



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: April 6, 2015

TO: Craig Taylor, Chair
Education, Cultural Resources and Public Affairs Committee

FROM: Jim Ballowe, Director
Facilities Department

SUBJECT: 2016 National Touring Exhibition – *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*

RECOMMENDATION: For Information Only – The Lake County Discovery Museum has been selected as the Illinois host site for the 2016 national touring exhibition *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*.

BACKGROUND: In 2016, as part of a series of programs and exhibitions commemorating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death, the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. has received a major grant through the National Endowment for the Humanities to organize and travel an exhibition featuring Shakespeare’s First Folio. The exhibition will travel to one venue in each of the 50 states plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico. Under the conditions of the grant, the exhibition is free to the host venues and includes a multi-panel exhibition exploring the significance of Shakespeare, then and now, along with a First Folio from the Folger Collection.

Published in 1623, the First Folio consists of 36 of Shakespeare’s plays, 18 of which were never performed prior to Shakespeare’s death. It is through the First Folio that the world was introduced to some of Shakespeare’s most remarkable plays, and characters, including *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *Twelfth Night* and the likes of Hamlet, Juliet, and Macbeth. It is considered to be one of the most important and valuable printed books in the world. Of the 750 copies that were originally printed in 1623, less than one third remain in existence, of which the Folger Shakespeare Library has the largest collection at 82 copies.

District staff worked with 28 community partners to prepare an application to host this important exhibition, including the College of Lake County, Loyola University, Lake Forest College, the University of Chicago, Visit Lake County, the Illinois Humanities Council, the Illinois Office of Tourism, Bristol Renaissance Faire, Citadel Theater, the *Daily Herald*, Kirk Players, the Newberry Library, St. Mary of the Lakes Seminary, David Adler Center for Music and Art, and the Wauconda Township Library. The exhibition is being developed and coordinated in conjunction with the Cincinnati Museum Center and the American Library Association.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: District Facilities staff report to the Education, Cultural Resources, and Public Affairs committee.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Facilities, Director of Public Affairs and Development, Superintendent of Facilities.

FINANCIAL DATA: The exhibition is free to host venues and will be scheduled as part of the 2016 exhibition schedule at the Lake County Discovery Museum.

PRESENTER: Katherine Hamilton-Smith