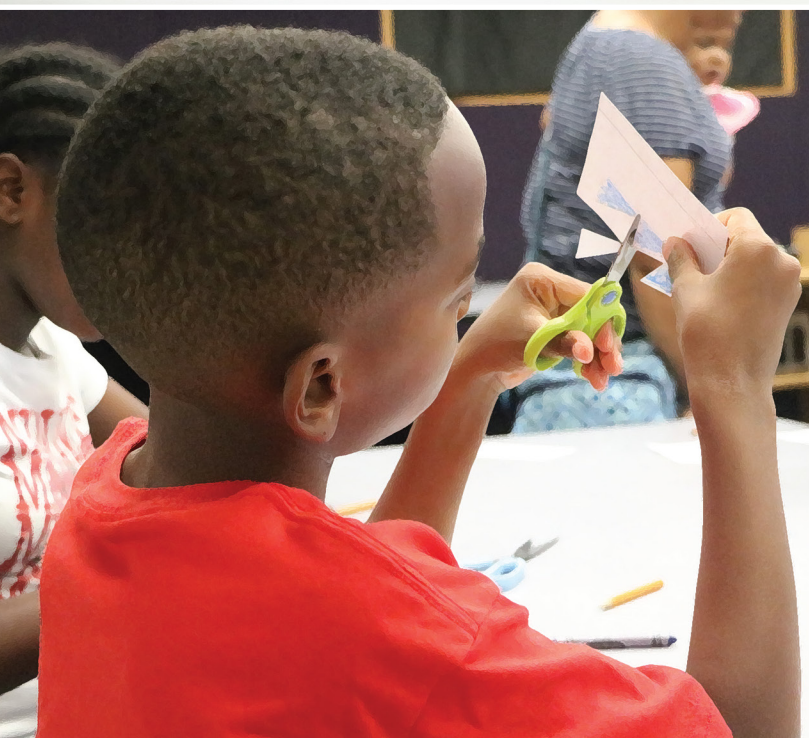
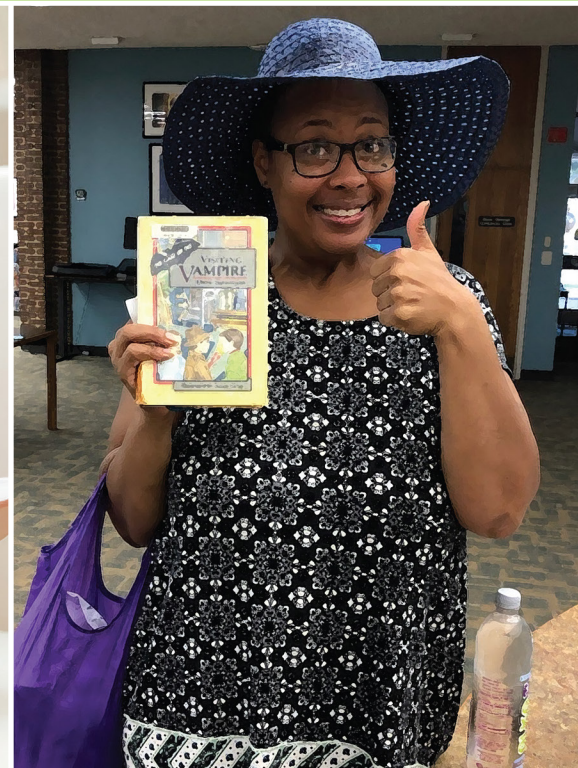




**FRIENDS
OF THE
DALLAS PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

**2019 – 2020
Impact Report**



Friends of the Dallas Public Library
exists to support the mission of the
Dallas Public Library system in its
delivery of resources, services and
information to the Dallas community.



A Message from the Executive Director and Chairman of the Board

A Tale of Two Years

July 2019 through February 2020 was The Year of Our Brilliant Career. Friends of the Dallas Public Library enjoyed unqualified success as our normal operations exceeded expectations. We had an amazing Fall Dinner, A Novel Night Out, honoring Kay Cattarulla and meeting best-selling author Delia Owens. More than 300 people attended the event, and we raised more than \$85,000, both recent records.

Then came March 2020, and suddenly we found ourselves in The Year of Living Dangerously. Throughout the pandemic crisis, our executive committee, board, and staff stayed busy to keep Friends of the Dallas Public Library strong, relevant and true to our mission: supporting the Dallas Public Library, still an essential community resource even

though its buildings were forced to close. Friends office operations moved out of the Central Library and were conducted remotely, a difficult project, but a seamless one.

