

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Red Hook Public Library Appoints New Manager**

The trustees of the Red Hook Public Library are pleased to announce the appointment of a new Library Manager, Alex Geller.

Alex earned his bachelor's degree in history from Oberlin College and a Master of Library Science and Master of Arts in history from Indiana University. He holds a New York State Public Librarian Certification.

Alex currently serves as the Senior Manager for Programs and Partnerships at NYPACE, an economic development non-profit organization based in New York City. He will start on June 5. Alex replaces Dawn Jardine, who retired in February. Toby Tieger has been serving as the interim manager.

"During the interview process, we became convinced that Alex is the right leader for this moment in the library's history," said Board chair Don O'Shea. "The breadth and depth of his experience and his innovative approaches to challenges and opportunities suggest that we can look forward to a bright future for Red Hook Public Library."

"I am thrilled and humbled to join the Red Hook Public Library as the new manager at this critical time for public libraries, the Red Hook community, and the region," Alex said. "I thank the Board of Trustees not only for this opportunity but for the thoroughness and seriousness they brought to the hiring process."

Alex started his public library career in Austin, TX, serving as a Senior Administrator in branch services, managing the circulation staff, budget, and adult programming. After a brief stint at Vanderbilt University, providing digital humanities instruction, Alex served as the founding outreach librarian for the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield, MA. In that role, Alex developed resources, partnerships, and programs supporting environmental sustainability, civic engagement, and accessibility, including the Berkshire Seed Library, the Berkshire Book Bike, Speed Repping, the Library of Things, and the Berkshire Natural Resources Council's Library in the Wilderness program. He also built safety measures addressing the opioid crisis, including Narcan distribution and training, and partnered with the Free Clinic to provide health screenings monthly.

Following his time in Pittsfield, Alex served as the Programs and Partnerships Librarian and Volunteer Manager for Arlington (VA) Public Library. He oversaw programming staff and evaluated 4,000 programs a year, including Arlington Reads, Arlington Public Library's long-running signature author talk program featuring Roxane Gay, Tommy Orange, Colson Whitehead, and many others, and directed a cross-functional team to implement digital, health, economic development, and racial equity plans, programs, and policies. In Arlington, Alex also founded the P.E.P. Cafe, which provided work readiness skills training for students with developmental disabilities.

In his most recent position as a Senior Manager at NYPACE, Alex directed the program staff and 150 volunteers, establishing workplans, tracking deadlines, and overseeing deliverables. He also served as the acting development manager, securing grants and donations ranging between \$10,000 and \$550,000.

In 2021, Alex was awarded a Penguin Random House Library Innovation grant for his MyBook project, a free book program for elementary school students to prevent learning losses due to COVID-related

closures. He has also served on the American Library Association's Committee on Library Advocacy and on the Board of Volunteer Arlington.

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