

FRIENDS OF THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY TALKING POINTS FOR TOWN HALL BUDGET MEETINGS

August 12, 2021

Dear Library Friends,

This past weekend the Dallas City Manager released his proposed 2021-2022 budget for the City of Dallas, and there is good news for the Dallas Public Library. If approved, the library will maintain its current funding level with no cuts proposed. But we still need your help.



Budget Town Hall meetings run through August 26. Find a list of all the meetings

here <https://dallascityhall.com/departments/budget/financialtransparency/Pages/budget-town-halls.aspx>

1. Start by thanking the council members and remind them of the Library's positive impact (see the following pages)

2. Ask for the Council members' support for the proposed budget

- Ensure that there are NO CUTS. The budget from Mr. Broadnax proposes maintaining current library service at all 30 branches and the Central Library.
- Recommend that, as soon as possible, the library budget is allowed to grow modestly for technology improvements and materials like physical items (books, music, and movies) and digital items. Both continue to get more expensive.
- Encourage support for Dallas Public Library's programs, where the library provides impactful services.

3. Listen and Report Back

- Hear something you think we should know about? Is the council member a library supporter? If they are not, are there library programs and services that they do support?
- Let us know what you hear by emailing friends@fodpl.org or call our office 214-670-1458

4. Close on a positive!

- Express your thanks for city council's support for the Dallas Public Library
- Ask if they have any concerns or ideas that they would like to share.

Facts about Dallas Public Library (October 2019 - September 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

Dallas Public Library Testimonials

The following are just a few of the hundreds of testimonials from Dallas citizens who RELY on the Dallas Public Library.

Adult Education/English Language Learning

The Day I Change My Life by Laura from Mexico

The day I decided to change my life was a long time ago. I guess it happened when I decided to move to the United States looking for a better life. I was born and raised in Mexico for the first 20 years of my life...Emigrating is really hard, not only because you leave family and friends, but because you leave a whole life behind. When you move to a different country, you have to deal with so many different things, in special to learn a new language. That is why, I love going to the Public Libraries in Dallas because these places offer so many programs, not only for kids but also for adults. These programs, in special the ELL classes, have help to improve my reading, my writing, and my speaking better now. I think these places are good for our communities. I can only say thank you because you really change my life for the better!

About SMART Summer

The activities that we were able to pick up and the curbside book pick up were LIFE SAVERS!! My kids used the booked pick-up every week - it not only entertained them to get books but also to pick them out on the computer.

My children have loved the presentations. I think we attended a total of 11. The Perot Tech Truck and Slappy and Monday were their favorites. We got to add 10 more books to our library this summer!

Heard from Friends Members - "Why I Love My Library"

I have used DPL since the '70s. And have volunteered since 2011. My life would be poorer without the relationships built over the years with librarians, friends, and family as we shared resources, experiences, and events. Thank you all involved with creating such a rich environment even during the past year of doing things online and making drop-off/pick-up available!

I am a teacher, I want to thank your support and dedication, thanks to you my students grow every day!

The library is a spot of almost normalcy in the ever-changing (while at the same time, never-changing) situation that we're all in right now. Thank you so much to everyone at DPL for helping us be able to keep reading, watching movies, and listening to books during this crazy time.

I am a frequent user of the library in 'normal' times, and the months when the library was shut down this year were a real loss. I am so thankful every day for the team at the library who are helping us stay connected to our literary selves and traveling on the pages at a time when we are all stuck at home.

The library is like a second home, and I miss good visits during COVID. But you all have miraculously maintained a high level of service during this strange time. I will always think a physical library is important as a community center, but I am so grateful for the wonderful services available through technology. I love borrowing e-books and audio books from the comfort of my home! Thank you for these services

My library is always THERE— like the post office, an essential part of life. I love that I can browse online, and even during COVID days, be able to get them delivered to my car— how good is that?! And I love how knowledgeable and pleasant the librarians are to me.

I am so proud of the way the library staff has continued to provide best-quality programming and services in the midst of a pandemic. You have worked so hard to keep libraries not just relevant, but vital. We love you!

DPL is a community-wide resource that unites and lifts everyone. It has always been essential, and has proven its resilience over this past year. Very grateful to the staff who make it happen!

Through your good work, the library opens up the world to everyone, no matter their background, education or situation. You help educate people of all walks of life and all ages. You bring joy and excitement and possibilities and comfort through books that touch us as nothing else can. In Columbia, there is one library for the whole country. Look at our riches in books for all. Thank you for being a part of one of the greatest gifts and liberties we have in the USA. I love the library and I love you!

The Dallas Public Library is like a treasure chest. What is more enriching than a place that can expand your mind, enrich your soul and take you anywhere you want to go - without leaving home or spending money. I have never met a more helpful group of professionals than librarians. Unsung heroes!

Questions? Contact the Friends office – friends@fodpl.org or 214-670-1458