Our libraries have always been places for learning and discussion, and as the tragic deaths in Minneapolis, Atlanta and elsewhere have sparked a re-examination of our attitudes and public policies, we pledge to be part of the movement to ensure that Black Lives Matter is not just a slogan, but a catalyst for true change. We welcome your ideas to help make that happen.

As we look forward, the financial future will be incredibly challenging. City revenues from sales and hotel occupancy taxes are taking an enormous hit during the crisis, and we cannot foresee how long that will last. City management has already asked Dallas Public Library, and most other city departments, to reduce their current operating budget to offset lost

revenue, and we expect that further budget cuts may loom.

But we have conquered adversity before. Due to our potent advocacy and the amazing advances the Dallas Public Library staff has made, our libraries are established as vital community and learning centers essential for a robust recovery. Our challenge going forward is to help them continue to flourish, in good times and bad, in a great city that deserves no less. Thank you for joining us in this quest.

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2019-20 Board Chair

Mary Wilonsky
Executive Director



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Executive Director

March 13, 1950 — Friends of the Dallas Public Library (FODPL) founded by a group of 23 citizens determined to hold the City of Dallas accountable to expand and improve the Dallas Public Library system.

1955 — Grand opening of the new central library, a George Dahl building, on Commerce at Harwood Street.



1970 — The Friends began acquiring rare and fine treasures including examples of book arts from ancient beginnings such as papyrus sheets and clay tablets to modern fine presses. These acquisitions served as the foundation for the Dallas Public Library's Rare and Fine Book Collection.

April 18, 1982 — Central Research Library opens and includes the first FODPL office.

1986 — City Council approves the Mayor's Proposal for the Friends of the Dallas Public Library.

1950



October 1951 — Friends present the City of Dallas with a new bookmobile to increase delivery of library services to underserved neighborhoods.

1957 — FODPL commissioned a survey to assess the need for branch libraries. This survey resulted in a master plan that called for 10 new branches by 1970.

1960

1970

1978 — Mayor J. Erik Jonsson worked with FODPL to secure \$10 million in private funds, matched by City funds, for the proposed Central Research Library.

1980

Pride in our Library

As the Dallas Public Library's non-profit fundraising partner, Friends of the Dallas Public Library exists to support the mission of the Dallas Public Library system in its delivery of resources, services and information to the Dallas community.



IN 2019...

- Over 11 million people visited a Dallas Public Library location in person or online
- 43,950 new library cards issued
- Over 11 million physical items were checked out and an additional 3.5 million digital items were checked out
- 25,000 adults attended English Language Learning, Basic Reading, GED and citizenship classes
- 213 GED Graduates
- 417,000 attended a Library program or event
- 85,000 children and their caregivers attended a literacy program
- Over 22,000 programs engaged, educated and entertained over 400,000 visitors
- Library visitors logged nearly 450,000 hours of computer time

— The Dallas Council named the central library for J. Erik Jonsson. Budget cuts lessened through advocacy work of Friends. Literary dinner began.

1995 — The Eugene McDermott Foundation offered a challenge grant of \$250,000 for the renovation of the First Floor of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. This challenge grant launches the Friend's largest public-private partnership with the City of Dallas to date spanning 20 years and over \$20 million.

2002 — The Friends' advocacy efforts culminated in the successful passage of a \$55.5 million bond package for citywide library improvements and expansion of service areas.

2000 — The Friends purchased a new bookmobile with generous support from the Crystal Charity Ball.



2009 — City of Dallas recession budget cuts lead to a 50% reduction in DPL staff and a 40% reduction in the overall budget lowering each library location's hours to 40 hours per week. AT&T supports the creation of the Library's Teen Centers in 20 locations.

2014 — Unified Friends advocacy (and the appearance of our Suesian friends Thing 1 & Thing 2) lead to an unprecedented commitment from the City of Dallas over two years — a \$3.8 million increase in the Library's budget allowing the library to hire 155 new employees, increase hours at twelve locations and make much needed technology improvements.

2017 — Once again, FoDPL's advocacy efforts along with hundreds of library supporters helped marshal public support for a bond issue that will replace the crumbling Forest Green branch and build a new, much-needed library in the Vickery neighborhood.



2019 — In September, the City broke ground on the new Forest Green location.

2012 — The Friends, Branch Friends groups and the Municipal Library Board join forces to begin more consistent advocacy to restore the Library's budget to pre-recession levels. The Friends purchase self-check machines for each library location.

2016 — Advocacy efforts pay off, and more library locations increase hours thanks to an increase in Library's operating budget. The beautifully renovated 7th floor reopened. Funds for the renovation were raised by Friends of the Dallas Public Library and matched by the City of Dallas.

