

## Main Floor

---

**Busts of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Abraham Lincoln**, ca. 1915  
Artist: Unsigned

A gift from Mary Busey  
Restoration made possible by a gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation and the cooperative effort of the William R. and Clarice V. Spurlock Museum

Except for brief periods during remodeling, Longfellow and Lincoln have resided in their niches beside the Race Street door since 1918. The bust of Longfellow is a replica of an 1884 marble portrait, sculpted by Sir Thomas Brock, and located in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey. Unfortunately, little is known about the bust of Lincoln.

**Portrait of Samuel T. Busey**, ca. 1917  
Artist: Nicholas Brewer

Restoration made possible by a gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation

Samuel T. Busey was a leading citizen of early Urbana. In 1867, he and his brother founded Busey Bank. He served five terms as mayor of Urbana and one term in the United States Congress. Brewer was a prominent 19th century portrait and landscape painter who was born in Olmstead County, Minnesota. His portraits include Presidents of the United States, actors, countless local politicians, and prominent members of society.

**Portrait of Charles Bowen Busey, Jr.**, ca. 1949  
Artist: Charles Earl Bradbury

Restoration made possible by a gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation

Charles Bowen Busey, Jr. was the son of Charles Bowen Busey, Sr., and a grandson of Samuel T. Busey. Bradbury was a professor of art and design at the University of Illinois from 1913 to 1956. Other examples of his work can be found at the Roger Adams Laboratory, Mumford Hall, and the Natural History building on the University of Illinois campus.

**The Urbana Free Library**, 1996  
Artist: Christopher Evans

A gift from Jeanne-Marie Wyld

A favorite of most library patrons, this print by Christopher Evans is featured on many of the library's brochures. This rendering of the 1918 façade portrays the library's familiar blue and white awnings and flower boxes on a sunny summer morning. Evans resides in Urbana and is a featured artist at many local galleries and art shows.

## Second Floor

---

**Expanding Impulse**, 2007  
Artist: Christiane Martens

A gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation

Christiane Martens is a professor of art in the School of Art and Design at the University of Illinois, and the recipient of numerous awards for sculpture. *Expanding Impulse* is constructed of steel and stainless steel and is representative of the artist's abstract themes with subtle silhouettes and forms. Other examples of her work can be found at the University of Illinois and the Wandell Sculpture Garden at Meadowbrook Park.

**Map of Urbana and West Urbana**, 1858  
Artist: Alexander Bowman

Restoration made possible by a gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation

To the best of our knowledge, only a few copies of this large and delicate lithograph have survived—two are in The Urbana Free Library and one is in the British Library. The map, which details land ownership and streets and buildings, also includes vignettes of local structures around the edge. For years the map hung in the old Urbana City Building at the northwest corner of Elm and Broadway, where the parking deck is now located. Restored and reframed in 2005, the map now hangs outside the Archives for all to appreciate.

**Wandering**, 2007  
**Tree of Circles**, 2007  
Artist: Mary McDonald

A gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation

Fiber artist Mary McDonald receives inspiration from nature for her intricate works and from events in her own life. Using layered fabric interwoven with machine stitching, embroidery, appliqué, and beading, she combines subtle colors and texture to achieve her artistic effects. McDonald has a degree in textiles and clothing from the University of Illinois and resides locally.

## Ground Floor

---

**On the Wings of Books**, 2007  
Artist: Glen C. Davies

A gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation

Created as a bright and cheery gateway to the Children's Department, this colorful mural by Glen C. Davies expresses the idea of the lives of books and the journey we take when we read. Davies received his M.F.A. in painting from the University of Illinois and is currently a painting instructor in the Artist in Education program through the Illinois Arts Council.

**Megan's Reading Room**, 2005  
Artist: Glen C. Davies

A gift from Robert and Hazel Spitze, Glenna Dean Spitze, and Christopher Taylor Franklin in memory of Megan Haines Spitze

Glen C. Davies is a Midwestern artist known for his elaborate murals that grace the walls of many businesses in central Illinois. The mural that embellishes the entry to *Megan's Reading Room* was the first of the library's charming works by Davies. The mural captures the innocence and enchantment of childhood in a lasting, and very personal memorial for Megan.

