

## LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES BOARD APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

The purpose of this form is to obtain general information for use in the nomination and confirmation process for appointment to the Library Board. If you have recently prepared a biography or resume, please attach it to this form. Complete both sides and return to: Library Board, Lincoln City Libraries, 136 So. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

### Personal Information

NAME (please type or print last name, first name, and middle initial)

Mr.  Ms.  Mrs.  Miss Brase-Houchin, Maureen, J.

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Residence Address Street City State ZIP

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Residence Telephone (402) 477-9482 Business Telephone (402) 477-3446

Applicant Occupation Interim Executive Director Employer Asian Community and Cultural Center

E-mail Address maureenbh@msn.com

To assist in the selection, you are asked to voluntarily provide information which is necessary for statistical reporting purposes. Under State and Federal Law, this information may not be used to discriminate against you.

Affirmative Action Information: Sex  Male  Female Racial/Ethnic Background Asian American

### General Information

How long have you been a resident of Lincoln? 21 years

How long have you been a Lincoln City Libraries card holder? 20 years? (Though after my children were old enough to have a card, we just use theirs).

Outline your experience in budgeting, human resources/personnel, accounting, technology/Internet, and legal matters relating to government or nonprofit organizations.

- Executive Director of non-profit organization with \$380,000 budget, 16 employees.
- Founder and Director of Kokyo Taiko, not-for-profit Japanese Drumming Performance group, 10 performers; responsible for general operations and management.
- Independent Cultural Presenter and Japanese Tutor, utilizing Power Point, Skype, and Yugma for on-line distance classes and educational lectures.

\* see also resume

Please Complete Reverse Side

What are your goals and philosophy for providing public library service?

Expanding library services to include summer programs, movies, games, story time, visiting artists, etc. has been a wonderful benefit to the community. This growth of offerings makes the libraries stronger and encourages wide community support. I fully encourage thinking outside of the box, enabling the library system to become an integral part of people's lives & thereby ensuring the community's support (financially, physically, etc). I hope to help all, including our refugees and immigrants, make the most of Lincoln Libraries' extensive resources.

How does the First Amendment apply to providing public library service?

Books, movies, etc. should not be censored in order to "protect" the population who visits the library. The choice to check out an item is the individual's choice.

What background or experience do you have that would be a benefit to the library?

I have loved reading since elementary school and continue to feed that joy of reading through a book club that meets in Ashland to discuss a variety of selections. We have also added movies (not popular ones; usually more unique films). The library has been a progressive partner in having movies to check out, too!

I encourage my children to read through our home library and regular visits to our local library branch. My son also volunteers there. My drumming group has been invited to perform at several Lincoln Library branches over the years. I have done children's storytime as a reader (Japanese folktales) and audience member. I participated in the May Asian Read-In.

Please detail present or previous community/volunteer activities

Since Junior High, I have consistently been a community volunteer, involved in a wide variety of activities. My family has served as a host family to 35+ exchange students over the past 13 years. I volunteered with my son's elementary school PTO and in several classrooms assisting disadvantaged students. I have been the President of my homeowner's association for 11 years. While living in Japan, I volunteered at a school for the deaf and at another for mentally challenged students. In college I was involved with many student groups - New Student Orientation, Off-Campus Housing Review Board, Cardinal Key, to name a few.

Are you available for monthly library board meetings - generally Tuesday mornings or Tuesday evenings? **yes**

Are you available for weekday daytime monthly committee meetings? **yes**

**Maureen J. Brase-Houchin**  
2410 Chanticleer Circle, Lincoln, NE 68521  
Phone: 402-477-9482 Email: [maureenbh@msn.com](mailto:maureenbh@msn.com)

## EXPERIENCE

**Asian Community and Cultural Center (ACCC), Interim Executive Director (1/2010-present) Lincoln, NE**

- Supervise 16 part and full time employees, from 10 countries, speaking 13 languages
- Responsible for program and fund (gift and grant) development and administration
- Manage daily operations, budgets, and financials
- Establish and maintain relationships with culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse clientele, community funders and leaders, and other non-profit agencies
- Represent the Asian Center at professional associations and networks including New Americans Task Force (NATF), Directors of United Way Agencies (DUWA), Human Services Federation (HSF), and The Mayor's Multicultural Advisory Committee
- Report to the Asian Center's Board of Directors at monthly board and committee meetings

**Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association (JETAA), NE Sub-chapter Representative (1999-present)**

- Conduct annual hiring interviews for the JET Programme (Japanese Consulate - Kansas City / Chicago)
- Attend regional and national JET conferences and Annual Midwest Forums (Japan – U.S. Educational and Cultural Exchange)
- Recruit potential JET Programme applicants at surrounding universities' career and job fairs

