



**FRIENDS  
OF THE  
DALLAS PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

# **2023 IMPACT REPORT**



# FRIENDS OF THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

## OUR MISSION

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



## VISION

We, the Friends, will enable, support and promote the Library to be an **essential** and **vibrant learning institution** for the **community**.

# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

These past several years have been a roller coaster ride for the Friends, and for the Dallas Public Library, its 30 locations and nearly 400 staff members, that we cherish. As I conclude two years as Chairman, I am glad to report that we are back at the top.

Our libraries are open and flourishing, enriched by the creativity and innovation initiated by staff to continue serving the city while the buildings were closed.

Our political leaders better understand the need for a strong library and appreciate our efforts to keep the issue in front of the public.

Our committees are better organized and more active than ever, engaging with volunteers and increasing the scope of our activities and influence. The Membership Committee has done a particularly outstanding job, welcoming nearly 200 new members in the past two years.

I'm proud to recount some of the highlights of the past year:

- Spurred by the advocacy efforts and our strong showings at town hall meetings, our Dallas City Council increased library funding enabling 15 branches to expand operating hours and keep pace with rising costs for library materials.
- The return to normal life allowed us to hold our first in-person Annual Meeting and our first Annual Gala in three years.
- A generous donation by the David M. Munson and Mona Campbell Munson Fund of The Dallas Foundation enabled the Friends to enhance every library with Reading Ready Play Spaces.
- That was only part of an ambitious \$1.1 million campaign, our largest undertaking in many years, to fund early childhood literacy programs, multicultural programming for families, educational programming for children and adults, and grants for the Library staff, and more.
- In the longer term, our commitment to help the city fund the Dallas Public Library's Facilities and Strategic plan that will guide the future of our library system.

Although we are proud of all we have accomplished together, that commitment to our library's future is why we cannot rest. At a time when libraries face challenges ranging from fiscal difficulties to book-banning crusades, our combination of advocacy and financial support is more vital than ever to our community.

As we approach our 75th anniversary in 2025, the Friends will continue to build on our legacy of service, generosity, and passion for this great institution. I am more confident than ever about the future of the Friends and the Dallas Public Library, and I am so proud to have played even a small part in their success.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary J. Gadson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary Gadson, Chairman  
Friends of the Dallas Public Library  
2021-2023

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Director, Dallas Public Library*

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*Junior League of Dallas*

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## STAFF

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*Staff Accountant*

Brenna Curry  
*Development Coordinator*

Mary Wilonsky  
*Executive Director*

**1950**

Friends of the Dallas Public Library (Friends) founded by a group of 23 citizens determined to hold the City of Dallas accountable to expand and improve the Dallas Public Library

**1951**

Friends present the City of Dallas with a new bookmobile increasing library services to underserved neighborhoods

**1955**

Grand opening of the new central library. A George Dahl building, on Commerce and Harwood Street.

**1957**

Friends commission a survey to assess the need for branch libraries resulting in a master plan that called for 10 new branches by 1970



# FASCINATING LIBRARY FACTS

Total visitors – **5,853,160**

which included:

**891,769 million** in-people visits

**5 million** virtual visits

**1,655** curbside visits



**610,652** library cardholders



**44,067** hours of computer time was logged by library customers



Technology including Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots were checked out **20,260** times



**8,375** in-person and online programs

educated and entertained

**137,783** people



Library branches served as warming locations during winter storms



**8.4 million** library items circulated which included

**5.1 million** physical items

**3.3 million** digital items

Collection size:

**2,018,748**

physical items

**189,879** digital items



The Dallas Public Library accomplishes this despite being one of the poorest funded library systems among its peer cities.



\*\* Between October 2021 and September 2022 (Dallas Public Library's fiscal year)



# THE FRIENDS' POWERFUL IMPACT

Between July 2021 and June 2022, Friends of the Dallas Public Library provided nearly **\$500,000** in direct program funding and materials acquisition, of that \$53,754 was for capital projects. Total funding from Friends of the Dallas Public Library is decided prior to the beginning of each new fiscal year. Specific amounts are designated to each of the priority funding areas.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY \$61,417

Books for Dallas Babies at Parkland Health and Hospital System, pre-school storytimes, concerts, activities and programs at Bookmarks at NorthPark Center and take-home early literacy kits.

