

2025 What a Year It's Been

\$339,390

RAISED



1,361
donors



10,000
books



400
volunteers



+10
events

Thank you for helping libraries change lives.

December 2025

What a year it's been! In 2025, the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library have raised an incredible \$339,390 from 1,361 donors, showing just how many people believe in the power of libraries to change lives. We launched our new [membership program](#), hosted a record-breaking [Annual Benefit](#) and [Give Miami Day](#), distributed over [10,000 free books](#) to children in need, and are grateful for over 400 volunteers who gave their time and talents to support our mission.

Together, we've helped fund vital library programs - from free homework help and tutoring to book giveaways, cultural events, and community learning opportunities - making a real difference across all 50 library branches.

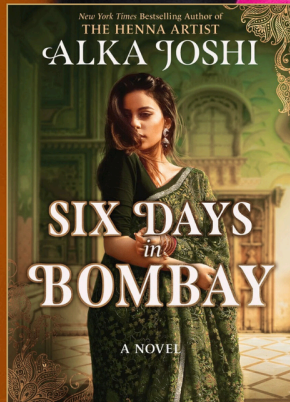
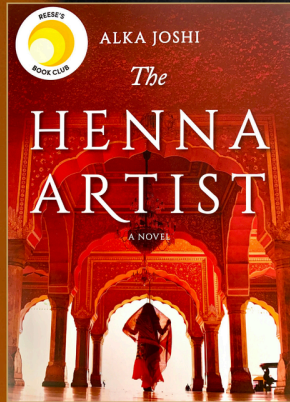
And we're just getting started! In 2026, we're thrilled to launch our first-ever Book-It 5K Challenge in March and the second annual Book Club Fair in April, featuring more than 20

authors already confirmed to speak. We've also laid out a bold [five-year strategic plan](#) to guide our next chapter of growth.

It's not too late to make an impact - consider a year-end gift or [check if your employer matches charitable donations](#) to help double your support.

Thanks to you, 2025 was a story worth celebrating. Here's to writing the next great chapter together in 2026!

Keep reading to see what's new, what's next, and how you can be part of it all!



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH ALKA JOSHI

Join the
New York Times
bestselling author of
The Henna Artist
to discuss her new book,
Six Days in Bombay.

January 8th

7:00 pm

Coconut Grove



Don't Miss This Exclusive Author Event with Alka Joshi

A special literary opportunity is coming soon! On Thursday, January 8, the Friends will host a Member Social featuring New York Times bestselling author Alka Joshi, known for *The Henna Artist* and *Six Days in Bombay*. Tickets for this event are available exclusively to Friends members - just one of the many perks of joining.

Not a member yet? Membership starts at \$25, and your tax-deductible donation helps support programs across the Miami-Dade Public Library System while giving you access to a full year of unique events and insider benefits. Once your membership is processed, you'll receive a registration link and additional details for the upcoming author talk.

Learn more at friendsofmdpl.org/become-a-member.



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
THE FRIENDS OF THE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY**



Your donation to the Friends helps fund programs
and events across all 50 library branches.

We asked, and you answered in a big way! Thanks to your generosity, the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library raised over \$75,000 on Give Miami Day this year - our best year ever!

More than 625 donors came together to show their love for libraries, ranking the Friends 2nd among small charities in Miami-Dade County and 8th overall out of hundreds of participating nonprofits. Read more about this huge success on our [blog](#).



700 Reasons to Celebrate Our Library Staff

This month, the Friends celebrated the heart of our library system - its incredible staff! We gifted more than 700 library employees across 50 branches a handwritten thank-you note and mug, collected from hundreds of community writers over the past year. More than 40 volunteers helped wrap and deliver the gifts as part of our Librarian Appreciation Event. Read more about this inspiring community effort on our [blog](#).



Exploring Miami's Art Boom with Elisa Turner

The Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library hosted a lively members' social on November 13 featuring arts journalist and longtime Miami Herald critic Elisa Turner, who discussed her new book *Miami's Art Boom*. Moderated by former art librarian Barbara Young, the evening

highlighted Miami's rise as a global arts hub and the local voices who shaped it. Guests enjoyed a stunning art display by Yuki Yamamoto, sponsorship support from the Odeon Collection, and a festive book signing and reception that reflected the Friends' mission to celebrate culture, community, and the power of libraries to connect us all. Learn more about this event and others like it on our [blog](#).

Become A Member And Be Part Of Our Story!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

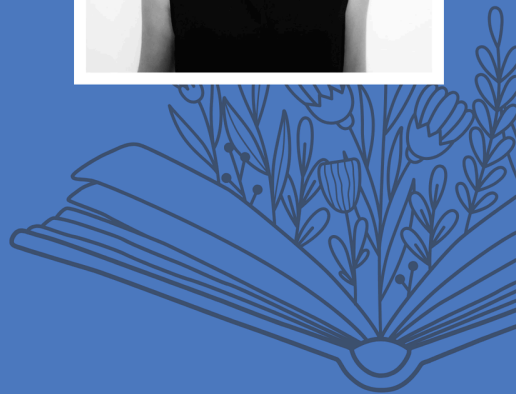


Carla Ferguson

Carla is a marketing leader with a background in brand development, consumer insights, and customer acquisition for enterprise brands. She currently serves as Managing Director at GoldKey Commercial, where she oversees operations across commercial real estate, financing, and investment strategy.

Beyond her professional work, Carla runs a different kind of operation at home with her husband and two energetic children, ages three and five. Libraries have long been a treasured place for her, but seeing them through her children's eyes has deepened her appreciation for the essential role they play in shaping families, access, and lifelong learning.

And any friend of the library has a friend in her.



Our Contact Information

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