



**DOWNERS GROVE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1050 Curtiss Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515
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dglibrary.org

September 12, 2022

To our Downers Grove Community,

For the safety of everyone involved, the difficult decision has been made to cancel the upcoming Drag Queen Bingo program due to threats made against the Downers Grove Public Library. These threats are currently under active investigation by law enforcement.

Providing an inclusive, welcoming, and safe space for everyone in the Downers Grove community is of the utmost importance to the library. We recognize the significance of offering services and programs like Drag Queen Bingo that provide a window to the world, as well as a mirror to it, creating opportunities for patrons to see the wonderfully diverse community in which we live. Unfortunately, in this case, it is not possible to provide a safe place for everyone due to the threats made.

To all of the teens who registered for our event and community members in support of this event: we are sorry Drag Queen Bingo cannot happen at this time. We are determined to find additional ways to support you and your friends in safe, fun, and inclusive representation throughout the library. Hate did not win today. We stand by the event and Aurora Divine. We tried our best to make Drag Queen Bingo happen. However, due to the severity of the threats made against the library, we have been forced to cancel the event. It is our responsibility to keep you safe. We are disappointed and saddened by the some of the vitriolic feedback that we received for what was meant to be an evening of fun and celebration of self-identity and self-expression.

Thank you to everyone who has sent us messages of support; you have helped us reaffirm our commitment to essential inclusive programming in Downers Grove. A special thanks to all those kind and generous folks who have stopped by to offer words of encouragement and thoughtful gestures. We appreciate you.

There is no further information about this threat that may be shared with the public at this time and no further comment can be made.

We ask the community to please show kindness in the days leading up to National Coming Out Day, October 11.

Sincerely,

Julie Milavec, Library Director
and The Downers Grove Public Library Staff

For those who are interested in learning more or finding support, we invite you to explore these resources:

Resources

- [Freedom for All Americans](#)
- [GLAAD](#)
- [Hollaback!](#)
- [Human Rights Campaign](#)
- [NAMI](#)
- [Outwards Journey](#)
- [Pronouns Matter: Beyond He and She](#)
- [The Trevor Project](#)
- [Youth Outlook](#)

Booklists

- [Adults](#)
- [Adults - Films and Documentaries](#)
- [Adults - Nonfiction/Parenting](#)
- [Teens](#)
- [Older Kids \(Grade School\)](#)
- [Younger Kids \(Picture Books\)](#)