## READING READY PLAY SPACES

In July 2022, the Friends embarked on a **\$200,000 investment** in early childhood programs including installing Reading Ready Play Spaces at all Dallas Public Library locations. These spaces, designed for families with 0 – 5 year-olds will provide interactive play areas in libraries for caregivers and children makes the library a welcoming environment where families can play, learn, and grow together.

Each library location will have toys that spark imagination, get families talking, and encourage children to learn as they play. This investment in families with young children was made possible thanks to a very generous grant from the David M. Munson and Mona Campbell Munson Fund of the Dallas Foundation.



### 1970

The Friends continued acquiring treasures including illuminated manuscripts, papyrus sheets, and clay tablets, building a museum-quality collection of fine and rare books for the Dallas Public Library.

### 1974

Sponsored a series of 14 musical programs given by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

### 1975

Received \$1.8 million bequest from Virginia Lazenby O'Hara to build and furnish a fine and rare books area in the new Central Library

### 1978

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



# THE FRIENDS' POWERFUL IMPACT

## SMART KIDS \$145,824

Providing free quality educational programming for school-age children. SMART Kids connects youth with opportunities that inspire curiosity in Science, Math, Art, Reading and Technology at the library, ensuring that they have the skills needed to succeed in the 21st Century. Youth Services staff, community volunteers and community partners work collaboratively to develop SMART Kids programs focusing on ages 6 – 17.

A significant program that the Friends are proud to fund is SMART Summer at the Dallas Public Library. This beloved program helps kids of all ages keep their skills sharp and sets students up for success when they return to school in the fall.

Last summer, SMART Summer participation grew by nearly 25% with 7,143 children and teens and 1,750 adults registering to read. More than 2,365 participants read 50+ days, and with the libraries all back to 100% operation, in-person program attendance increased by nearly 30,000 over the summer of 2022. And, more than 16,000 free books were given away as reading incentives helping to build “at home” libraries citywide. Thank you to all our SMART Summer sponsors and donors who made summer 2022 another SMART one at the Dallas Public Library.



**1982**

Central Research Library opens, and includes the first Friends' office.

**1984**

As beneficiary of the Neiman Marcus Fortnight Gala, the Friends raised an unprecedented \$260,000 to fund Dallas Public Library's mainframe computer improving access to library materials.

**1985**

Articles of Incorporation were submitted and the Friends becomes a charitable non-profit, not-political organization

## THANK YOU TO ALL THE 2022 SMART SUMMER SPONSORS

### Diamond Sponsors

First Book  
Pizza Hut

### Platinum Sponsors

The Family of Jane Pak  
The Murrell Foundation  
Atmos Energy  
Margot Perot

### Gold Sponsors

H-E-B/Central Market  
Southern Methodist University  
The Freebie Guy

### Silver Sponsors

Deedie Rose  
Sarah and Alan Losinger  
Altrusa International of  
Downtown Dallas  
The Kahn Education  
Foundation

### Bronze Sponsors

Okon Metals Recycling  
Diane and George Wendel

### Special Friends

Bill Bond  
Norma and Don Stone  
The Harvey and Joyce Mitchell  
Family Foundation  
Jeannie and David Nethery  
Alice and Erle Nye  
The Clampitt Foundation  
Nemaha Ridge Publishing  
Group, LLC  
Linda and Steven Blasnik  
Philanthropic Fund of the Dallas  
Jewish Community Foundation  
Jane Saginaw and Stephen  
Lerer

# THE FRIENDS' POWERFUL IMPACT

## ADULT EDUCATION

**\$85,319**

GED classes and Testing Center, homeless engagement initiatives, literature and programs, programs for seniors, English Language Learning classes and Applied Language Learning.

## VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS AND MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMMING

**\$54,156**

Multicultural/Vibrant Neighborhood Events at all DPL locations *(FoDPL Funded)*

Year-round events, activities, and programs celebrating Dallas' diverse population. Includes cultural events and holiday celebrations. Funds are needed for special performers, activity supplies including arts and crafts, and science experiments. These are the programs that educate and entertain.

