



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Headquarters – Ocala Public Library

2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470
Phone: 352-671-8551

To: Mounir Bouyounes, County Administrator
Through: Angel Roussel, Assistant County Administrator
From: Julia H. Sieg, Library Director *JHS*
Re: Facilities Naming Process and Recommendation
Date: July 20, 2022

Marion County Commission Policy 14-02, *Naming and Renaming of County Properties*, (Attachment 1) was utilized for the purpose of short-listing names for Commission consideration and selection for the new library which will be in the City-owned Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place. Per the policy, step #4 was conducted March-May 2022 to solicit public input of suggested names for the library. As a result of publicizing the opportunity via Facebook posts, a press release, outreach events and a promotional flier (Attachment 2), the library received in-library, email and outreach submittals. This resulted in over 150 names received for consideration. (Attachment 3)

The ad hoc Facilities Naming Committee met to discuss the names submitted as well as consider recommendations of their own. Committee members included:

1. Michelle Stone - County Commissioner
2. Angel Roussel - County Administration
3. Julie Sieg - Public Library
4. Tom Schmitz - Historical Commission
5. Rhodia Berry – Community representative, Friends of the Ocala Public Library board member, retired public school principal and long-tenured Marion County resident.
6. Ramona Williams – City of Ocala and community representative, as well as long-tenured Marion County resident.

The Facilities Naming Committee initially met June 9, 2022 and narrowed the list of names to eight. (Attachment 4) During discussion, it was determined by the committee that a community meeting should be held to provide an additional opportunity for input and receive feedback on the eight short-listed names. (Attachment 5)

The community meeting, held June 30, 2022 (Attachment 6), was attended by approximately 20-25 individuals including a number of community leaders.

The Facilities Naming Committee met July 13, 2022 following the community meeting. An update was given as to the discussion held during the community meeting which resulted in another name being provided for consideration, along with background information on the suggested name. (Attachment 7)

Following are the three recommended names from the Facilities Naming Committee.

1. Sankofa Public Library – It is recognized that Sankofa requires some explanation, but what better place to learn the meaning than the library?

Sankofa is a West African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana which literally means “it is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten” derived from San (return), Ko (go) and Fa (look/seek/take). According the Wikipedia, Sankofa is described as “symbolizing taking from the past what is good and bringing it into the present in order to make positive progress through the benevolent use of knowledge.”

By naming the new library - Sankofa Public Library - it recognizes both the meaning of the word, correlating knowledge and learning to the library, and recognizes the African heritage of the majority of individuals within the service area. Recognizing heritage and history was a strong sentiment expressed by many of those who submitted suggestions.

Sankofa was unanimously the top name selected by the Facilities Naming Committee.

2. Champions Public Library – There were over 35 individual, personal names submitted for library naming consideration. The names ranged from historical figures, literary figures, historical leaders within the community, current leaders and current athletes. The committee struggled with what criteria should be used to single out one person over another. The decision was made to pattern the committee recommendation similar to the thought process when the Freedom Public Library was named.

When we conducted the naming process for our Freedom Public Library, 23 years ago, we also had personal names submitted. Then, as now, it was recognized that naming a facility after a person brings forth special considerations. At the time the personal name receiving consideration was Medal of Honor recipient, Hammett L. Bowen, Jr. At the time, the committee chose to recommend a name associated with what Staff Sergeant Bowen represented, Freedom.

Champions Public Library is being recommended to recognize and encompass *all* the various champions, past and present, who have made a difference in our county. These individuals may be considered champions of education, equality and civil rights, athletics, community engagement or library services.

3. West Ocala Public Library – With the exception of Freedom Public Library, all of our libraries are named for the service area in which the library is situated – Forest, Ft. McCoy, Reddick, Belleview, Dunnellon, Headquarters-Ocala and Marion Oaks. Selection of West Ocala Public Library would be consistent with our past practice. However, it should be noted that there are mixed sentiments as to this recommendation.

Attachment 1

Naming and Renaming of County Properties

COMMISSION POLICY 14-02

NAMING AND RENAMING OF COUNTY PROPERTIES

It is the policy of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners that procedures for naming and renaming of County properties shall be as follows:

1. Properties identified as needing a name or renaming shall be submitted to the County Administrator in writing.
2. The County Administrator shall place the correspondence on the BCC Agenda for action.
3. A statement of the reasons for naming a facility and a brief summary of the purpose and history of the facility and facility site will be prepared by the department most closely associated with operation conducted at the site (Interested Department).
4. The County, through the Interested Department, shall solicit name suggestions from schools, community groups, a press release to the media, neighborhood or community newsletter and other means to inform the public of the need for a name.
5. The County Administrator shall appoint a Staff Ad Hoc Facilities Naming Committee. This committee shall have 5 – 7 members. Members shall include a representative of the Commissioner whose district the facility is located, a representative of the County Administrator's Office, a representative of the Interested Department who will act as chair and secretary, a representative of the Historical Commission and the remaining members shall be chosen from interested citizens.
6. The Committee shall in its report consider at least the following matters:
 - a. The special relationship, if any, the proposed name bears to the property being named.
 - b. If there is a donation of the property to the County, the wishes of the donor.
 - c. Other names related to the property.
 - d. The natural features, wildlife and natural history of the site.
 - e. The special wishes of a community partner in the development or management of the site.
 - f. If the proposed name is that of a natural person, whether or not such person is then living and if deceased, how long the person has been deceased.
 - g. Such other matters as the Committee may deem appropriate.
7. The Committee shall submit up to three names in rank order to the County Administrator for comment.

