

FRIENDS
OF THE
DALLAS PUBLIC
LIBRARY

2024

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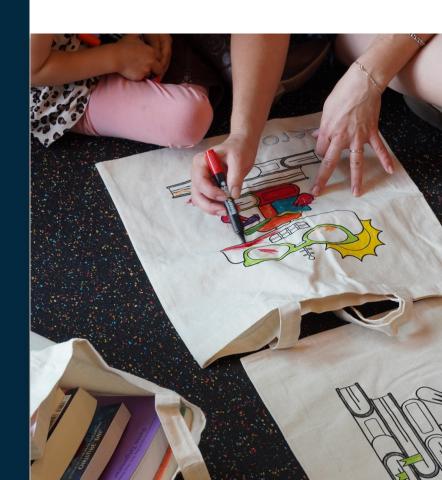
6 Members & Donors

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**.





"At a time when libraries face challenges ranging from fiscal difficulties to book-banning crusades, our continued commitment to advocacy and financial support is more crucial than ever to our community."

Dear Friends,

As we approach our 75th anniversary year, I want to thank our members for their continued support. Along with you, I am proud of what we have accomplished and relish tackling the challenges that lie ahead.

This past year, we continued to see our Dallas Public Library (DPL) system recover from the pandemic with programs and staff more creative and innovative than ever. The Dallas City Council approved funding so that all DPL locations are now open at least 6 days a week.

With the passage of Prop D, the citizens of Dallas approved \$43.5 million in capital improvements for our Library system which will result in new buildings for the North Oak Cliff and Park Forest branches, major renovations at the Preston Royal branch, and upgrades to eight branches bringing them into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As an organization, our committees remained energized by engaging with volunteers and increasing the scope of our activities and influence. These efforts are helping us build a strong foundation for our future.

Some of our highlights over the past year include:

- Spurred by our advocacy efforts and strong showing at town hall meetings, our Dallas City Council increased library funding, enabling 15 branches to expand operating hours so that now all DPL locations are open at least 6 days a week.
 Our efforts in support of Proposition D resulted in the proposition passing with 80% approval.
- We adopted an ambitious \$750,000 budget to fund early childhood literacy programs, multicultural programming for families, educational programming for children and adults, and grants for the library staff to extend their training and education.
- We provided funds for the recently released Dallas Public Library's Facilities and Strategic Plan with an investment by the Friends of more than \$250,000 in a 50/50 partnership with the City. This plan will guide the future of our library system for the next decade.
- We supported ongoing projects, including renovating the Central Library Youth Discovery Center's DiscoveryWall and sustaining the SMART Summer program, which is so important in maintaining reading skills during the school vacation.
- We also began planning for our milestone 75th anniversary. As we look forward to that anniversary, the Friends will build on our legacy of service, generosity and passion for our Dallas Public Library to make it one of the top five library systems in the nation.

With the support of our members, our elected officials, our funders, partner organizations and many others, we'll continue to work toward that goal in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Ken Benson, Chair

Friends of the Dallas Public Library

2023 - 2025

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BE A FRIEND. BECOME A MEMBER.

ADVOCATING

- Town Hall Budget Meetings
- Letters to City Hall
- SMART Summer Reading Ambassadors
- Council Candidate Surveys
- Candidate Forums

CELEBRATING

- Additional Hours at Library Branches
- Additional \$300,000 for Library Materials

FUNDING

Early Childhood Education | SMART Kids & SMART Summer | Adult Education & Workforce Development | Library Staff Development

SUPPORTING

Education | Library Staff | Scholarships | Awards | Big D Reads



Join online: bit.ly/DallasLibraryLove

Facts about **Dallas Public Library**

We're proud to showcase our library's impact and reach.

Impact by the Numbers





34,923 new library cards were issued bringing the total number of library cardholders to **643,892**.



Over **7.8 million** items borrowed this year including **3.9 million** physical materials and **3.9 million** E-materials.



11,247 devices checked out, providing digital access including 1,998 Chromebooks and 9,249 wifi hotspots.



