FRIENDS
OF THE
DALLAS PUBLIC
LIBRARY



# Impact Report

# Friends do more than borrow books.

Friends have your back when times are tough, when money is tight, when you need a little help and things aren't going your way.

Friends of the Dallas Public Library does that and a whole lot more to benefit the Dallas Public Library.

For more than 70 years, we've fought against book banning and budget cuts, raised more than \$50 million for library renovations, acquisitions and bookmobiles as well as donated millions of volunteer hours.

Today our efforts are citywide for the library and its staff — all while providing more than \$400,000 in direct support annually to the Dallas Public Library.









## Chairman's Letter

e've had another extraordinary year. I want to congratulate the library staff for surviving and thriving through this unprecedented year of COVID. The pandemic may have closed the buildings for a while, but it did not stop the Dallas Public Library from serving our city with innovation, creativity and enthusiasm. From online programs to curbside checkout, from downloadable materials to online homework help, our library demonstrated every day that it is an indispensable part of our community.

And I am proud to say that thanks to our staff, our board and our members, Friends of the Dallas Public Library was there every step of the way.

In May, we celebrated the opening of the brand new Vickery Park branch, supported by the Friends' own fundraising and more than \$750,000 from The

Crystal Charity Ball. We anxiously await opening the new Forest Green branch. With help from Karen Blumenthal's friends and family, more than \$100,000 has been raised to help take this new branch from good to great. And, in addition to all these advances, later this summer the sixth floor at the Central Library will reopen. This floor has been reimagined completely into a modern, stateof-the-art City Life, Education and Work Skills Division. This renovation completes the challenge made to the Friends by Margaret McDermott in 1996. In response to her challenge, the Friends have provided more than \$22 million in capital funding to renovate, upgrade and improve the Central Research Library.

It was gratifying that we could support our library while the buildings were closed to the public. The Friends helped launch Library to Go Curbside, provided Dallas Public Library facemasks and staff appreciation gifts throughout the year all while funding hundreds of online programs from storytimes to adult education and programs for seniors which one customer called a "LIFESAVER for my family."

With funds left from the HALO-Dallas Fund, the Friends provided immediate relief to Dallas Public Library staff members profoundly affected by February's ice storm. And we were there to support the Dallas Public Library when its doors re-opened on May 4. We shared the joy of Dallas citizens who were jubilant to return to their libraries.

We've come so far this year. Here's to hoping - not for a return to "normal," but to an even betterthan-normal future.

Thank you all again, and see you at the library!

BWMG,

Walt McCool

President and Chairman Friends of the Dallas Public Library

2019-2021

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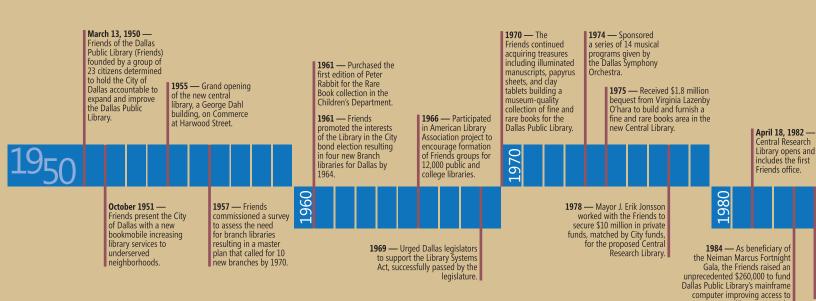
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Development Coordinator

library materials.

Mary Wilonsky Executive Director





# **Fascinating facts about** your library from 2019 - 2020

Over **8.4 million** people visited a DPL location in person or online

**43,950** new library cards issued brought the total number of library cardholders to over 698,000

Over **4.2 million** physical items were checked out and an additional 4.7 million digital items were checked out

17.775 adults attended **English Language Learning**, Basic Reading, GED and citizenship classes

**135** GED Graduates

**85,000** children and caregivers attended a literacy program

**160,000** people attended programs

Library visitors logged nearly **186,057** hours of computer time

Volunteers logged more than **12,000** hours

**17,575** in person and virtual library programs

Digital content circulation increased **31.95%** from FY19 to FY20, 3,591,638 to **4,739,019** 

**51,608** Curbside appointments

**1986** — The Dallas City Council named the central library for Mayor J. Erik Jonsson. Proposed budget cuts were lessened through the advocacy work of the Friends. Literary Lions dinner began.

