



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 9, 2019
Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library

Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library Presents Freedom to Read Week

A Sneak Peek at the New Building, a "Prisoner," and a Week of Unique Programming Sept. 22-27

Indianapolis, IN: Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library (KVML) champions First Amendment rights. In the past, KVML celebrated the American Library Association's "Banned Books Week" with a "prisoner" locked behind a wall of banned or challenged books in its Senate Avenue location, but in July, the organization bought a building for Kurt Vonnegut's "Forever Home" at 543 Indiana Avenue, Indianapolis, that will include "Mr. Rosewater" (a café by Bluebeard) on the first floor. While the grand opening won't happen until November 9th, KVML and Bluebeard will offer a sneak peek of the building as part of the September programming, which is now renamed **Freedom to Read Week**, running September 22-27, 2019. Although the location and the event name have changed, the tradition of a "prisoner" advocating for the freedom to read behind a wall of banned or challenged books continues.

"We invite the public to participate in our Freedom to Read programs that include discussions, movies, and music," said KVML Founder and CEO Julia Whitehead. "Our plans to repurpose this building are ongoing, but visitors can get a glimpse of what it will look like when we open later in the year. And we encourage visitors to engage with **Brett Stoker**, a Tipton High School teacher and football coach, a longtime KVML volunteer, and **this year's "prisoner"** who will highlight the importance of First Amendment rights."

Freedom to Read Week begins **Sunday, September 22, with a Kurt's 'Forever Home' Kickoff** from noon to 5 p.m., which includes a **Colt's Tailgate and Watch Party** followed by entertainment from **Newer Edition**, a New Augusta North Public Academy boy band. The rest of the week's lineup takes place Monday through Friday from 6 to 10 p.m. Other ticketed programs include:

Monday, September 23 – CENSORED Double Feature

- Discussion on the history of censorship and book banning through the lens of Ray Bradbury
- First Amendment Film Festival Feature: *Good Night and Good Luck*

Tuesday, September 24 – Co-Ed Night at the Museum

- Discussion about how the Freedom to Read is threatened by publishing trends, cuts to libraries, and more by the Indiana Library Federation
- First Amendment Film Festival Feature: *Footloose (1984 original)*

Wednesday, September 25 – How to Run for President—From Jail

- Discussion by the Eugene V. Debs Museum and others
- First Amendment Film Festival Feature: *Malcolm X (1992)*

Thursday, September 26 – Jazz Party on Indiana Avenue

- Discussion about the legendary Indiana Avenue Jazz scene with Dan Wakefield, Carl Hines, and Aleta Hodge
- Performance by The Groove 4tet

Friday, September 27 –Trivia Night

- First Amendment Trivial Pursuit with the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE).
- Musical performance by The Emerson Connection

In addition, the library will open at 1 p.m. Thursday for a free Vonnegut Book Club discussion about Vonnegut's masterpiece, *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

"Nearly 1,500 people donated so that we could buy a building in July, and this is a chance for fans of the *U. S. Constitution* to see it while celebrating what Vonnegut celebrated, free speech and common decency. You don't want to miss all we have to offer."

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The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library champions the legacy of Hoosier author Kurt Vonnegut and the principles of free expression, common decency, and peaceful coexistence he advocated. www.vonnegutlibrary.org.