

IMAGINEIF LIBRARIES BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

Name: Taalyr Claridge

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

1. How did you learn about the open position on the Library Board?

I learned of this opening through word of mouth amongst people who also take an interest in library happenings. This knowledge was later confirmed when I accessed the library's website and noted the board agendas and minutes.

2. In what ways do you feel connected to the library's mission?

There are many ways in which I feel a particular connection to the library's mission, the foremost being the ties that it has in public interest and progression. While the preservation of thought through books is a bedrock of societal success, the library, to me, is more about the people than the books. I believe this understanding to be a key component in effective operation of any entity, and especially when it comes to making difficult decisions.

3. Why are you interested in serving on the Board?

Since becoming a mother, I am acutely aware of the necessity for people who have a willingness to understand and serve in particular capacities, to do so. I am also aware of the damage that can be done when individuals neglect their duty to give a voice to the people that they represent. I want to know more about the intricacies of the library board, and to give back to the public in a way that makes sense for my family and my strengths. Additionally, my family has enjoyed enormous benefits over the years thanks to public libraries, and I want to ensure that the people of Flathead County can continue to have a safe place to come, learn, and find inspiration.

4. Do you have any previous leadership or board service experience? Please provide information about current and previous board experience.

If appointed, the library board would be my maiden voyage into board participation. As such, I would enter this commitment with as much eagerness to learn as I would humility. With that said, as an instructor of the arts, I have a decade of experience guiding people of all ages and diverse walks of life. My work and passions have led to numerous opportunities for community involvement and outreach over the years, both here in the valley, and in other places I have lived. I am thankful that these experiences have given me an understanding of the importance of good and impartial leadership.

5. What kinds of skills or expertise can you offer to the Board? How will the organization benefit from your participation?

I am an older college student (online), a wife, and a mother to young children. Beyond college honors, my paper accolades are few. When I was considering if I could sit with and delegate among others with such impressive backgrounds, I realized that the individuals in our county who share my stage of life should have equal representation on the library board. I come with a passion to preserve the written word in a safe and respectful manner, and also with the knowledge that reason must lead over passion in order to reach amicable solutions that will benefit the people at large. Additionally, my path in life began as a toddler at the Flathead County Public Library, when my parents checked out a video that became my first dance lesson. Since then, my career has driven me to work with and teach a vast array of people across the U.S., in both traditional and nontraditional settings, in order to ensure better opportunities for individuals in all demographics. If appointed, I plan to bring that same ingenuity and care to the board in order to keep it moving forward. Beyond that, maintaining close relationships with others who both work for and volunteer within the local government has allowed me a front row seat to the responsibilities that make a county run. As such, I offer a perspective on fiscal priorities that would lend to a much needed balance on the board, and am unafraid to seek out answers to any questions I might have, whether it is through fellow members, county officials, or private organizations.

6. Will your schedule allow you to regularly attend board meetings? And, participate in committee work between meetings?

This commitment, as most worthwhile endeavors are, would be a sacrifice of time for myself and my family. Like the majority of citizens in our county who have yet to retire, I am blessed with several duties that make life full. Because of these facts, I am acutely aware of my time and energy, and make reliability and accountability my aim in every scenario. I have taught in numerous capacities, from preschool to classical ballet, to bible class in a church setting. Each of these situations necessitate prior study, planning, communication, and problem solving, beyond just the allotted class time. I understand a board appointment to be similar in that respect. If I was offered the privilege of serving on the library board, my aim would be no different than it is with my other past and present obligations. In short, yes, my schedule will be open to serve in the appropriate capacities, and at the necessary times.

7. Our trustees are all certified through the Montana State Library and attend trainings both locally and at the State level.

http://libraries.msl.mt.gov/library_development/certification

Will your schedule allow you to attend trainings?

As I do not currently work a full-time job with set hours, my schedule can be flexible enough to plan for and attend the required trainings, both locally and at the state level.

Please provide three references who could speak to your ability to serve on the ImagineIF Libraries Board of Trustees:

Name: Amanda Schliebe

Title: Compliance Officer, Glacier Bancorp, INC.

Phone: 

Email address: [REDACTED]

Name: Jennifer Carlile

Title: Owner and Co-Director, Cutting Edge Dance Studio

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Name: Jon Hammett

Title: Pilot, United Airlines

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]