4.7 million online visits and **198,000** program participants, fostering lifelong learning.

The Friends' Powerful Impact

Between July 2023 and June 2024, thanks to generous support from members and donors, Friends of the Dallas Public Library provided nearly \$700,000. Of that \$245,000 was invested in a new library strategic plan and completing renovations to the Kahn Pavilion DiscoveryWall at the Central Library.

Total library funding from the Friends is budgeted before the start of each fiscal year.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY | \$75,000

We are proud partners in several innovative library programs. Since 2016, Books for Dallas Babies has distributed thousands of books that support language development and celebrate the role of parents as their child's first teacher. Additionally, the Friends enable the Library to extend its educational outreach through Take Home Reading Ready Early Literacy Kits, including books, learning toys, and activities that foster skills like reading and singing.

Our Library's pre-school Storytimes and Reading Ready Play Spaces provide interactive and enriching experiences at all library locations. These programs create inviting environments that promote early literacy through play and storytelling, last year engaging over 40,000 attendees.



LIBRARY STAFF DEVELOPMENT | \$40,000

As we have for 75 years, Friends of the Dallas Public Library supports the professional growth of library staff. We invest annually in staff development, training, scholarships and career advancement opportunities. This funding enables staff to attend major industry conferences across the country, enhancing their skills and keeping them at the forefront of library science.

Each year, the Friends sponsor Dallas Public Library Staff Day, a special event for all staff members to celebrate achievements and foster team building. Specific initiatives like the Lloyd Bockstruck Scholarship Fund and the Lillian M. Bradshaw Award further exemplify the Friends' commitment to nurturing the Library's intellectual capital. These programs ensure our staff remains motivated and recognized for their contributions to the community and the library's mission.





with public support, Dallas Public Library is actively engaging the city's youth with dynamic and educational programs across a spectrum of interests. The SMART Kids initiative encompasses a comprehensive range of activities that stoke curiosity in Science, Math, Art, Reading, and Technology, impacting thousands of young minds each year.

A highlight in the literary arts is the Express Yourself! Poetry and Art Competition, which reached 883 students this year. Supported by the Joe M. and Doris R. Dealey Family Foundation, this program allows students from grades 2-12 to express their creativity. Finalists are honored with an awards ceremony and their work is published in an anthology.

The DiscoveryWall located within the Kahn Pavilion at the Central Library, offers interactive learning experiences, where students embark on virtual field trips around the globe thanks to funding from Atmos Energy. The SMART Summer program further enriches our offerings, engaging thousands in a 10-week summer learning festival that encourages reading,



THANK YOU TO THE 2024 SMART SUMMER SPONSORS

DIAMOND

Atmos Energy First Book Pizza Hut

PLATINUM

Margot Perot Lauren and Will Waldrop

GOLD

Southern Methodist University Astrid Merriman

SILVER

H-E-B/Central Market Kahn Education Foundation Barbara and John Neill Okon Recycling Deedie Rose

BRONZE

Audelia Road Library Friends Lake Highlands Women's League

Lakewood Library Friends Lochwood Library Friends Sarah and Alan Losinger Oak Lawn Library Friends Renner Frankford Library Friends

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WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

Pat and Stan Altschuler Lacy Naylor Alice and Erle Nye

ADULT EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | \$83,000

Dallas Public Library offers a broad array of services that cater to various community needs.

Since September 2023, the Career Launch Pad has provided personalized job assistance. Patrons receive help with job applications and securing vital documents.

GED classes and Testing Center initiatives, generously funded by Atmos Energy, serve 500-700 participants monthly, supporting instructor costs, testing scholarships and graduation ceremonies. Similarly, the Literacy/English Language Learning Centers assist patrons, enhancing skills in English language and literacy.

The literary spirit continues with Shakespeare Programs. Thanks to a grant from the Dallas Shakespeare Club, programs include celebrations such as the Bard's Birthday Bash and workshops on Elizabethan textiles and sword fighting. These programs aim to make Shakespeare's works more accessible and enjoyable, enriching participants' understanding of classical literature.

