



April 14, 2022

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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Felton Thomas, Jr.  
*Executive Director & CEO*

Dear Senator Brown,

On behalf of Cleveland Public Library (CPL), please accept this letter of support for the Ukrainian Museum-Archives (UMA) and their request to you for Congressionally Directed Spending. CPL and UMA have a long and productive history of serving our community.

It is not generally known, but one of Ukraine's premier literary historians and author of children's books, Volodymyr Radzykewych was a refugee in the post-World War II camps who settled in Cleveland in the early 1950s and served as a librarian at the Library's Jefferson Branch in the Tremont neighborhood. The Jefferson Branch also proudly displays a mural painted during America's WPA program by Clevelander Ambrose Paliwoda, a Ukrainian-American artist who later became an illustrator for Disney.

Tom Edwards, a CPL librarian and head of our maps collection, established cooperation with the UMA a decade ago to digitize their collection of original maps of Ukraine going back to the 16th and 17th Centuries, adding them to the CPL collection while providing the UMA with electronic copies of the originals currently in their map cases. More recently, our Cleveland Digital Public Library (CDPL) Director created a webpage with posters and photographs from the history of the Ukrainian community in Cleveland.

In 2018, Fulbright Fellow and UMA scholar Ukrainian Oleksandr Debych was an almost daily visitor to CPL to scan posters of Ukrainian-American films from the 1930s-'40s. Those became part of an exhibit and documentary at the annual American Film Festival in January 2019 sponsored by the American Embassy in Kyiv. That would not have happened without the UMA-CPL cooperation.

In 2021, the CDPL copied scores of historic newspapers in the UMA collection for an exhibit the National Academy of Sciences (History Division) is preparing for the 30th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence.

UMA is an invaluable resource for our community, our country and the world. UMA enriches the library, our collections and the people we serve. Together we provide educational services locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. UMA growth is important and we support their request to you to make that happen.

Sincerely,

Felton Thomas, Jr.  
Executive Director & CEO