

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ImagineIF Libraries Interim Director Resigns

Kalispell, MT – After 15 years of serving the Flathead County area, Interim Library Director Martha Furman resigned her position at ImagineIF Libraries. Her last day was December 10th, 2021.

"I love the ImagineIF library team and this community, but it's time for new opportunities. Libraries are integral to healthy communities, and I look forward to continuing to be involved in the profession."

Martha helped pioneer the Youth Services department at ImagineIF and in 2014 she attended the Association of Children's Museums conference to discover best practices in hands-on learning for children. Afterwards, Martha and the Youth Services team transformed the Library's children's spaces into centers of learning and discovery, with science and art at the center.

Around that same time, the team also created Summer Experience, a 21st century answer to the traditional summer reading program. Summer Experience has grown from engaging a few hundred children to almost 2,000 yearly. Under Furman's leadership, the library's Youth Services department won the Northwest Montana Reading Council Friend of Literacy Award in 2016 and the Best Beginnings Early Childhood Champion Award in 2019.

Furman said, "I loved creating safe and welcoming spaces for families to explore literacy concepts through play. I also enjoyed working on staff development and education, creating trainings for other librarians in Montana and beyond, and developing strategic plans for the library."

"Moving forward, I recommend the Trustees select a qualified and degreed candidate for the Library Director role who can consider all perspectives and treat everyone fairly. The public library serves the whole community, not just those with the loudest voices or the most power. Our new library leader will need to be able to neutrally address and balance many disparate viewpoints amidst continued funding and intellectual freedom concerns."

The Library's Board of Trustees are currently working to hire a new Director. More details about the hiring process and other topics will be addressed at future meetings. Find out more information at: <https://imagineiflibraries.org/your-library/board-meetings/>

ImagineIF Libraries' mission is to provide safe and fair access to information for everyone in Flathead County. For more information, visit www.imagineiflibraries.org.

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