## INNOVATION GRANTS

**\$21,354**

Providing funding to inspire library staff to create new programs and projects.

## BRANCH SUPPORT

**\$5,987**

The Friends fund materials, staff events, supplies, and programs at all 29 Dallas Public Library branches and the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library.

## LIBRARY STAFF DEVELOPMENT

**\$32,459**

Library staff appreciation, advocacy, scholarships and career development opportunities.

## CAPITAL/MATERIALS ACQUISITIONS

**\$53,754** was provided for materials acquisition and capital projects.

Since 1950, Friends of the Dallas Public Library has provided more than \$50 million in capital funding and materials acquisitions.

**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. Literacy Lions dinner begins.

**1990**

Funded Dallas Public Library's successful Summer Reading Program with incentives that attracted over 10,000 children to participate. This partnership continues today.

**1991**

Awarded "Outstanding Large Public Library Friends" in the United States at the American Library Association Convention.

**1995**

Accepted a \$250,000 challenge from The Eugene McDermott Foundation to renovate the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library's first floor.



# FINANCIAL POSITION

<b>Revenue and other support</b>	<b>Without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>With Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>Total</b>
Membership dues	\$78,728	\$	\$78,728
Investment loss, net	(339,495)	(210,548)	(550,054)
Contributions	598,805	227,977	826,782
Book sales	43,700		43,700
In-kind contributions	72,900		72,900
Other income	18,000		18,000
Net assets released from restrictions	195,507	(195,507)	
<b>Total revenue and other support</b>	<b>668,145</b>	<b>(178,078)</b>	<b>490,067</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Program services	514,690		514,690
General and administrative	156,075		156,075
Fundraising	132,961		132,961
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>803,726</b>		<b>803,726</b>
	72,900		72,900
Change in net assets	18,000		18,000
	(135,581)	(178,078)	(313,659)
<b>Net assets, beginning of the year</b>	<b>2,892,849</b>	<b>2,333,005</b>	<b>5,225,854</b>
<b>Net assets, end of the year</b>	<b>\$2,757,268</b>	<b>\$2,154,927</b>	<b>\$4,912,195</b>

## 2008

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

## 2010

Celebrated the Friends 60th anniversary with a City of Dallas proclamation declaring May 20th as Friends of the Dallas Public Library Day.

## 2012

The Friends, branch Friends groups and the Municipal Library Board join forces to advocate to restore the Library's budget to re-recession levels, and fund the purchase of self-check out machines for every location.

## 2014

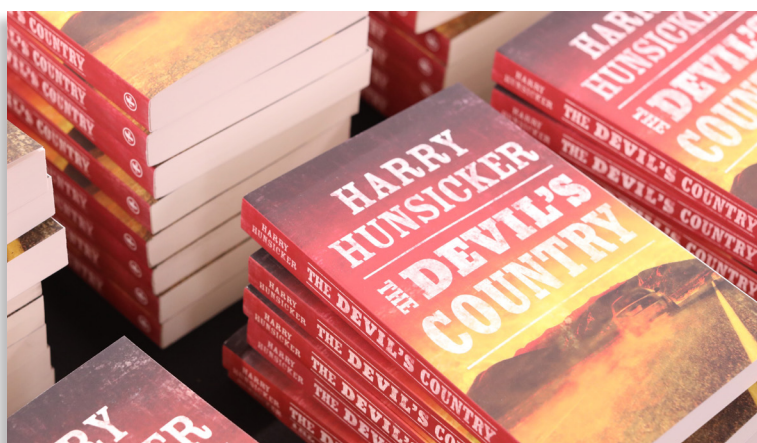
Unified Friends advocacy led to an unprecedented commitment for the City of Dallas, over two years, to restore the Dallas Public Library's budget increasing hours, hiring employees, making much-needed technology improvements.

# LOVE LOCAL

After a 2-year hiatus, the Friends annual gala – LOVE LOCAL – resumed. On Thursday, October 20, 2022, nearly 300 guests packed the downtown library’s newly renovated 6th floor for the event. The event was chaired by Friends Board Members Nicole Paquette and Kristine Schwoppe.

