

FRIENDS  
OF THE  
DALLAS PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

20  
25



# IMPACT REPORT



CELEBRATING

75

Years of  
Friendship

# FEATURES

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## 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.

## OUR VISION

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

**FRIENDS  
OF THE  
DALLAS PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**



[www.supportdpl.org](http://www.supportdpl.org)



[friends@fodpl.org](mailto:friends@fodpl.org)



214-670-1458



Friends of the Dallas Public Library  
1515 Young Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Dallas, Texas 75201



# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



It has been a milestone year for the Friends of the Dallas Public Library.

This year we celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> year as an organization supporting our Dallas Public Library system. We commemorated the occasion with special events throughout the year: a delightful and entertaining evening with Rena Pederson, author of *The King of Diamonds*, an archival exhibit at the Central Library recounting our proud history of advocacy and financial support for our essential civic treasure, and a joyous, elegant luncheon featuring acclaimed author Ben Fountain. **We also finished the year with 650 members, a notable number given the record year-over-year increase.**

Since our founding in 1950, the Friends have raised over \$60 million to enhance our Dallas libraries. This past year, we reaffirmed our commitment by pledging to provide at least \$350,000 annually for Library programming over the next few years, with a goal of raising as much as \$1 million annually in the years ahead.

Organizationally, we have grown, too. Our committees, from Advocacy and Membership to Development and Finance, are more organized, efficient and motivated than ever.

Looking forward, we will need to build on these achievements.

For years, our city's investment in the Library system has lagged that of comparable cities both in Texas and across the nation. With City of Dallas budget cuts on the horizon, the years ahead will be especially challenging for the Dallas Public Library system and its supporters.

It will be important for us to maintain our vigorous advocacy to inform the community and City officials about the impact our Library has on Dallas and its residents, to make the case that the Dallas Public Library is an indispensable resource for the 1.3 million people of Dallas.

It has been my great honor to serve as Board Chair for the past two years, and I could not be more pleased and confident that our organization will flourish under our new Chair, Nicole Paquette.

As you read this Annual Report, I hope you share my pride in all we have accomplished together and my resolve to continue our vital mission in the years to come.

Ken Benson, Chair  
Friends of the Dallas Public Library  
2023-2025

# 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS

Ken Benson  
*Chair*

Nicole Paquette  
*Vice Chair*

Leigh Hopkins  
*Secretary*

Melissa Chalmer  
*Assistant Secretary*

Stephanie Williamson  
*Treasurer*

Larrie Weil  
*Assistant Treasurer*

Gary Gadson  
*Immediate Past Chair*

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Pat Altschuler

Zhen Barrientos

Anne Besser

Christa Camp

Kara Cecala

Farheen Charanya

Annette Corman

Juliette Coulter

Philip Crew

George de Verges

Steven Dominguez

Sarah Evans

Tony Font

Susan Harris

Sharolyn Headroe

Rebecca Jerry

Timm Matthews

Denise McGovern

Andrea Pender

Ann Piper

Pat Porter

Cynthia Rutherford

Nikita Sarin

Neil Schlager

Marrie Smith

Megan Townsend

Barbara van Pelt

Jenae Ward

## EX OFFICIO

Heather Lowe

*Interim Director, Dallas Public Library*

Katherine Unmuth

*Chair, Municipal Library Board*

Gary Gadson

*Immediate Past Chair,  
Friends of the Dallas Public Library*

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Charlene Howell

Sandra Johnigan

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Sandy Melton Stephens

Pam Meyercord

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Bette Mullins

Nancy Nasher

Caro Stalcup

Don Stone



Anne Besser

Nicole Paquette

**BE A FRIEND.  
BECOME A MEMBER.**

JOIN ONLINE: [bit.ly/Dallas\\_LibraryLove](https://bit.ly/Dallas_LibraryLove)



# PRIDE IN OUR LIBRARY

## IMPACT BY NUMBERS



\*Between October 2023 and September 2024 (Dallas Public Library's fiscal year)



**8,626,348**

Total items circulated

**4,195,990**

eMaterials

**4,430,358**

Physical



**688,257**

Total cardholders

**54,718**

New cardholders



**15,992**

# of programs

**237,690**

Program attendance

**1,683**

Outreach events

Spoke to  
**95,384** people



**14,344**

Volunteer hours

**692**

Volunteers



**312,432**

Computer sessions



### NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR

## MANYA SHORR

In June, we welcomed Manya Shorr as the new Director of Dallas Public Library. Manya's extensive experience in leading public library systems includes positions in Washington, D.C.; Omaha, Nebraska; Sacramento, California; Portland, Oregon; and most recently, six years as Director of the Fort Worth Public Library.