**Folio Universale**, 2004  
Artists: Stephanie Atkins, K.C. Elhard, Jackie Erdman, Jennifer Hain, Kathleen Kern, Ozzie Meza, and Wendy Shelburne

A gift from the Erdman family

*Folio Universale* is one of 40 carousel horses transformed by local artists to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Champaign County United Way. Sponsored by the University of Illinois Library, the piece incorporates the images of the university's special collections and a tooled leather saddle made from scraps from a book created at the library. Pictures of all 40 carousel horses in the United Way's project may be found in the book, *Carousel of Caring*, published in 2004.

**We Dream Together**, 2003  
Artist: E.B. Lewis

Featured in: *Joe-Joe's First Flight*, by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley

A gift in memory of Elizabeth Williams Alexander

*Joe-Joe's First Flight* is set in the 1920s, when many American flight schools were closed to black student pilots. In this magical scene from the book, Joe-Joe soars high in the arms of his father and imagines what it would be like to fly to the moon. *We Dream Together* is a signed giclée print from children's book illustrator and Caldecott Honor winner E.B. Lewis.

**This Is the Wish of Every Tree...**, 1997  
Artist: Kathryn Brown  
Featured in: *From Lullaby to Lullaby*, by Adele Geras

A gift in memory of Elizabeth Williams Alexander

In this beautiful lullaby tale by Adele Geras, a mother describes to her daughter the dream of each object pictured in a blanket she is knitting. *This Is the Wish of Every Tree...* is a signed giclée print by veteran children's illustrator Kathryn Brown. In this colorful and elaborate scene, a happy tree provides enjoyment for a child gaily swinging under its protective branches.

**Emily and Peter**, 1994  
Artist: Barry Moser  
Featured in: *The Farm Summer 1942*, by Donald Hall

A gift in memory of Elizabeth Williams Alexander

In *The Farm Summer 1942*, by Donald Hall, a young boy travels across the country to live with his grandparents while his parents help with the war effort. This signed giclée print by Barry Moser conveys the playful rewards of farm life as seen through the eyes of a child during World War II. Barry Moser has illustrated more than 200 books for children and adults.

**The Snow Speaks**, 1992  
Artist: Jane Dyer  
Featured in: *The Snow Speaks*, by Nancy White Carlstrom

Made possible by Art and Architecture in Illinois Libraries, a Library Services and Technology Grant

*The Snow Speaks*, by Nancy White Carlstrom, uses poetic language to describe the magical qualities of snow as seen through the "wise and patient" eyes of children. Recipient of two Parents' Choice Honor awards for children's book illustration, Jane Dyer has a reputation for using vibrant colors with a soft brushstroke. This signed giclée print from the book depicts two serene yet playful children making snow angels during the first snowfall of the year.

**Max and the Sleeping Wild Things**, 1963  
Artist: Maurice Sendak  
Featured in: *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak

A gift from the Urbana Rotary Club in memory of Dr. James D. Quisenberry and Dr. Nancy L. Quisenberry

One of the classics of children's literature, *Where the Wild Things Are* is the story of Max, a mischievous child who creates and rules his own fantasy world filled with wild things. This lithograph, signed by Maurice Sendak, depicts the sleeping monsters after Max orders them to bed. As an illustrator and author, Sendak has been presented with many awards, including the Caldecott Medal, the Hans Christian Andersen Award, and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for his contributions to children's literature.



## Archives

**Champaign County Courthouse**, ca. 1900  
Artist: Unknown

Restoration made possible by a gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation

This original watercolor rendering is assumed to have been presented to the County Board during the design phase of the Champaign County Courthouse. The architect, Joseph W. Royer, also designed the library's original 1917 building as well as many other local buildings. The painting was restored in 2005 through the support of The Urbana Free Library Foundation.

**Map of Illinois**, ca. 1853  
Publisher: Thayer, Bridgeman and Fanning of New York  
Restoration made possible by a gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation

The Urbana Free Library knows of only two other copies of this map. They reside in the archival collections at Knox College and Western Illinois University. Thayer, Bridgeman and Fanning were important New York map publishers in the mid-1800s and worked independently or in partnership. This rare map of Illinois is a hand-colored engraving on paper.

