



IFLA Section Metropolitan Libraries

Maria Silvia Lacorazza

President ABGRA

Dear Ms. Lacorazza,

I write as Chair of the Metropolitan Libraries Section of IFLA to express my deep concern regarding recent proposals in Argentina to close popular libraries and/or to significantly decrease their funding.

Libraries open to the public are a significant resource for reading material of all types, providing access to broad collections of fiction and non-fiction for continuous, lifelong learning. Public libraries are also a resource for data and factual information in support of research, writing, entrepreneurship and other human endeavors. The very presence of a public library as an accessible space makes it a gathering place for people to share ideas, become informed via a public program, view an exhibit, or simply have a safe and welcoming place to go that is neither home, nor office. Many people go to popular libraries to make use of public computers or a wi-fi connection.

Popular libraries are not only useful to individuals, but they support organizations, businesses, and government agencies by providing archival material and conducting needed research. Public libraries have been found to be significant in urban development and redevelopment, supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 for development of sustainable cities. In August 2023, the Metropolitan Libraries Section held a Symposium jointly with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Librarians, urbanists and designers presented case studies of urban transformations with libraries playing a critical role.

More recently, in October 2023, librarians from throughout the world gathered in Buenos Aires for the Metropolitan Libraries Section conference. In addition to hearing numerous speakers, we were given tours of several popular libraries and saw that they were being well used by a variety

of people from young children through adults. One library had been a resource and inspiration to Jorge Luis Borges, playing an important role in Argentine culture.

Libraries are too important to personal growth, economic development, and the nurturing of culture to be cut back in a way that is harmful to Argentina's desire to flourish.

Regards,

Carolyn Anthony

Chair, Metropolitan Libraries Section, IFLA