A 70-Year Friendship!

2018 — In December, the City broke ground for the new Vickery Park library. And, with incredible support from The Crystal Charity Ball, FoDPL was able to provide an additional \$750,000 to include a one-of-a-kind Children's Teen Center to serve the community.



Your Powerful Impact

In 2019-20, Friends of the Dallas Public Library provided over a quarter-million dollars in program funding and more than \$2.2 million in capital funding and materials acquisition.

Total funding from Friends of the Dallas Public Library given annually to the Library is decided prior to the beginning of each new fiscal year. Specific amounts are designated to each of the Library's priority funding areas.

Early Childhood Literacy

Books for Dallas Babies at Parkland, Every Child Ready to Read and pre-school storytimes. **\$33,894**

Adult Education and Programming

GED classes and Testing Center, programs for seniors, English Language Learning classes and Applied Language Learning classes. **\$94,663**

SMART Kids

Providing free quality educational programming for children. SMART Kids connects youth with opportunities that inspire curiosity in Science, Math, Art, Reading and Technology at the library, ensuring they have the skills needed to succeed in the 21st Century. Youth services staff, community volunteers and community partners will work collaboratively to develop SMART Kids programs, focusing on three age groups: Early Childhood (0-5), School-aged (6-12) and Teens (13-17). **\$89,956**

Innovation Grants

Providing funding to inspire library staff to create new programs and projects. **\$7,718**

Library Staff Development

Library staff appreciation, advocacy, scholarships and career development. **\$51,450**

Capital/Acquisitions

Since 1950, Friends of the Dallas Public Library has provided \$50 million in capital funding and materials acquisition. In 2018-19, more than \$2 million was provided for capital renovations, library building enhancements and materials acquisition.

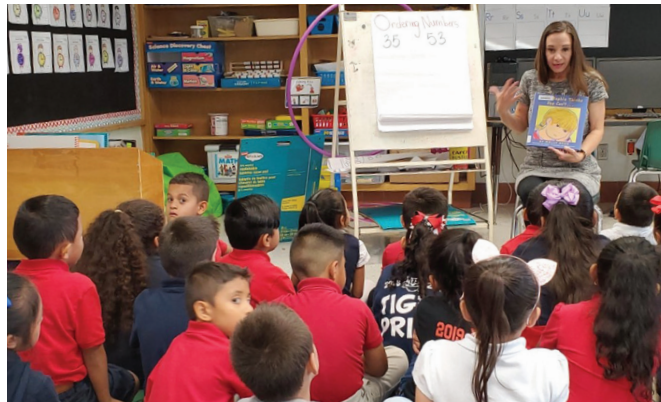


Financial Position

2018-19 Audited Financials, July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Support and Revenue	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>With Donor Restrictions</i>	<i>Total</i>
Memberships	60,307		60,307
Contributions (Individuals, corporate and foundation grants, other income)	7,814	849,641	857,455
Special Events, net of direct costs	72,544		72,544
Investment Income, net	91,171	74,693	165,864
Net assets released from restrictions	2,424,998	(2,424,998)	0
Other Income	25,180		25,180
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$2,682,014	\$(1,500,664)	\$1,181,350

Expenses	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>With Donor Restrictions</i>	<i>Total</i>
Program services	2,685,718		2,685,718
General and administrative	146,055		146,055
Fundraising	36,019		36,019
Total Expenses	2,867,792		2,867,792
Change in net assets	(185,778)	(1,500,664)	(1,686,442)
Net Assets – Beginning of the year	2,601,979	3,317,073	5,919,052
Net Assets – End of Year	\$2,416,201	\$1,816,409	\$4,232,610



Library Legacies – A proud legacy, but new challenges

As much as we look back with pride at our 70-year legacy, we know that the next chapter may be more challenging than ever. Even when Dallas Public Library buildings are not totally operational, the Library supplies vital resources to the 1.3 million people of Dallas – and those resources are needed more than ever because of the social, economic and educational disruption caused by the pandemic. Our libraries need us, both to enrich programming and to ensure public and political support, and we must be there for them.

The Dallas Public Library stands today, as it has for more than 100 years, a treasured and indispensable institution serving the citizens of Dallas, regardless of age or economic station.

The leadership of the Friends has considered the Library's budget and plans and recognizes that private gifts and bequests must continue – as they have historically – to be an important part of the total funding structure of the Library, making possible those special things that public funds are not likely to provide. This will be especially significant in maintaining and expanding the Library's holdings in books and other materials; but it will also be vital in securing the newest technologies that arm the Library system to serve its customers.