During the evening, the Friends presented its esteemed Exall Award to the 350+ member staff of the Dallas Public Library to recognize the efforts of the library staff to keep providing services during the pandemic, when library buildings were closed. The creativity and innovation that the staff developed to serve Dallas remotely while the buildings were shut down have made the library system even better.

At the event, the Friends also presented the Lillian M. Bradshaw Award for exemplary service to library staff member, Jessica Alvarado. The awards were followed by a panel discussion featuring local authors Harry Hunsicker, Jim Schutze, Donna Wilhelm and Erin Yun, moderated by Dallas Poet Laureate Joaquin Zihuatanejo.





# MEMBERSHIP

In 1950, Friends of the Dallas Public Library was established by 23 far-sighted individuals including Stanley Marcus, Leon Harris, Everette Lee DeGolyer, and Rabbi Levi Olan, who took up the charge to be the library's friend in good times and in challenging ones.

This has been our mission ever since.

We invite everyone who recognizes the importance of an exceptional 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 that simple. Friends members make the difference between a budget cut or an increase. 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 once again be put to the test.

Thank you for joining in this quest. To become a member or to increase your support, call **214-670-1458** or visit our website [www.supportdpl.org](http://www.supportdpl.org)



**1950**

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.



**1951**

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.



**1955**

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.



**1957**

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.



# LIBRARY LEGACIES, ESTATE GIFTS, & PLANNED GIVING

Friends of the Dallas Public Library knows from history that the next chapter may be more challenging, and now more than ever, having a world-class public library is critical to rebuilding post pandemic. We're dedicated to helping our library stay on the cutting edge with new and renovated facilities, technology, collections, and programs that make possible the Library's continued role as an essential guarantor of the quality of life in our community.

Since 1950, Friends of the Dallas Public Library has been a positive influence in meeting the special needs of the Library. This organization of dedicated men and women has promoted bond elections through which the Library has benefited; it has raised funds in support of facilities and programs beyond City of Dallas budgets; it has recognized library volunteers and staff who have advanced the impact of the Library System on a broad population.

Friends of the Dallas Public Library encourages and solicits contributions of cash and other forms of property in the development of our programs and operations. Contributions are accepted either as outright gifts or through planned gifts permitted by the Internal Revenue Code and the laws of the State of Texas.

## 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 welcome 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.

**1961**

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.



**1961**

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.



**1966**

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.



**1969**

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 MEMBERS

## 1950 SOCIETY (\$1,950)

Randol Rodgers  
Stefanie Schneider and Jeffrey Robinson  
Claire Usala and Steven Keithley

## BOOK HERO + (\$1,001 – 1949)

Kay and Elliot Cattarulla  
Annette Corman  
Norma and Don Stone

## BOOK HERO (\$1,000)

Atmos Energy, Mid-Tex Division  
Kathy Bishop  
Linda and Steve Blasnik  
Bill Bond  
Carole Braden  
President George W. Bush and Laura Bush  
Celina Cárdenas Fleites  
Patti and Roger Clapp  
Peggy Dear  
Marion and Henry Exall  
Amy and Lee Fikes  
Susan Harris  
H-E-B/Central Market  
Amanda and Chris Herron  
Lisa and Peter Kraus  
Dave Munson  
Charles Pak  
Margot Perot  
Robert Pollock  
Deedie Rose  
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Jeanne and Mark Teresi  
Dick Waters

## COLLECTOR (\$500)

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Shannon Callewart  
Melissa and Micah Chalmer  
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Cecilia and Tim Norwood  
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Martha Stowe and Ken Benson  
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Linda Vorhies  
Susan Warden

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Einstein Printing  
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Sandy and Jesse Rogers  
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Suzanne and Jamie Smith  
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Breck Garrett  
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Gus Gonzales  
Susybel Gosslee  
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Ryan Grogman  
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Penelope and Don Hanmer  
Hope Harbeck  
Anne Harding  
Tammy and Will Hartnett  
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Joy and Randy Lasley  
Andrea Laverett Hilburn  
Woot Lervisit  
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Aisha and Nicholas Lusk  
Prudence and John Mackintosh  
Tina Malone  
Michelle Manners and Marc L. Rathbun  
Melinda Marcus and A.C. Gonzalez  
Gloria and Bob Marion  
Gail and Gil Marmol  
Charlene Marsh  
Meshea and Timm Matthews  
Becky Mayad  
James McCabe  
Martha McCarty Wells  
Walt McCool  
Denise McGovern  
Susan Mead  
Sandy Melton Stephens  
Tincy Miller  
Katie Miller  
Mollie and David Monaco  
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Meaders and Robert Moore  
Ozarow  
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Michelle and Pete Profflet  
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Christopher Salerno and John 13