8. The County Administrator will then submit the Committee Report and the recommendations to the County Commission for consideration.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned policy, the County Commission may, at its discretion, choose to exempt itself from this policy on a case-by-case basis.

This policy replaces Policy 95-01.

Date of Adoption: June 3, 2014

Attachment 2

Promotional Materials



Marion County
Board of County Commissioners
Empowering Marion for Success



Marion County Public Relations

601 SE 25th Ave., Ocala, FL 34471

www.marionfl.org

Immediate release

March 7, 2022

Media contact:

Mark Anderson, Public Relations Specialist

Office: 352-438-2314 • Cell: 352-857-1434

Email: mark.anderson@marionfl.org

Marion County Public Library System Invites Residents to Submit Names for New Library

Library to be built inside Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place

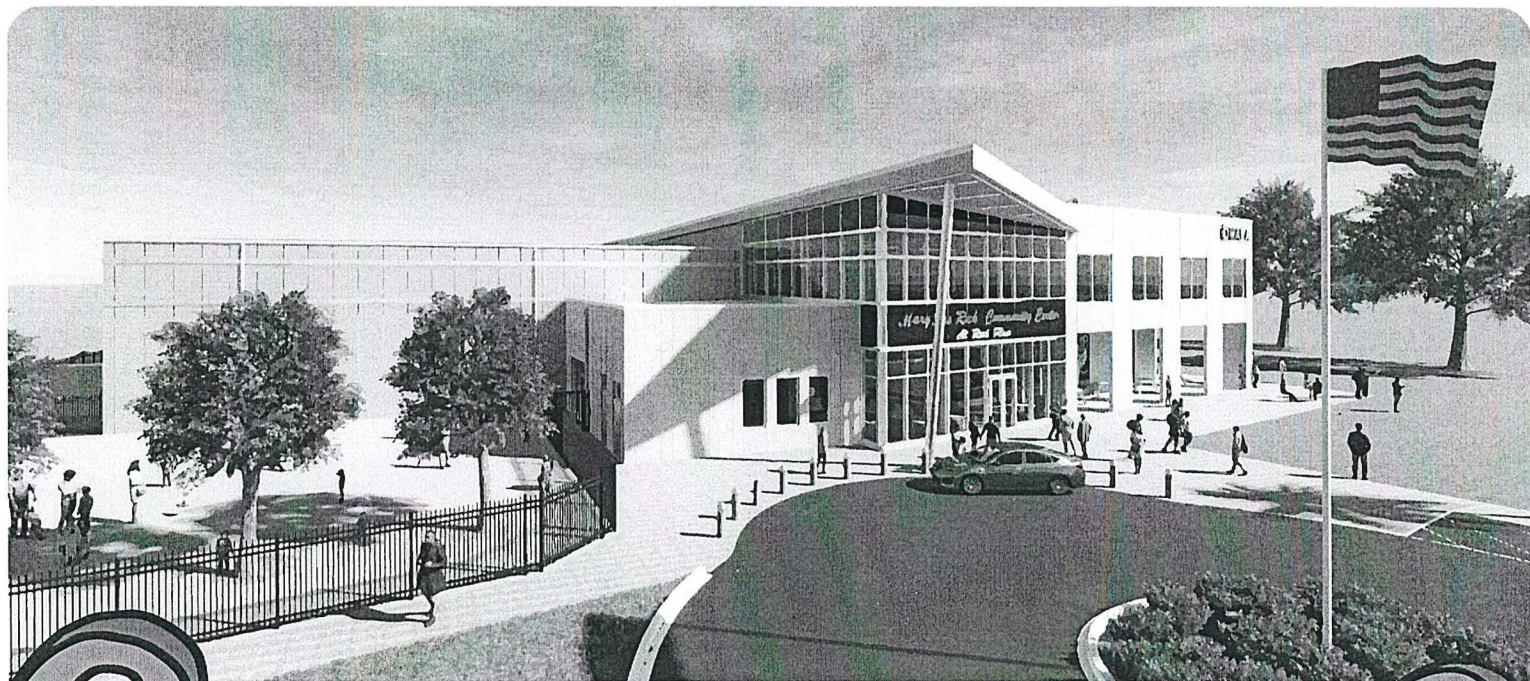
Marion County Public Library System is looking for the public's help with naming the new library slated to be built inside the Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place.

