



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** February 29, 2016

**MEMO TO:** Craig Taylor, Chair  
Education, Cultural Resources and Public Affairs Committee

S. Michael Rummel, Chair  
Finance and Administrative Committee

**FROM:** Alex Ty Kovach  
Executive Director

**REQUEST:** Policy Direction regarding staff authorization to negotiate the transfer of ownership of the Curt Teich Postcard Archives, along with the supporting endowment, to the Newberry Library.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED:** Public Access and Connections; Organizational Sustainability.

**FINANCIAL DATA:** Transferring ownership of the Curt Teich Postcard Archives will reduce construction and operating costs of the District's new Collections Care Facility by an estimated \$800,000. One full time position (currently vacant) can be eliminated resulting in a salary and benefits savings of approximately \$95,000 annually. Data storage costs will be reduced by an estimated \$10,000 annually and an estimated \$30,000 in future software and hardware upgrades will be saved. Annual revenue loss from the Curt Teich Postcard Archives will be \$12,000.

**BACKGROUND:** At the August 31, 2015 Education, Cultural Resources and Public Affairs Committee meeting, staff was authorized to enter into preliminary discussions and negotiations with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign about the possible transfer by the District of the Curt Teich Postcard Archives (Teich Archives) and the supporting endowment to the University Library. Subsequent to receiving this policy direction, staff was contacted by curatorial staff from the Newberry Library asking to also be considered as a potential location for the Teich Archives. As a result, staff entered into a due diligence period with both the University of Illinois and the Newberry Library to determine viable options for the Teich Archives.

During this process staff provided representatives from both institutions an on-site tour of the Teich Archives, conducted a site visit to each institution, and conducted multiple interviews with appropriate curatorial staff. Following the initial tour Alice Schreyer, Robert and Julie Baskes Vice President for Collections and Library Services of the Newberry Library, responded enthusiastically to the possibility of a transfer, and provided the following statement of interest in the collection:

“On behalf of the Newberry Library, I write to express the Newberry's strong interest in serving as the future home of the Curt Teich Postcard Archive and related postcard collections. David Spadafora, Newberry's President and Librarian, and I are confident

that the complementary public mission and related collections of the Teich Archive and the Newberry Library would enrich each other's capacity to advance study, research, and learning. We believe that the legacy of the Teich Postcard Archive would be preserved and enhanced at the Newberry.”

Given that staff has already received approval to negotiate directly with the University of Illinois, staff also seeks policy direction to undertake preliminary discussions and negotiations directly with the Newberry Library. Based on our initial conversations, both the University of Illinois and the Newberry Library appear to be viable options.

**REASON FOR REQUEST:** Policy Direction is requested.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Director of Education, Director of Public Affairs and Development, Superintendent of Educational Facilities, and Legal Counsel.

**PRESENTER:** Alex Ty Kovach