing reading materials beyond what their school libraries can provide. It enables the schools to focus their small book budgets on curriculum, while the bookmobile brings enrichment and recreational reading.



## What are the current bookmobile stops?

Bookmobile stops change throughout the year. Please visit [aurorapubliclibrary.org](http://aurorapubliclibrary.org) for current stops or send an email to [Foundation@aurorapubliclibrary.org](mailto:Foundation@aurorapubliclibrary.org).



## Who are some of the bookmobile's partners?

SPARK (Strong Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten) for early literacy, Northern Illinois Food Bank to educate and to offer children meals/snacks during the summer months, District 131, park districts, At Risk Mentoring are a few!



## Are grants available for a digital bookmobile?

Aurora Public Library Foundation is in the process of applying for two grants as of June 10, 2019. Other grant opportunities are being researched. Please contact APLF at [Foundation@aurorapubliclibrary.org](mailto:Foundation@aurorapubliclibrary.org) for questions or suggestions.



If you have a question not yet answered, please contact the Foundation at 630-264-4124 or by email to [Foundation@aurorapubliclibrary.org](mailto:Foundation@aurorapubliclibrary.org)