The 8th Floor Genealogy Programming, supported by the General Levi Casey branch of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Dallas Genealogical Society, enriches DPL's world-class Genealogy Department. These programs enhance genealogical research and offer special acquisitions and services.



VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS, MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMMING AND BRANCH SUPPORT | \$46,000

Friends of the Dallas Public Library is dedicated to enhancing community building and inclusion through vibrant neighborhood events and multicultural programming, educating and uniting Dallas' diverse communities.

The Friends support extends beyond individual branches—many of which lack independent friends groups—to include materials, events and program funding across all 29 neighborhood locations and the Central Library. Notable projects like the Vickery Festival of Lights and Storywalk installation, which combine literacy with physical activity, play a vital role in making the library a hub for community engagement and learning.



INNOVATION GRANTS | \$26,000

The Friends of the Dallas Public Library actively foster creativity through initiatives like Innovation Grants, inspiring Library staff to create new programs.

Among them is the Homeless Engagement and Leadership Program, launched in 2013. This program serves individuals with resources for emergency shelter and housing information, resume and job application assistance, and programs promoting social interaction, encouragement and inclusion.



CAPITAL/MATERIALS ACQUISITIONS

STRATEGIC PLAN FUNDING | \$245,000

In 2023, the City of Dallas began to develop a new comprehensive plan for the Library's future. Objectives include a strategic plan to guide library services and operations for three to five years as well as a 20-year plan for capital investments in facilities. Dallas Public Library requested the Friends partner 50/50 with the city to fund the plan, providing a data-driven roadmap for future projects.

DISCOVERYWALL UPGRADES | \$135,000

This popular feature at the Central Library is being upgraded. Once rennovations are complete, the virtual field trips will resume with a new system able to offer more experiences and programming.

AUDITED FINANCIAL POSITION AT JUNE 30, 2023

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	Without Donor Restrictions (\$)	With Donor Restrictions (\$)	Total (\$)
Membership Dues	57,019		57,019
Contributions	160,211	278,748	438,959
Special events, (net of direct costs of \$80,666)	38,390		38,390
Book Resale Contributions	33,127		33,127
In-Kind	17,125		17,125
Other Income	18,505		18,505
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	290,634	(290,634)	
Investment income, net	217,727	141,506	359,233
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$832,738	\$129,620	\$962,358

EXPENSES	Without Donor Restrictions (\$)	With Donor Restrictions (\$)	Total (\$)
Library Program Services	748,684		748,684
General and Administrative	140,605		140,605
Fundraising	144,742		144,742
Total Expenses	1,034,031		1,034,031
Change in Net Assets	(201,293)	129,620	(71,673)
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	2,757,268	2,154,927	4,912,195
Net Assets, End of the Year	\$2,555,975	\$2,284,547	\$4,840,522

A NOVEL NIGHT OUT

Our annual Fall Gala on October 26, 2023 was a best-selling success. We welcomed **Lynda Rutledge**, author of **West With Giraffes**, and honored the late **David M. Munson**, **Sr.** with the **May Dickson Exall Award** for outstanding contributions to libraries and literacy in Dallas.





After a delicious dinner, Ms. Rutledge regaled the crowd with tales of how libraries nurtured her love of reading and her career as a writer and inspired her two successful novels. She also previewed her new novel, **Mockingbird Summer**, which was published in January.

Thanks to our host for the evening, **WFAA** meteorologist **Mariel Ruiz**, all of our generous sponsors, our volunteers who helped make it all happen, and everyone who bought tickets to support our libraries.



75TH ANNIVERSARY

2025 is our Diamond Jubilee – 75 years since the founding of Friends of the Dallas Public Library – and we have a lot to celebrate. When 23 distinguished citizens founded this organization in 1950, they could not have dreamed of the forces they were setting in motion. They determined that Dallas deserved a library system worthy of a great American city and the great accomplishments that would follow.