**Kokyo Taiko - Japanese Drumming group, Founder and Director (1999-present) Lincoln, NE**  
(Official group name adopted in 2004)

- Responsible for general operations and management – book keeping, contracts, fees, scheduling, correspondence, equipment maintenance and orders, satisfaction surveys, fundraising, and website
- Perform traditional Japanese choreographed taiko songs and speak about the history and culture of taiko to a wide variety of audiences
- Teach taiko classes for the community and hold regular practices for performance members

**Independent Cultural Presenter and Japanese Teacher/Tutor (1998-present) Lincoln, NE**

- Utilize visual aids, Power Point, and life experience tales to help educate surrounding schools, universities, and companies on Japan and other Asian nations
- Develop lesson plans and materials; use Skype and Yugma for on-line distance classes
- Maintain good relationships with area university professors and others in the multicultural field

**Asian Community and Cultural Center (ACCC), Taiko Coordinator (4/2005-6/2006), Cultural Program Coordinator (9/2005-6/2006), Office Manager (12/2005-6/2006), Summer Youth Immersion Japanese Language Instructor (2005) Lincoln, NE**

- Responsible for performance groups' practices, performances, bookings, correspondence, fees and contracts, video and photo promotions, recruitment and training of members, fundraising, small grant requests, and equipment orders, storage, and maintenance
- Organized and presented workshops, classes and cultural orientations for the community and new staff
- Attended seminars and workshops on fundraising, grant writing, leadership, and social media strategy
- Assisted with the organization and running of Fundraisers, Community Events, Summer Youth Immersion, Seniors, Youth Leadership, and other programs
- Assisted Executive Director with other duties as assigned

**Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, Nagasaki Prefecture Education Center Coordinator and Assistant Language Teacher (7/1994-8/1996) Omura, Japan**

- Organized and ran educational seminars and conferences for Japanese and foreign teachers
- Proofread and edited documents
- Taught English to Junior High and High School students
- Assisted with and attended extracurricular student activities and clubs

**Nebraska Educational Television (NETV), Japanese Satellite Program Assistant (8/1993-7/1994) Lincoln, NE**

- On-air live language assistant; worked with props, skits, directors, cameramen, guests, and school students
- Teleprompter; maintained live script and behind the scenes order
- Maintained teacher and school contacts, schedules, weekly lessons, and satellite link-ups

**Lincoln Public Schools, Japanese Language Gifted Mentor (8/1993-6/1994) Lincoln, NE**

## ACTIVITIES / INTERESTS

**President, Autumn Ridge East Homeowner's Association (1999-present) Lincoln, NE**

- Established Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and the formation of the Association
- Preside over quarterly board meetings and annual all-association meetings
- Responsible for dues and meeting notices, agendas, and locations

**Host family, 35+ students, various programs (Nursing, Agribusiness, etc.) and lengths of time (1997-present)**

- Share American experiences – food, family, tourist sites, shopping, speaking English

**Volunteer, Campbell Elementary school classes and PTO (2002-2008) Lincoln, NE**

- Worked with disadvantaged children on reading, writing, and other subjects; check students' work
- Assisted during school swim nights, book fairs, carnivals, fundraisers, etc.; organized class parties

**Interpreter, various programs and lengths of time (1997-present) Japan and Lincoln, NE**

- Seirei Christopher College; assisted Japanese nursing students visiting area hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and nursing homes; provided a communication link for them and the American nurses they shadowed
- Japanese Agricultural Trainee Program; assisted when needed; also provided English tutoring
- Friendship Force; assisted with explanations during tour of Lincoln, Governor's Mansion, State Capitol, etc.

## International Travel

- Researched eight European Countries to serve as tour/travel/hotel guide for backpacking trip; learned rudimentary words for the different languages encountered
- Researched Yucatan Peninsula for backpacking trip to Mexico; refreshed my elementary Spanish
- Almost yearly 4-6 week stays in Japan with my children; visit family, friends, and refresh our language and cultural skills
- Seoul, South Korea

## Japanese cultural arts study

- Calligraphy (Shodo)
- Tea Ceremony (Sado)
- Flower Arranging (Ikebana)
- Choreographed drumming (Wadaiko)

## Language

- Weekly Japanese language table meetings at Nebraska Wesleyan University (1999-present)
- Weekly advanced Japanese lessons, private tutor (UNL Professor of Japanese Language) (2009-present)
- Numbers in Vietnamese

## EDUCATION

Nebraska Wesleyan University      Lincoln, NE  
Bachelor of Science                      May 1993

## REFERENCES

Sheila Dorsey-Vinton (402-314-1518), University of Kentucky PhD student, Anthropology  
Tracie Whiting Kipper (816-588-7043), Kansas City Art Institute, Japanese Language and Culture Lecturer