The 41,750-square-foot community center is currently under construction on the northwest side of Ocala near the Ocala Wetland Recharge Park. Scheduled to open in the fall, the new community center will serve as a community hub for northwest Marion County and have not just the library, but banquet space, fitness equipment, an indoor walking track, two basketball courts and several multipurpose rooms.

Named after former Ocala City Councilwoman Mary Sue Rich, the community center is being built on the site of the former Royal Oak Charcoal Plant that was demolished in 2018.

One of the amenities inside the new community center will be a Marion County Public Library branch. At the county commission meeting on December 21, 2021, commissioners approved a motion to move forward with naming the library branch. A naming committee will present up to three names to the county administrator for final approval.

The Marion County Public Library System is opening naming suggestions to the public! Anyone with ideas for a name is encouraged to contact Julie Sieg, Marion County Public Library System director. She can be reached at 352-368-4500 or Julie.Sieg@marionfl.org.



Help Name the New Library!

A new Marion County Public Library System branch
will open this fall in the Mary Sue Rich Community Center
at Reed Place (1812 NW 21st Street, Ocala).

We're asking patrons and the public to help name this new library.

We want your input!

Names will be compiled and provided to the
Marion County naming committee.

Please complete the name card and give it to one of our staff members.

Marion
County
FLORIDA
PUBLIC LIBRARY
SYSTEM



**Help us name our new
Ocala library in the
Mary Sue Rich
Community Center!**

Please share your name (s) below



**Help us name our new
Ocala library in the
Mary Sue Rich
Community Center!**

Please share your name (s) below



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**Help us name our new
Ocala library in the
Mary Sue Rich
Community Center!**

Please share your name (s) below



Attachment 3

List of names received

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place, Name Suggestions

Submitted via Facebook, Outreach, In-Library, Email

Suggestions Based on Library/Learning

- 1 Alexandria PL
- 2 Beyond Books Public Library
- 3 Book Block PL
- 4 Book Boulevard PL
- 5 Book Nook PL
- 6 Book Place PL
- 7 Books Ahoy PL
- 8 Books and Books Public Library
- 9 Books and Crannies Public Library
- 10 Books, Books and More Books PL
- 11 Booky McBookface PL
- 12 Enrich by Reading Public Library
- 13 Home of Books PL
- 14 Horse Tales PL
- 15 Illumination Public Library
- 16 Learning Institute of Ocala PL
- 17 Learning Library for Adults and Kids
- 18 Marion County Connection of Words PL
- 19 MC Educational Recreational Enrichment Center and Library
- 20 Mind Enrichment Center of Ocala
- 21 Ocala Learning Center PL
- 22 Ocala's Reading University Center
- 23 Once Upon a Book PL
- 24 Public Library of the World
- 25 Race Readers PL
- 26 Rage Readers PL
- 27 Read Place PL
- 28 Read Public Library
- 29 Reader Road PL
- 30 Readers Room Public Library
- 31 Super Reading Center PL
- 32 World Public Library

Suggestions Based on the Locale

- 1 Adventure City Public Library
- 2 Brick City Public Library (2)
- 3 Busbee Public Library
- 4 City Public Library
- 5 Colt Four Public Library
- 6 Floridan Public Library
- 7 Great American Public Library
- 8 Kids Public Library in the Silver Springs
- 9 Magnolia Public Library
- 10 North Ocala Public Library
- 11 O. Colt Public Library
- 12 Oasis Recharge Library
- 13 Ocala Community Library
- 14 Ocala Florida Library
- 15 Pheonix Public Library
- 16 Reading Royal PL
- 17 Recharge Library
- 18 Royal Oak Place
- 19 Royal Oak Public Library (2)
- 20 Sanctuary Recharge Hub PL
- 21 Shady Oaks Public Library
- 22 Springs Public Library
- 23 Sunshine State Library
- 24 Water Leaf PL
- 25 West Ocala Public Library (5)
- 26 West Side Public Library
- 27 West Side Stories Public Library
- 28 Westside Public Library

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place, Name Suggestions

Submitted via Facebook, Outreach, In-Library, Email

Suggestions Based on Concept/Aspiration

- 1 Discovery Public Library
- 2 Faith Public Library
- 3 Family Public Library (2)
- 4 Friendship Public Library
- 5 Happy Creative Public Library
- 6 Happy Crew Public Library
- 7 Happy Readers Come Here Public Library
- 8 Harmony Public Library
- 9 Helper Public Library
- 10 Hope Public Library (2)
- 11 Imagination Public Library
- 12 Independence Public Library
- 13 Joy Public Library
- 14 Liberty Public Library (2)
- 15 New Hope Public Library
- 16 Ocala Friendship Public Library
- 17 Olympian Public Library
- 18 Public Library of Magic
- 19 Rainbow Hope Public Library
- 20 Reading Rainbow PL
- 21 Ready for Friends PL
- 22 Secret Treasure Public Library
- 23 Serenity PL (3)
- 24 Unity Public Library
- 25 World of Dreams Public Library
- 26 World of Endless Dreams and Imagination PL