**Map of Champaign County**, 1863  
Artist: Alexander Bowman

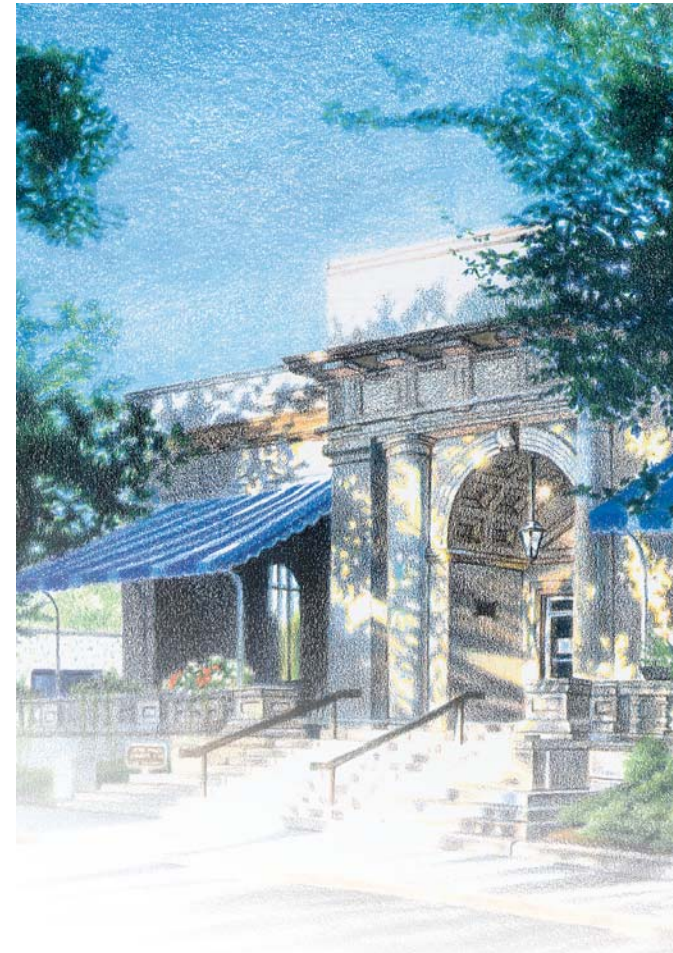
This map is a reproduction from the original that is located in the British Library. Surrounding the map are drawings of houses, churches, and buildings significant to Champaign County in the late 19th century. This 1980 reprint was hand-colored in 1984 by Urbana resident, Diane Hillard, to replicate the map as it was originally printed.



*"The library is an arena of possibility, opening both a window into the soul and a door onto the world."*

— RITA DOVE

# Art at your Library



*The Urbana Free Library, 1996  
by Christopher Evans*



**The Urbana Free Library**

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801  
217/367-4057 • [urbanafreelibrary.org](http://urbanafreelibrary.org)

## Library Grounds

**The Urbana Free Library**, 1918  
Architect: Joseph W. Royer

A gift from Mary Busey in honor of Samuel T. Busey

Local architect Joseph W. Royer, a lifetime Urbana resident and graduate of the University of Illinois designed, the original library building. Royer also designed other well-known local buildings, such as the 1901 Champaign County Courthouse, Urbana High School, and the Historic Lincoln Hotel.

**Cherry Alley Arch**, 2005

A gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation

When Urbana was founded in 1833, the downtown streets and alleys were named. The first plat notes Crane Alley, Goose Alley, and Fish Alley. The landscaped walkway through the library block, which runs from Race Street to Cedar Street, was named Cherry Alley. Designated by a decorative arch at its east end, the plaza features an attractive walkway paved with personalized bricks and two artworks commissioned by The Urbana Free Library Foundation.

**Ibidem**, 2006

Artist: Cecilia Allen

A gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation

Located in the small garden area at the southeast end of Cherry Alley, Cecilia Allen's bronze sculpture begins with a parabola represented by an open book, containing inspirational passages from the arts and sciences. Allen resides in Urbana, and examples of her work can be found at the Wandell Sculpture Garden at Meadowbrook Park.

**Slow & Steady**, 2005

Artist: Todd Frahm

A gift from The Urbana Free Library Foundation

Sculpted on site during the baking heat of June and July 2005, *Slow & Steady* evolved from a 20-ton block of Indiana limestone. Todd Frahm was born in Tolono, Illinois, and is currently on the faculty of the Henry Radford School of Fine Arts at Indiana University in Bloomington. Other local examples of his work include *Fly-fishing* at the Anita Purvis Nature Center and *Decisions* in Carle Park.