Dixon  
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Cynthia and Grant Schmidt  
Jaynie Schultz  
Anna and Irwin Segal  
Ellen Seldin  
Ricki and Gabe Shapiro  
Caro Stalcup  
Jenna and Derek Stapleton  
Meg Steinhart and Barry Steinhart  
Helen and Frank Stevenson  
Ann Stillman  
Kathy and Marvin Stone  
Erica and Allen Swackhamer  
Tannehill Masonic Lodge No. 52  
A.F. & A.M.  
Rosalie Taubman  
John Tillotson  
Jan and Tom Timmons  
Julie Travis  
Roslyn Walker  
Amy Walton and James Garrett  
Tim Webb  
Eric Weinbrom  
Heather Williams and Paul K  
Oswalt  
Margaret Wilonsky  
Lois Wolf  
Tamara and Brian Woodchek  
Ruth Yen  
Paula and Henry Zeitman  
Ann Zimmerman Gallant and  
Michael Gallant

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Susan Aldridge and Harry Ireland  
Gillea Allison  
Pat and Stan Altschuler  
Jean and Ben Andresen  
Nancy and George Banitch  
Caryn and John Berardi  
Martha and Bryan Bishop  
Sheryl and Gordon Bogen  
Beverly and Malcolm Bonnheim  
Diana and Charles Briner  
Byrdie Burras  
Hance Burrow  
Julia and Curt Carpenter  
Bonnie and Tom Case  
Joan and Travis Caudill  
Susan Chizeck  
Don Clampitt  
Anne and Terry Conner  
Juliette Coulter  
Perry and John Courville  
Christina and Nate Crain  
Betsy and Bennett Cullum  
Helen Delahunty  
Donna Denison  
Chuck Donaldson  
MaryLou and Mike Eveland  
Marisu Fenton  
Susan and Hollye Fisk  
Mark Forman  
Sarah Freeman  
John Fried  
Ilene Greene  
Suzi and Jack Greenman  
Carol and Fred Griffin  
Paula Hart and Karl Gensheimer  
Sharolyn Headroe  
Maria Hegar  
Alyssa and Mark Heimann  
Leigh Hopkins  
Patricia and Marc Hubbard  
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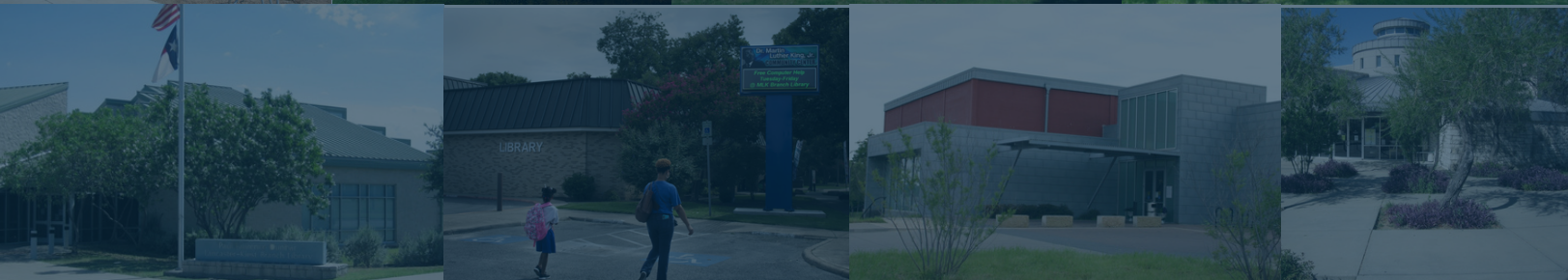
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