The first achievement – a new bookmobile to benefit underserved neighborhoods – followed a year later. The successes since then could fill volumes: millions of dollars raised to improve libraries, enhance programming and support staff; compelling advocacy to ensure public and political understanding and support for the Library system; projects and activities to harness the energy of volunteers and the passions of patrons for their Library; events and galas that brought many of the country's most important authors to our city.

We'll observe our anniversary with events throughout the year to honor our heritage, salute those who brought us this far, and continue fulfilling our mission to help our Library serve the public with dedication, creativity, and innovation. Please watch our monthly newsletter and social media for updates as this joyous Diamond Jubilee year unfolds.





MEMBERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

At the Friends Annual Meeting in June, Interim City Manager Kimberly Bizor Tolbert told the crowd that "not only are you guys our friends, you are our strategic partners." She said she often sat in City Council meetings discussing Dallas' budget priorities, "And there were more people in the audience who were Friends of the Dallas Public Library than any other group. I don't know how y'all end up outnumbering everybody, but y'all got a tight game, and keep that game up."

It's no accident. Advocacy for our Library is a vital part of what we do. In recent years our members have helped persuade city leaders to restore budgets slashed during the recession, enabling the library to enhance staff and programming, and open every branch at least 6 days a week. This year our work helped ensure passage of the Prop D city bond issue to rebuild two libraries and improve many others, with 80 percent approval from voters.

Membership is the key to advocacy. In this decade our revitalized Membership Committee has done a tremendous job in building our organization to more than 450 members. Each one adds to our capabilities, our voice in the community and our passion for the Library.

We want, and we need, to keep growing to make the Friends an even more effective advocate for our Library. We hope that every member will be a recruiter as well, sharing the joy, the commitment and the mission of Friends of the Dallas Public Library.







LIBRARY LEGACIES ESTATE GIFTS & PLANNED GIVING

An important factor in our support of the Library for 75 years has been the legacies our Friends leave for generations to come. There are many ways that planned giving can ensure a lasting impact on our Library and our city, including bequests, trust designations, annuities, and transfer of securities or life insurance policies. We're grateful for your consideration and we are happy to explore all the options with you. You can find more details at **supportdpl.org/leave-a-legacy**.

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.

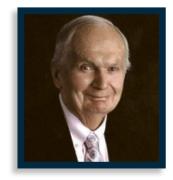


IN MEMORIAM

We recall with affection and gratitude friends who passed in the last year:



David Munson, **Sr.**, devoted longtime supporter of our libraries, passed away on July 15,2023. David and his wife Mona, who passed away in 2021, were passionate advocates of early childhood education and inspired the creation of Reading Ready Play Spaces in every branch of the Dallas Public Library to help toddlers get ready for a lifetime of reading. We honored Mr. Munson with our May Dickson Exall Award for outstanding contributions to libraries and literacy, and presented the award posthumously in October 2023.



Richard "Dick" Waters, former Dallas Public Library director, internationally acclaimed library consultant and longtime member of both the Friends and the Preston Royal Library Friends, passed away on August 8, 2023. He was closely involved with planning and building the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library and was on the 'Where were you in '82?' panel celebrating the building's 40th anniversary in 2022.



Laurie Evans, former director of the Dallas Public Library, passed away on December 8, 2023. Laurie held many positions in our library system and served as director from 2004 until 2010. Under her leadership, the library implemented a bond program which resulted in the construction or renovation of four branch libraries and three floors of the Central Library, as well as the purchase of the land for five new buildings. She also spearheaded partnerships with Atmos Energy and the Bookmarks children's library at NorthPark Center.



Jim Feldman, member of our Board of Directors, passed away on April 6, 2024. A devoted supporter of libraries, Jim had a distinguished 40-year career as a television producer, working with ESPN, the Dallas Mavericks, the Texas Rangers, the FC Dallas soccer team, and many other broadcasters. As FC Dallas wrote in a tribute, he'll be remembered fondly for his "poise, professionalism and sense of humor."

FRIENDS MEMBERS

1950 SOCIETY (\$1,950)

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BOOK HERO + (\$1,000-\$1,949)

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