Miscellaneous

- 1 Apple Snail PL (3)
- 2 Around the World with Marion PL
- 3 Community Public Library (2)
- 4 Cougar Park Public Library
- 5 Fairy Garden Public Library
- 6 New Filly Public Library
- 7 New Public Library
- 8 Ocala Bazaar Public Library
- 9 Public Library Community
- 10 Rock Mountain PL
- 11 Sky High Public Library
- 12 Sunshine Public Library

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place, Name Suggestions

Submitted via Facebook, Outreach, In-Library, Email

Suggestions Based on a Person

1	Carol K. Johnson PL	Small business owner and United States Postal Clerk Carol Johnson was a member of Christ's Church of Marion County.
2	Clifford B. Stearns PL	United States Representative for Florida's 6th Congressional District, which included sections of Marion County, from 1989-2013.
3	Dr. Seuss Place PL	Under the pen name Dr. Seuss, Theodor Seuss Geisel published 47 books during his lifetime including classics such as "The Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham" and "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" In 1984, he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize citation for his contributions to children's literature.
4	Erin Jackson PL (2)	Erin Jackson is a gold medal-winning Olympic speed skater from Ocala. She attended Howard Middle School and Forest High School.
5	Estella Vereen PL	Librarian Estelle Vereen opened the Madison Street Branch Library within the War Memorial Building in 1959. She received her Bachelor's in Science from Tuskegee Institute and studied library science at Syracuse University.
6	Frederick Douglas PL	African American abolitionist Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery in 1838. In 1841, he began work as an agent for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. His autobiography "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" was published soon after in 1845.
7	Harriet Tubman PL	American abolitionist Harriet Tubman is best known for her harrowing escape from slavery and her tremendous efforts to free others. Between 1850 and 1961, she made 19 journeys into Maryland to guide 300 people out of enslavement.
8	Jesse J McCrory Jr Memorial Public Library	Marion County native Jesse J. McCrary Jr. served as the first Black Assistant Attorney General in Florida, the first Black attorney to represent a Southern state before the U.S. Supreme Court and Florida's first Black Secretary of State.
9	Juanita Cunningham Public Library	Ocala woman devoted 33 years as an educator, who served as assistant principal at Vanguard High School, principal at Howard Elementary School and first program manager at the Howard Academy Community Center.
10	Karen Russell Public Library	Karen Russell worked with MCPLS for 26 years and is best known for her creative work and storytelling abilities as a Children's Services Librarian. She retired in 2022.
11	Kathryn Leigh Thurgaland PL	Ocklawaha, Fla. native Kathryn Leigh Thurgaland graduated from The Villages Charter Schools, class of 2020. She died in a car accident on October 10, 2020 at age 18.
12	Ketangi Brown Public Library	This April the United States Senate confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson as the 116th justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Jackson will become the first Black woman to serve on the court.
13	Langston Hughes PL	American poet and writer Langston Hughes (1901-1967) is a key figure of the Harlem Renaissance. He is best known for his poems and plays that reflect the experiences of Black Americans.
14	Library of Mary Sue	Mary Sue Rich served on Ocala City Council for 24 years and was the first Black woman to be elected to the position.
15	Louise Gamsby PL	Louise E. Gamsby dedicated her life to expanding library access for Ocala's citizens. She personally solicited the Carnegie Foundation for funds for Ocala Public Library. From its opening until her retirement in 1950, she worked as a librarian and advocate for literacy.

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place, Name Suggestions

Submitted via Facebook, Outreach, In-Library, Email

16	Mary Sue Public Library (2)	
17	Mary Sue Public Library at Reed Place	
18	Mary Sue Rich Public Library (2)	
19	MLK Public Library	Civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. organized countless efforts to end segregation during the Civil Rights Movement, including the Montgomery bus boycott and the March on Washington (which influenced the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).
20	Mrs. Vera O. Mitchell PL	(Librarian @ War Memorial Auditorium in the 60s?)
21	Name after a local civil rights leader	Ocala native Dorsey C. Miller studied at Morehouse College in Atlanta. Upon returning to Ocala, he organized and lead non-violent protests to integrate establishments, including the public library system in 1960.
22	Name after a local civil rights leader	Dubbed one of "Florida's Freedom Riders," Rev. Frank G. Pinkston organized voters, led the local chapter of the NAACP and contributed to statewide equal rights efforts.
23	Name after a local civil rights leader	Pinkney Woodbury lead the campaign in 1964 to bring a significant portion of West Ocala into city limits, an act that would extend services such as paid streets, sewer service and police and fire protection to Ocala's Black community. His efforts came to fruition in 1975 when the City Council of the City of Ocala passed Ordinance No. 788 to merge West Ocala into the City of Ocala.
24	Ocala Sue Public Library	
25	Read and Reed Place Public Library	Community leader and activist Ruth Ford Reed founded the Neighborhood Citizens of Northwest Ocala and led efforts to hold the Royal Oak charcoal plant accountable for its environmental impact.
26	Reed Rich Marion County Public Library	
27	Reeding Place PL	
28	Rich Reads Public Library	
29	Riches Abound Public Library	
30	Richest Public Library Center	
31	Rich-Reed Public Library	
32	Samuel Small Public Library	Born enslaved at Osceola Plantation, Samuel Small became a prominent leader during Reconstruction. He served as a member of the Florida House of Representatives from Marion County (1873-1875) and founded Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in May 1867.
33	Sylvester Hart Memorial Public Library of MC	Army veteran, buried in Emathla

