
Mason County District Library

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ludington Library hosts final sessions in lecture and discussion series

On April 4, 7:00-8:30 pm, Mason County District Library (MCDL), Abondia Center, and partner libraries in Michigan, will host Kristin Seefeldt, University of Michigan Professor of Social Work, presenting “Testing ‘Guaranteed Income’ Ideas Right Here in Michigan.” Part of the series *Cairns & Beacons: Finding Our Way in a Post-Pandemic World*, this presentation is free and available on Zoom from anywhere, and in person at Ludington Library, 217 E Ludington Ave.

Some background:

Spearheaded by City Council member Linh Song and Seefeldt, Ann Arbor’s project, “Guaranteed Income to Grow (GIG),” began January 2024. 100

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low income entrepreneurs, gig workers, and other independent workers will receive monthly guaranteed payments over two years. Participants have received their first three monthly payments of \$528.

In addition, to better test research findings regarding the effects of the cash, another 100 entrepreneurs are enrolled in the research group but will not receive the monthly payments. Seefeldt notes that these entrepreneurs, “play a valuable role for us to compare outcomes between the two groups and draw more robust conclusions about the potential impact of receiving a guaranteed income payment as an entrepreneur.”

Comparative analysis regarding those receiving a monthly stipend and those not will be tracked in three primary areas. These include, first, on participants’ health and increased housing, food, and transportation security in each group. Second, the extent to which participants in each group are able to stabilize and/or grow their businesses. And third, the degree to which each group of entrepreneurs gains time and resources to focus on their business during this two-year period.

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The comparative results between the groups of entrepreneurs, Seefeldt commented, “will inform policymakers on the effectiveness of cash assistance programs and better ways to provide assistance for people who may need it.”

In addition to funds from the Ann Arbor City Council, the project is also receiving funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, and many community organizations within Ann Arbor as well as at the state level.

Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor has noted elsewhere, “Guaranteed income is an idea whose time has come.” Indeed, 125 mayors throughout the country are part of the organization Mayors for Guaranteed Income (MGI). Three mayors are located in Michigan. In addition to Ann Arbor’s Mayor Taylor are Mayor Andy Schor in Lansing, and Mayor Sheldon Neeley in Flint.

A week following the April 4 presentation, a discussion will be held both live at Ludington Library and via Zoom on Thursday, April 11, 7:00-8:30 pm, for attendees to examine ideas about Guaranteed Income more closely.

For more information see bit.ly/cairnsandbeacons. For those wanting to attend online, use the case-sensitive link: bit.ly/CairnsAndBeacons.

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These are the final presentation and discussion sessions in Mason County District Library's and Abondia Center's 2023-2024 series *Cairns & Beacons: Finding Our Way in a Post-Pandemic World*. Funds for this project have been received by Michigan Humanities and the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

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