Manya earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Oregon and a master's degree from the University of Illinois and the University of Texas at Arlington. Her work prioritizing the needs of the community was recognized by the Texas Library Association in 2020 when she was named Librarian of the Year.

We congratulate Manya on joining our terrific Library team and look forward to working with her in the years to come.

# CELEBRATING 75 YEARS TIMELINE OF IMPACT

**1950**

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

**1955**

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

**1961**

- Purchased the first edition of *Peter Rabbit* for the Rare Book collection in the Children's Department.

**1966**

- Participated in the American Library Association project to encourage the formation of Friends groups for 12,000 public and college libraries.

**1951**

- Presented the City of Dallas with a new bookmobile, increasing library services to underserved neighborhoods.

**1957**

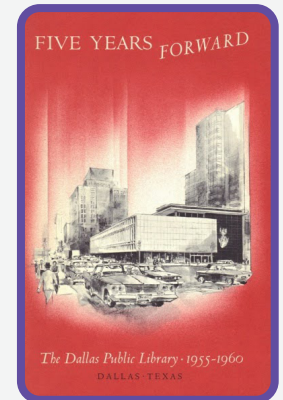
- Commissioned a survey to assess the need for branch libraries, resulting in a master plan that called for 10 new branches by 1970.

**1964**

- Promoted the interests of Dallas Public Library in the City bond election, resulting in four new branches for Dallas by 1964.

**1969**

- Urged Dallas legislators to support the Library Systems Act, successfully passed by the legislature.



**1991**

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

**1997**

- Provided \$50,000 to purchase state-of-the-art plastic library cards for all patrons as part of the new automation system.

**2001**

- Celebrated Dallas Public Library's 100th birthday with the exhibit "100 Years of the Dallas Public Library," and published the book *The Dallas Public Library: Celebrating a Century of Service, 1901-2001* by Michael V. Hazel.

**2008**

- Funded a second bookmobile for the City of Dallas, thanks to the generosity of ATMOS Energy.

**2009**

- Opened Teen Centers in 20 branch locations with support from AT&T.

**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 of dollars.

**2000**

- Funded the purchase of Library on Wheels (Mobile Learning Center) with \$325,000 generously provided by the Crystal Charity Ball.

**2002**

- Advocacy efforts culminated in the successful passage of a \$55.5 million bond package for citywide library improvements and expansion of service areas.

**2010**

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

• • • **1970**

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

• • • **1975**

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

• • • **1986**

• Dallas City Council named the Central Library for Mayor J. Erik Jonsson. Proposed budget cuts were lessened through the advocacy work of the Friends. Introduced Literary Lions dinner program, inviting authors to speak.

• • • **1974**

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

• • • **1978**

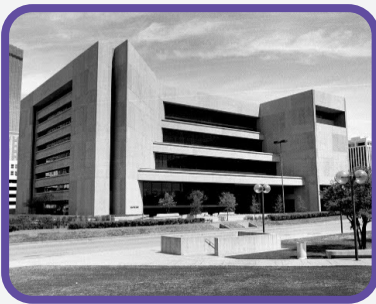
• Mayor J. Erik Jonsson worked with the Friends to secure \$10 million in private funds, matched by City funds for the proposed Central Research Library.

• • • **1985**

• Articles of Incorporation were submitted and the Friends became a charitable non-profit, non-political organization.

• • • **1990**

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



• • • **2012**

• The Friends, branch Friends groups and the Municipal Library Board joined forces to advocate and restore the Library's budget to pre-recession levels and fund the purchase of self-checkout machines for every location.

• • • **2016**

• Central Library's renovated 7<sup>th</sup> floor reopened thanks to \$3.5 million provided by the Friends and matched by the City of Dallas, providing a beautiful space for the Fine and Rare Materials Collection.

• • • **2022**

• Celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Research Library.

• • • **2014**

• Advocacy efforts led to an unprecedented commitment for the City of Dallas to restore Dallas Public Library's budget—increasing hours, hiring employees and making much-needed technological improvements.

• • • **2020**

• Friends funded adjustments needed to service model to support library users during the COVID-19 pandemic.

• • • **2021**

• Opened Vickery Park and Forest Green branch locations thanks to the Friends' advocacy work, raising more than \$15 million in bond funding and nearly \$1 million from the Friends' fundraising for upgrades.

• • • **2023**

• Board of Directors approved \$1.1 million in direct funding for library programs and projects, including \$200,000 for Reading Ready Play Spaces and a commitment to fund 50% of new Facility and Strategic Plan.



