



## **STEELEVILLE AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES**

STEELEVILLE AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT (SAPLD) has been selected as one of 310 libraries to participate in round two of Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.

The competitive award comes with a \$10,000 grant that will help the library upgrade building accessibility. As part of the grant, SAPLD staff will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to library work today. Staff will then host a conversation with residents about inaccessibility of the library building and use the grant funds to create a more accessible library building.

Steeleville Area Public Library District (SAPLD) strives to be a community centered repository: to be a safe and comfortable space for recreational reading, listening, and viewing; to provide educational and fun programs; to connect community members with helpful resources; to be a convenient workspace for students and adults; and to provide information access and education for all.

Since 2014, ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities initiative has re-imagined the role libraries play in supporting communities. Libraries of all types have utilized free dialogue and deliberation training and resources to lead community and campus forums; take part in anti-violence activities; provide a space for residents to come together and discuss challenging topics; and have productive conversations with civic leaders, library trustees and staff.

*"Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)."*