1985 — Articles of Incorporation were submitted and the Friends becomes a charitable non-profit, non-politiacl organization.

Summer Reading Program with incentives that attracted over 10.000 children to participate. This partnership continues today

'Outstanding Large

Public Library

the American

Convention.

1990 — Funded

Library's successful

Dallas Public

1995 — Accepted a \$250,000 challenge from The Eugene McDermott Foundation to renovate the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library's first floor. This challenge launched a 20+ year public-private partnership with the City of Dallas raising millions to benefit the Dallas Public Library.

0661 **1991** — Awarded 1997 — Provided \$50,000

> patrons as part of the new United States at automation system. Library Association 2000 — Funded the purchase of a Library on Wheels (Mobile Learning Center) with \$325,000 generously provided by the Crystal Charity Ball.

to purchase state-of-the-art

plastic library cards for all

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

2008 — The Friends fund a second bookmobile for the City of Dallas thanks to the generosity of Atmos Energy and in 2009 with support from AT&T, the Friends open Teen Centers in 20 branch libraries

2014 — Unified Friends advocacy led to an unprecedented commitment from the City of Dallas over two years to restore the Dallas Public Library's budget increasing hours, hiring employees, making much-needed technology improvements

2012 — The

for every branch.

2017 — Friends' advocacy efforts pay off marshaling public support for a bond issue to replace the Forest Green branch and build a new library in the Vickery neighborhood

2019 — Construction starts on the new Forest Green branch.

> 2020 — The Friends celebrate their 70-year friendship with the Dallas Public Library.

**2001** — Celebrated Dallas Public Library's 100th birthday with the exhibit "100 Years of the Dallas Public Library;" and published the book "One Hundred Years of the

by Michael Hazel.

2010 — Celebrated the Friends' 60th Anniversary with a City of Dallas proclamation declaring May 20th as Friends of the Dallas Public Library Day.

Friends, branch Friends groups and the Municipal Library Board join forces to advocate to restore the Library's budget to pre-recession levels, and fund the purchase of selfcheck-out machines

2016 — The renovated 7th floor reopened with \$3.5 million provided by the Friends and matched by the City of Dallas providing a beautiful new home for the Fine and Rare Materials Collection

of the new Vickery Park branch begins with the Friends providing an additional \$775,000 in upgrades and enhancements.

2018 — Construction

# Your Powerful Impact

From July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020, Friends of the Dallas Public Library provided more than \$400,000 in direct support to the Dallas Public Library including:

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Books for Dallas Babies at Parkland Health and Hospital System, early literacy kits and pre-school events and storytimes \$52,202

## **SMART KIDS**

SMART Summer, Teen programs, Discovery Wall at Central, Out of School Time and STEM programs and the Express Yourself! Youth Poetry Competition and Cover Art Contest. **\$124,398** 

# ADULT EDUCATION/ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Digital Literacy and Work Skills programs, High School Equivalency/GED classes and Testing Center, Readers Advisory, Literacy Centers and programs for seniors. **\$98,112** 

## VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS/ MULTICULTURAL

Family Literacy events and neighborhood events celebrating Dallas' diverse neighborhoods **\$8,432** 

## **BRANCH LIBRARY SUPPORT**

Library to Go Curbside. \$7,410

## LIBRARY STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Funding learning opportunities and staff development. **\$36,707** 

## **INNOVATION GRANTS**

Providing funds to inspire library staff to create new programs and projects. **\$21,461** 

## **CAPITAL AND ACQUISITIONS**

Since 1950, the Friends have provided more than \$50 million in capital funding and materials acquisition. In 2019-20, **\$34,339** was provided for the Vickery Park branch and renovations at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library.