It has been a sparkling year for the Friends as we celebrated our Diamond Jubilee – 75 years of advocacy, program support and fundraising that help sustain Dallas Public Library.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ In a most appropriate program, author and journalist Rena Pederson headlined “A Diamond Date” dinner at the Dallas Museum of Art’s Hamon Atrium in October to discuss her book *The King of Diamonds - The Search for the Elusive Texas Jewel Thief*.
- ◆ Even more appropriately, we unveiled plans for the Diamond Jubilee year with a reception in January at the new luxurious Tiffany and Co. store at NorthPark Center.
- ◆ FoDPL hosted a six-month exhibit on the Central Library’s 7<sup>th</sup> floor marking our anniversary with photographs, documents and memorabilia chronicling 75 years of achievement.
- ◆ We revived our Literary Lions Luncheon brand in April, packing the Arts District Mansion to celebrate the anniversary and inspire the Friends to meet the challenges still ahead. Author Ben Fountain gave the stirring keynote speech.
- ◆ The exhibit wrapped up with a festive reception for Friends and guests in October, as we began looking forward to Dallas Public Library’s 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026.



FAREWELL, MARY & THANK YOU! ✨

This year, we bade farewell to Mary Wilonsky, who served Friends of the Dallas Public Library for 12 years, the last seven as our Executive Director.

We’re very grateful for all Mary did to build a professional staff and our volunteer Board of Directors, increase our membership and financial resources, and invigorate the Friends as an effective voice for our libraries and our community.

“I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished together,” she told the Board in announcing her decision to leave. “This felt like the right time to step aside and make space for new leadership to build on what’s been achieved. There’s so much ahead for the Friends and for Dallas Public Library.”

Thank you, Mary, for everything. We wish you all the best, and we’ll see you at the library.

# THE FRIENDS' POWERFUL IMPACT

Between July 2024 and June 2025, Friends of the Dallas Public Library provided more than \$551,988 in direct program funding and materials acquisition.

SEE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF WHAT ALL WE HAVE FUNDED ▼



## Early Childhood Literacy \$117,704

Available at all Dallas Public Library branches, pre-school Storytimes and Reading Ready Play Spaces offer interactive programs designed for young learners. These experiences support early literacy development by blending play-based learning with storytelling.

### IMPACT STORY

At White Rock Hills Branch's Toddler Storytime, a parent shared that their child's new favorite game at home is "storytime". Mom plays the librarian, leading the same songs and dances learned at the library. Early literacy programs like Toddler Storytime make lasting impressions on Dallas' youngest learners and their families.

## Library Staff Development \$39,764

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 most valuable assets. These programs ensure the staff remains motivated and recognized for their contributions to the community and the library's mission.



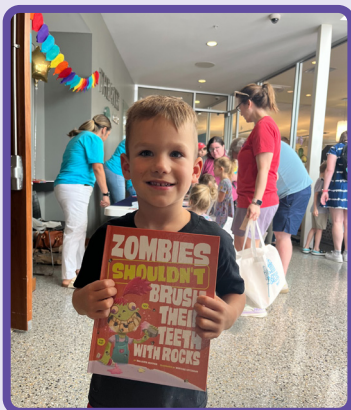
### IMPACT STORY

Staff from the Youth Discovery Center visited the Belleview Apartments in the Cedars to promote library programs and to play math games. One child insisted they return for his birthday in July. Outreach visits like these bring the library directly to the community, sparking curiosity and joy that last far beyond a single event.

# SMART Kids

## \$176,332

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 spark curiosity in Science, Math, Art, Reading and Technology, impacting thousands of young minds each year. SMART Summer rewards participating kids with prizes throughout the summer for their involvement and achievements in the reading, creating and learning programs.



## THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SMART SUMMER SPONSORS

### DIAMOND

- Atmos Energy
- First Book
- Pizza Hut

### PLATINUM

- Dallas Arboretum
- Margot Perot
- Lauren & Will Waldrop

### GOLD

- Central Market / H-E-B
- Crayola Experience Plano
- Southern Methodist University
- Donna Wilhelm

### SILVER

- IHOP
- Kahn Education Foundation
- Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
- Deedie Rose
- State Fair of Texas
- Whataburger

### BRONZE

- Audelia Road Library Friends
- Lake Highlands Women's League
- Lakewood Library Friends
- Sarah & Alan Losinger
- Barbara & John Neill
- Okon Metals Inc.
- Renner Frankford Library Friends
- Skillman Southwestern Library Friends
- Laura Starks & Joe Dannenmaier
- Diane & George Wendel