Now the Friends ask others who love the Library and what it does for our city to consider an endowment gift or a bequest to the Friends for the benefit of the Library. Gifts of any size are appreciated.

Your gift helps to provide:

- Educational programming to children and adults
- Free access to arts and culture
- Buildings and infrastructure improvements of the library
- Expanding the Library's Fine and Rare Materials Collection
- Scholarships for Library staff members seeking higher education and additional training
- Renovation projects
- Technology upgrades and mobile technology

Ways to Make a Planned Gift

By Phone

Call us at 214-670-1458

By Mail

Friends of the Dallas Public Library
1515 Young Street, 7th Floor
Dallas, TX 75201

As a Tribute

Friends of the Dallas Public Library welcomes donations made in honor and in memory of others and acknowledges these appropriately.

Create Your Legacy

To create your legacy today,
call 214-670-1458

Friends of the Dallas Public Library is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered with the IRS and the State of Texas. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

In Memoriam



We mourn the sudden passing on May 18 of **Karen Blumenthal**, board member, past board chair, Municipal Library Board co-chair, and cherished friend. She was a brilliant journalist, an award-winning author, a dedicated teacher, and a tireless, fierce advocate for our city's libraries. Karen fought hard for Dallas Public Library during the last recession. She was a driving force behind the advocacy that restored our Library's funding. There will never be another advocate with the love and passion for the library that will match what Karen had for Dallas Public Library.

Roger Horchow led an amazing life and supported many local and national organizations. He served as a Friends of the Dallas Public Library Advisory Board Member for the last six years and was a wonderful supporter of the Library and the Friends.

Philip R. Jonsson also passed away this spring. Son of Dallas Mayor J. Erik Jonsson, Philip Jonsson continued his father's tradition of supporting our Library especially when it came to renovations at Central. Mr. Jonsson was an active civic leader and supporter of numerous organizations in Texas and Arkansas for many years.

A Novel Night Out with Delia Owens — Connecting Friends with Great Stories and Storytellers

Membership

Simply, the more Friends we have, the more we can accomplish. In 1950, Friends of the Dallas Public Library was established by far-sighted Dallasites who wanted to ensure that their city had a library system worthy of a great city. They succeeded in many ways, but the job is far from done. The current economic difficulties are sure to bring pressure for budget cuts, and our advocacy role will be put to the test. We need everyone who appreciates the importance of public libraries to join us – at whatever level of time, energy and financial support possible – to fight for this wonderful institution we love.

Libraries need Friends – it’s just that simple. Friends members can literally make the difference between a budget increase and cut for their libraries.

Since the beginning of the American library movement, Friends groups have used their collective powers to ensure that our American library legacy remains viable. Friends members extend a library’s capacity through volunteering and through advocacy. In fact, library Friends are advocates by default – giving their time, energy and financial support to an entity they’re willing to fight for – the library.

To join us as a member, call 214-670-1458 or visit our website www.supportdpl.org

The Dallas Public Library feeds the mind and the soul every day. But on this night, the menu included fine wine, salmon in phyllo, and chocolate-lined almond tuille with berries and sauce Romanoff.

More than 300 people packed the downtown library on Thursday, November 14, to meet author Delia Owens and honor Kay Cattarulla at the annual Friends of the Dallas Public Library dinner.

Library Director Jo Giudice welcomed the crowd with thanks for the Friends’ role in supporting the library’s many community-building activities and board chairman Walt McCool spoke about the many recent Friends accomplishments.

Kay Cattarulla, founder of Arts and Letters Live at the Dallas Museum of Art, received the May Dickson Exall Award, named for the woman who led the quest to establish the Dallas Public Library in 1901.

In heartfelt, humorous remarks, Cattarulla noted that she moved here from New York in 1990 “for two or three years,” and was gratified by the warm response and immediate support of the Dallas community.

In an engaging Q-and-A with former Dallas Morning News Vice President Keven Ann Willey, Delia Owens recounted her 23 years in Africa researching wildlife, battling poachers and writing three books about her experiences. Upon her

return to America, Owens turned to fiction, and her first novel, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, has sat atop bestseller lists for more than a year. She is happily sticking to fiction, she told the crowd, and is working on a new novel set in Florida.



A Special Thank You to All Our Members

Book Hero Plus/1950 Society

President George W. Bush and
Laura Bush
Annette Corman
Gary Gadson
Stephanie Parker
Stephanie Scheidler and
Jeffrey Robinson
Norma and Don Stone

Book Hero (\$1,000)

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Basheer Ghorayeb
Elaina and Gary Gross
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Kathy Bishop

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Scott McCartney
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