Attachment 4

Committee meeting minutes from June 9th, 2022



Marion County
Board of County Commissioners
Empowering Marion for Success



Marion County Public Relations

601 SE 25th Ave., Ocala, FL 34471

www.marionfl.org

Immediate release

May 31, 2022

Media contact:

Stacie Causey, Senior Public Relations Specialist

Office: 352-438-2311 • Cell: 352-789-2152

Email: stacie.causey@marionfl.org

Sunshine Notice

In accordance with Florida's Sunshine Laws, Marion County Public Relations will send "Sunshine Notices" to alert citizens of public meetings. Per state statute 286.0105, "...if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board...with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based."

Two or more commissioners may attend the following:

DATE TIME	MEETING PURPOSE	LOCATION
June 9 3:30 p.m.	Marion County Facilities Naming Committee meeting to discuss public submittals of names for the new library branch to be housed inside the new City-owned community center, Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place	in person McPherson Governmental Campus administration building, conference room A, 601 SE 25th Ave., Ocala send evidence/comments to: karen.jensen@marionfl.org OR 2720 E Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470

In attendance: Michelle Stone, Rhodia Berry, Ramona Williams, Angel Roussel, Julie Sieg and Tom Schmitz (via Zoom).

Meeting opened at 3:30pm with handouts being provided of the Marion County Facilities Naming and Renaming policy as well as the names submitted by the public. Julie Sieg provided history of the naming of Freedom Public Library 22 years ago and the opinion of that committee to look at alternatives to naming the library after a person which is how the library came to be named Freedom Public Library. She stated that there was continued interest in naming the library after a concept, locale or other criteria rather than a person. There was further mention of the re-branding of the area, the branch location being within a named community center but for an unknown duration. The committee was asked if individuals had names to add to the list already suggested by the public.

Tom Schmitz provided a brief history of the area and offered Pine Oaks Public Library as an option to naming the new library location.

Ramona Williams suggested, if time allowed, to narrow the list to approximately 10 names so that the names could be vetted by the community.

Tom Schmitz provided Calvin and Kathy Jones Public Library as a name suggestion with a little history of Calvin.

Julie Sieg suggested Champions Public Library to recognize Olympians, community leaders and all those who have "championed" a public library presence in the area.

Rhodia Berry inquired as to how the suggested names were gathered. Julie explained the methods used to collect the name suggestions that were presented before the meeting.

Tom Schmitz provided additional history of the West Ocala area regarding the Bazaar Shopping area and the Emerson Memorial School, suggesting to use Emerson Memorial as a name for the new location.

Ramona Williams offered the names of Paradise Park Public Library and One Ocala Public Library, the latter suggested because of an initiative of Mary Sue Rich.

Tom Schmitz provided some history of Maddy Shaw and the newspaper she owned and published, The Watchman. He suggested Watchman Public Library. Ramona Williams provided information on a Historian trail the City of Ocala is currently developing in the area to recognize those who contributed to the betterment and development of the area.

Rhodia Berry inquired how Ramona would advertise for the community meeting. Ramona stated she advertises through newspapers, Facebook, grass roots efforts, area pastors, hair salons, child care facilities and hoped to have something to pass out at an already planned event being held June 23rd.

Committee members used a clean list of names, adding the suggested names from the meeting. The method of voting was by passing around the list and voting on up to ten names.

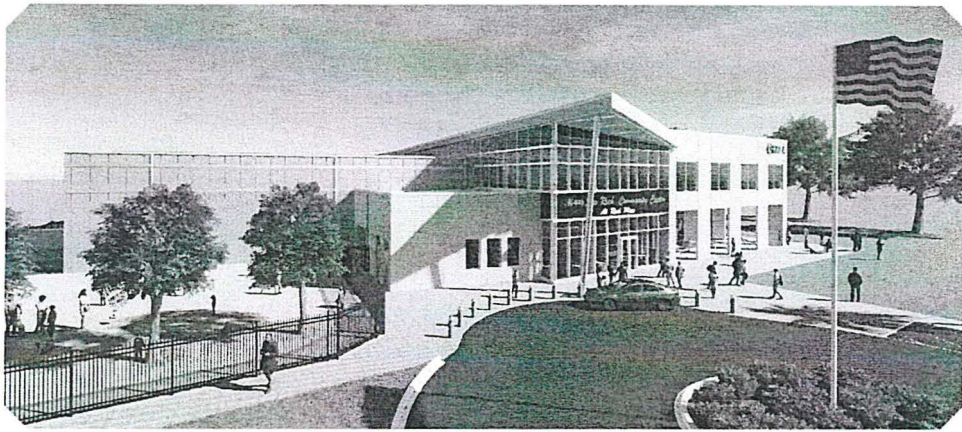
The top selected names from the vote were: Unity (5), Harmony (3), Champions (3), One Ocala (3), Hope (2), West Ocala (2), Pine Oaks (2), Paradise Park (2).