# Financial Position

## **2019-20 AUDITED FINANCIALS, JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020**

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Unrestricted	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Memberships	41,162		41,162
Contributions (Individuals, corporate and	200.500	200.027	600.663
foundation grants, other income)	308,690	299,927	608,662
Special Events, net of direct costs	85,190		85,190
Book Sales	40,428		40,428
Government Grants	24,730		24,730
Investment Income, net	(15,959)	6,163	(9,796)
Net assets released from restrictions	429,212	(429,212)	0
Other Income	35,125		35,125
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	\$948,578	\$(123,077)	\$825,501
EXPENSES	Unrestricted	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Program services	402,311		402,311
General and administrative	154,444		154,444
Fundraising	36,019		36,019
Total Expenses	581,551		581,551
Change in net assets	367,027	(123,077)	243,950
Net Assets – Beginning of the year	2,416,201	1,816,409	4,232,610
NET ASSETS — END OF YEAR	\$2,783,228	\$1,693,332	\$4,476,560







# Library Legacies, Estate Gifts, Planned Giving

Friends of the Dallas Public Library knows from history that the next chapter may be more challenging, and, that now more than ever, having a world-class public library is critical to rebuilding post pandemic.

The Dallas Public Library needs its Friends. It needs its Friends to enrich programming and to ensure it has public and civic support. 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.

Private gifts and bequests must continue — as they have historically — to be an important part of the total funding structure of the Friends, making possible those special things that public funds don't provide. Things like those that maintain and expand

the Library's holdings in books and materials; but also vital in securing new technologies arming the Library to better serve its customers.

Consider an endowment gift or bequest. Gifts of any size are appreciated.

Endowment gifts help provide programming in the areas of:

- Early Childhood Education
- SMART Kids
- Adult Education/Workforce Development
- Vibrant Neighborhoods/ Multicultural
- Staff Development, Branch Support
- Innovation Grants
- Capital/Acquisitions

## **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 EIN 75-2033106

## **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, 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

Two cherished members of the Friends' family passed away in July, 2020, June Leftwich and Kate Park. We remember them with love and gratitude for all they did for this organization and for the Dallas Public Library.



June Leftwich was a warrior for literacy and libraries for decades. In 1974 June joined the Dallas Public Library staff and served in many positions including

circulation supervisor, liaison to the Friends, volunteer coordinator and head

of the Library bookstore and gift shop. June organized and supervised many successful Dallas Public Library book sales raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the library. When she retired from the Library, June served on the Municipal Library Board, as Friends' President from 2000 – 2002, and served on the Lakewood Library Friends board.

# Membership

Simply put, members are the lifeblood of this organization. It's in our name and it's what we are to the Dallas Public Library. In 1950, Friends of the Dallas Public Library was established by 23 far-sighted individuals who took up the charge to be the Library's friend in good times and in challenging ones.

Our job is far from done. The current economic and social challenges are sure to bring pressure for budget cuts, and our members role as advocates will again be put to the test.

We invite everyone who appreciates the importance of a great FREE public library to join us — at whatever level of time, energy and financial support possible — to fight for this wonderful institution that we love.

Libraries need Friends — it's just that simple. Friends members make the difference between a budget cut or increase.

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.

To join us and become a member or to increase your support, call 214-670-1458 or visit our website www.supportdpl.org.



**Kate Park**, former executive director of the Friends lost her brave battle against a degenerative brain disease on July 2nd at age 40. Kate was a dear friend and

colleague, and this organization was so fortunate to benefit from her enthusiasm, her creativity and resourcefulness and her passion for libraries.



Then, on December 31st, the Friends lost a great supporter in former Dallas City Manager **George Schrader**. During his tenure, Dallas Public Library added

branches and services.

## Friends Members

#### 1950 SOCIETY

Annette Corman Gary Gadson Ilah Merriman Mona and Dave Munson Stefanie Schneidler and Jeffrey Robinson Randol Řodgers Norma and Don Stone Robert Zak

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