

awarded to sites as opposed to authors. United for Libraries has continued the Literary Landmarks program, but United for Libraries in no way supports the 2001 decision made by Friends of Libraries U.S.A. to add Beauvoir, the “Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library,” to the Literary Landmarks registry.

United for

site. We reject the racist and wrong “Lost Cause” ideology promoted in Jefferson Davis’ memoirs and by the site’s owners, the Mississippi Division of Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc. The site’s focus does not match United for Libraries’ values. The continued inclusion of Beauvoir as a Literary Landmark was an oversight — one that we are rectifying.

A current initiative for both the Literary Landmarks program and United for Libraries as a whole is to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion. Recent additions to the Literary Landmark registry that reflect authors worthy of recognition and deserving of inclusion in this program include the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Pt

United for Libraries recognizes that significant efforts are needed on our part as an organization to develop truly anti-racist initiatives and become an inclusive and diverse organization. Our board is committed to doing this work and putting ideals into action.

We have a great deal of work ahead of us as we solidify our commitment to diversity and inclusion. United for Libraries will review Literary Landmarks listings with guidance from a diverse committee of experts from the ALA’s Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services, Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table and Committee on Diversity.

Taking on the struggle against racism, prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination is central to United for Libraries’ mission and we will continue to examine how these decisions are made and revise where necessary our selection criteria.

5 Vci hl b]hX'zf'@VfUf]Yg''

[United for Libraries: The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations](#) is a division of the American Library Association with approximately 4,000 personal and group

members representing hundreds of thousands of library supporters. United for Libraries supports those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for libraries, and brings together library trustees, advocates, friends, and foundations into a partnership that creates a powerful force for libraries in the 21st century.

June 2020