Ramona Williams stated she may be able to hold the community meeting in about three weeks and would provide the results to the committee. There was discussion regarding the community meeting, attendance by committee members and how the meeting would be noticed to comply with the Sunshine law requirements.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

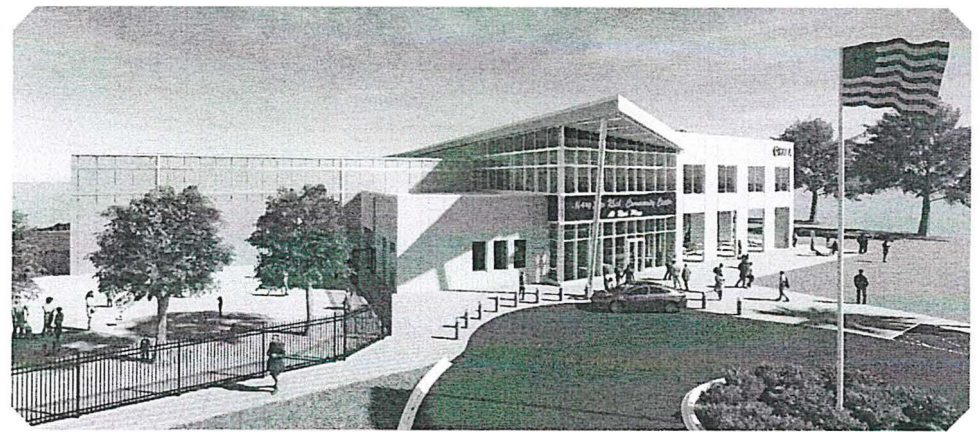
Attachment 5

Short-listed names



Please select your top three name choices for the future library
in the Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Champions Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Paradise Park Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harmony Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Oaks Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hope Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Unity Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Ocala Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> West Ocala Public Library |



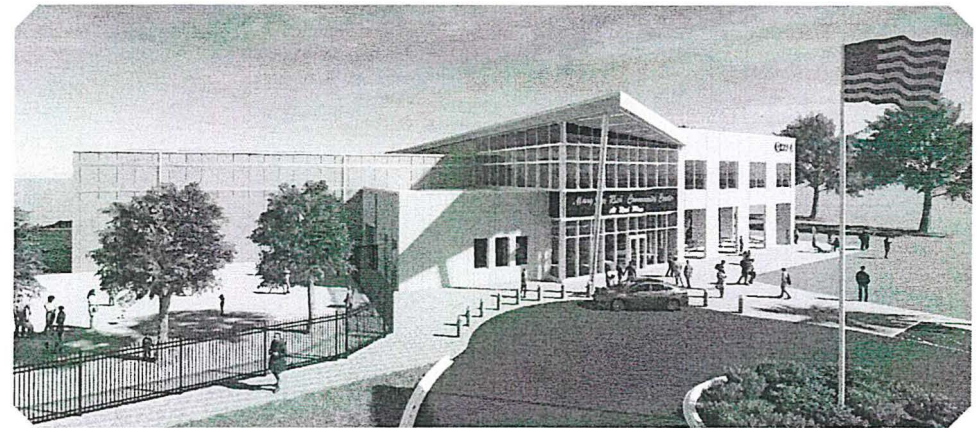
Please select your top three name choices for the future library
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- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Champions Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Paradise Park Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harmony Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Oaks Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hope Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Unity Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Ocala Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> West Ocala Public Library |



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- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Champions Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Paradise Park Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harmony Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Oaks Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hope Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Unity Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Ocala Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> West Ocala Public Library |



Please select your top three name choices for the future library
in the Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Champions Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Paradise Park Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harmony Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Oaks Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hope Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Unity Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Ocala Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> West Ocala Public Library |

Attachment 6

Community meeting flyer and notes

We need your input!

LIBRARY NAMING

**We need your input to name the new library coming to
the Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place!**

Thursday, June 30 | 5:30 p.m.

**MLK First Responder Campus Community Room
615 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.**



Facilities Naming – Community Meeting Notes, June 30, 2022

Approximately 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The meeting was attended by approximately 20-25 individuals. Some of those in attendance included: Retired Councilwoman and building namesake- Mary Sue Rich, Ruth Reed, Mary Sue Rich's son, Barbara Fitos, Cynthia Graham, Monica Bryant, Narvella Haynes, School Board Chair Eric Cummings and Dr. Barbara Brooks, as well as a number of individuals from the faith-based community and the community at-large.

The meeting was introduced by Ramona Williams, Community Engagement Coordinator with the City of Ocala and member of the Facilities Naming Committee. Ramona also passed out the "ballot" with names. Julie Sieg talked about the method of advertising used by the Library and collecting suggested names, the short list of names from the Facilities Naming Committee and the policy the committee followed.

There was much discussion about attendee dissatisfaction with the names that were short-listed and possible assumptions that were made by the committee when selecting these names. There was also much discussion about their interest in a name which represents their heritage, or individuals who have contributed to the betterment of their community. It was stated that likely 90% of those who use the library will be from the surrounding community.

There was much discussion regarding numerous and varied individuals who should be recognized. They ranged from historical figures to current, living individuals to champions of education. It was recognized that Marion County rarely names facilities after an individual and the Library has no precedent for doing so. History was given as to how the Freedom Public Library came to be named such.

Discussion occurred regarding the positive and negative aspects of naming the library after the area served, west Ocala. There were strong sentiments on both sides.

Pastor Robyn Burnett, pastor to Mary Sue Rich, recommended the name Sankofa Public Library and provided a definition for Sankofa. Much discussion ensued in support of this name, yet some remained interested in West Ocala Public Library. At one point, West Ocala Sankofa Public Library was recommended.

There was interest expressed on the part of numerous individuals to attend the Board of County Commission meeting during which the name would be selected and to take the opportunity to speak. It was clearly stated that the Facilities Naming Committee would recommend three names to the Commissioners but the Commissioners were not obligated to select one of the three recommendations and could select one of their own.

Ballots were collected but only one was completed.

Attachment 7

Committee meeting minutes from July 13th, 2022

July 13 1:30 p.m.	Marion County Facilities Naming Committee meeting to discuss public submittals of names for the new library branch to be housed inside the new city- owned community center Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place	<p>in person</p> <p>McPherson Governmental Campus administration building, 601 SE 25th Ave., Ocala</p> <p>send evidence/comments to: neshay.frye@marionfl.org OR 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470</p>	Ne'Shay Frye 352-368-4500
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In attendance: Comm. Michelle Stone, Ramona Williams, Rhodia Berry, Angel Roussel, Julie Sieg and Tom Schmitz (via Zoom).

Meeting opened at 1:30pm with Julie Sieg and Ramona Williams providing details of the community meeting held the prior week. Julie spoke about the desire of the community to name the library after a number of different people and Julie provided the observation that no other libraries were named after a person and that most County buildings are not named after a person. Ramona spoke to the desire of the community to have a name with meaning to the community and their heritage. There was conversation about the pro and con sentiments of naming the library after the area, West Ocala. The final outcome of the community meeting was an agreed upon name of Sankofa Public Library, to be brought back to the naming committee for consideration. Julie thanked Ramona for having the community meeting and the wonderful turn out of the meeting.

Julie provided a handout with the definition of Sankofa, images used for the word and references to the use of Sankofa.

The group discussed the name Sankofa and how it may be used with the library and the community impact.

The group discussed the policy and the need to take three names to the board.

Julie provided a little history of the naming of Freedom and how the name was chosen.

There was a pro/con discussion about using names like Unity, Hope and Harmony for the library.

The group unanimously agreed that Sankofa, Champions and West Ocala be the three recommended names to go before the board for consideration and selection.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15pm

WIKIPEDIA

Sankofa

Sankofa (pronounced *SAHN*-koh-fah) is a word in the Twi language of Ghana meaning "to retrieve" (literally "go back and get"; *san* - to return; *ko* - to go; *fa* - to fetch, to seek and take) and also refers to the Bono Adinkra symbol represented either with a stylized heart shape or by a bird with its head turned backwards while its feet face forward carrying a precious egg in its mouth. Sankofa is often associated with the proverb, "*Se wo were fi na wosankofa a yenkyi*," which translates as: "It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten."^{[1][2]}

The sankofa bird appears frequently in traditional Akan art, and has also been adopted as an important symbol in an African-American and African Diaspora context to represent the need to reflect on the past to build a successful future. It is one of the most widely dispersed adinkra symbols, appearing in modern jewelry, tattoos, and clothing.

Contents

[Akan symbolism](#)

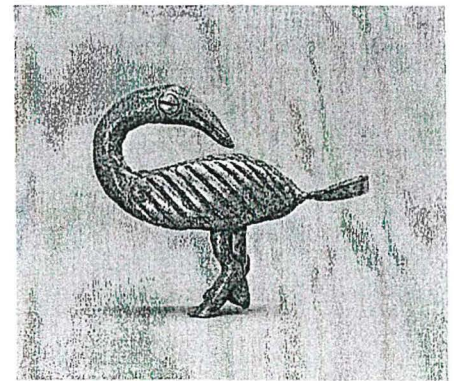
[Use in North America and the United Kingdom](#)

[References](#)

[Notes](#)

Akan symbolism

The Akan people of Ghana use an adinkra symbol to represent the same concept. One version of it is similar to the eastern symbol of a heart, and another is that of a bird with its head turned backwards taking an egg off its back. It symbolizes taking from the past what is good and bringing it into the present in order to make positive progress through the benevolent use of knowledge. Adinkra symbols are used by the Akan people to express proverbs and other philosophical ideas.



Akan Gold Weight Sankofa

The sankofa bird also appears on carved wooden Akan stools,^[3] in Akan goldweights, on some ruler's state umbrella or parasol (*ntuati*) finials and on the staff finials of some court linguists.^[4] It functions to foster mutual respect and unity in tradition.^[5]

Use in North America and the United Kingdom

During a building excavation in Lower Manhattan in 1991, a cemetery for free and enslaved Africans was discovered. Over 400 remains were identified, but one coffin in particular stood out. Nailed into its wooden lid were iron tacks, 51 of which formed an enigmatic, heart-shaped design that some have interpreted as a sankofa symbol.^{[6][7]} The site is now a national monument, known as the African

Burial Ground National Monument, administered by the National Park Service. A copy of the design found on the coffin lid is prominently carved onto a large black granite memorial at the center of the site.^[8]



The sankofa image has been adopted by numerous afro-centric organizations in North America

The National Museum of African American History and Culture uses the heart-shaped symbol on its website.^[9] The "mouse over" for the image reads: "The Sankofa represents the importance of learning from the past."

Sankofa symbols show themselves all over cities like Washington, DC and New Orleans, particularly in fence designs.

Janet Jackson has a sankofa tattoo on her inner right wrist. The symbol is also featured in her 1997 album *The Velvet Rope*, as well as on the supporting tour.

Sankofa is an event used by Saint Louis University to honor African-American student graduates and students who graduate with degrees in African American studies.

The symbol and name were used in the 1993 film *Sankofa* by Haile Gerima, as well as in the graphic title of the film *500 Years Later* by Owen 'Alik Shahadah.

A UK stage production by Adzido Pan-African Dance Ensemble, scripted by Margaret Busby and premiered in 1999, was entitled *Sankofa*.^[10]

The African-American string band Sankofa Strings, founded in 2005 by Sule Greg C. Wilson, Rhiannon Giddens, and Dom Flemons, was featured in the 2007 jug band documentary *Chasin' Gus' Ghost*. The band self-released the CD *Colored Aristocracy* in 2006. A second iteration of the band Sankofa, with Wilson and Flemons, as well as Ndidi Onukwulu and Allison Russell, released the CD *The Uptown Strut* in 2012.

Cassandra Wilson recorded the song "Sankofa", which appeared on her 1993 album *Blue Light 'til Dawn*.

A Sankofa bird appears several times in the BBC Television show *Taboo*. It was carved into the floor of a slave ship by James Keziah Delaney and appears as a tattoo on his upper back and as a drawing within the fireplace of his mother's old room.

The protagonist in *Remote Control* by Nnedi Okorafor goes by the name Sankofa^[11]

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Carter G. Woodson Center

The Power of Sankofa: Know History

Sankofa is an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana. The literal translation of the word and the symbol is *"it is not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind."*

The word is derived from the words:

SAN (return),

KO (go),

FA (look, seek and take).



The sankofa symbolizes the Akan people's quest for knowledge among the Akan with the implication that the quest is based on critical examination, and intelligent and patient investigation.

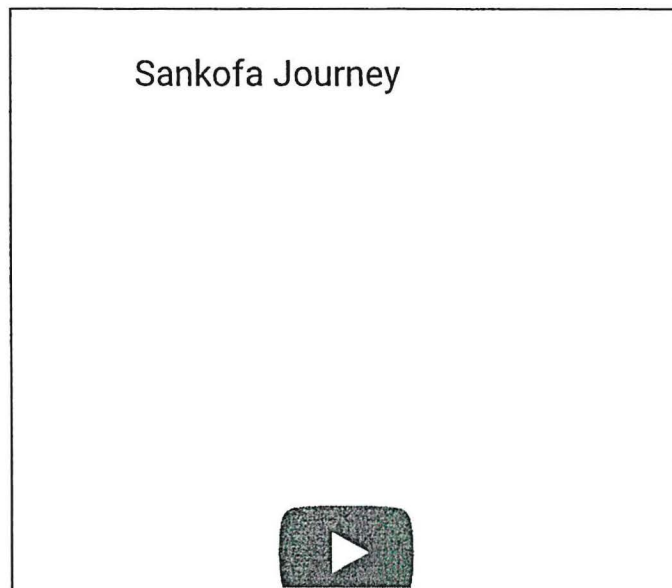


The symbol — shown in the photo on an interior window in the Carter G. Woodson Center — is based on a mythical bird with its feet firmly planted forward with its head turned backwards. Thus, the Akan believe the past serves as a guide for planning the future. To the Akan, it is this wisdom in learning from the past which ensures a strong future.





The Akans believe that there must be movement and new learning as time passes. As this forward march proceeds, the knowledge of the past must never be forgotten.



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