### FRIENDS

- Altrusa International of Downtown Dallas
- Sara Ann & Frank Korman
- Mendocino Farms
- North Oak Cliff Library Friends
- Cynthia & John Rutherford
- Suzanne & Jamie Smith

### WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

- Diana Cordova & Bill Gustavson
- Cynthia Cowan
- Epic Waters Indoor Waterpark
- Hampton Illinois Library Friends
- Oak Lawn Library Friends
- Rohan Foundation
- Ruibal's Plants of Texas
- SMU Athletics
- Margaret Wilonsky

# Adult Education & Workforce Development

## \$77,925

Dallas Public Library provides a wide range of services designed to meet diverse community needs. Since September 2023, the Career Launch Pad has personalized job search support, including help with applications, digital literacy and essential work skills. The Library also provides GED classes and a Testing Center that serves hundreds of participants each month, along with Literacy and English Language Learning Centers to strengthen reading and language skills.

Readers' Advisory, Genealogy and Inspired Aging are enriching programs offered by the library. Literary and cultural presentations such as Shakespeare programs bring classic works to life, making literature accessible and engaging for the community. Events like the Bard's Birthday Bash and other interactive workshops are made possible through a grant from the Dallas Shakespeare Club.

### IMPACT STORY

A patron came to the City Life, Education and Work Skills floor at the Central Library looking for the TExES certification exam books. He needed to pass the certification exam to keep his job, but the practice books in the bookstore were too expensive. He was able to check out the books from the library that day. Libraries make professional growth possible by removing financial barriers to essential learning resources.



# Vibrant Neighborhoods, Multicultural Programming and Branch Support

## \$32,263

Dallas Public Library strengthens community connections and inclusion through neighborhood events and multicultural programming. By funding these programs with materials, supplies and staff, the Friends enable libraries to be welcoming hubs for learning and engaging with the community at all library locations.



### IMPACT STORY

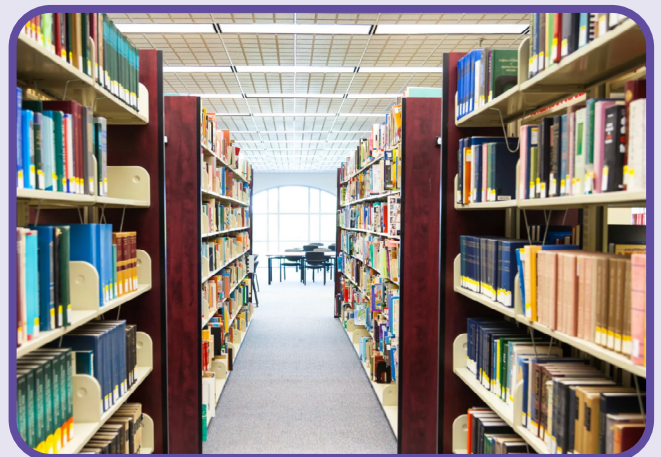
The English conversation class at Fretz Park Branch had a potluck picnic where participants brought dishes from their native countries, shared stories, danced and learned about different cultures. One of the students thanked the staff for being so welcoming. She said the class was “at first just a way to practice English, but it turned into so much more.” By creating spaces for learning and belonging, libraries help neighbors from around the world connect through language, culture and friendship.



# Capital/Materials Acquisitions

## \$19,021

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



# AUDITED FINANCIAL POSITION

AT JUNE 30, 2024



Revenue and Other Support	Without Donor Restrictions (\$)	With Donor Restrictions (\$)	Total (\$)
Membership Dues	71,104		71,104
Contributions	599,610	436,952	1,036,562
Special Events, Net	272,574		272,574
Book Sales	29,116		29,116
In-Kind	16,525		16,525
Other Income	31,000		31,000
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	403,007	(403,007)	
Investment Income, Net	293,781	149,430	443,211
<b>Total Revenue and Other Support</b>	<b>\$1,716,717</b>	<b>\$183,375</b>	<b>\$1,900,092</b>

Expenses	Without Donor Restrictions (\$)	With Donor Restrictions (\$)	Total (\$)
Library Program Services	583,237		583,237
General and Administrative	193,264		193,264
Fundraising	314,066		314,066
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,090,567</b>		<b>1,090,567</b>
Change in Net Assets	<b>626,150</b>	<b>183,375</b>	<b>809,525</b>
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	<b>2,754,529</b>	<b>2,303,153</b>	<b>5,057,682</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of the Year</b>	<b>\$3,380,679</b>	<b>\$2,486,679</b>	<b>\$5,867,207</b>

# 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**FRIENDS OF THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
1950-2025

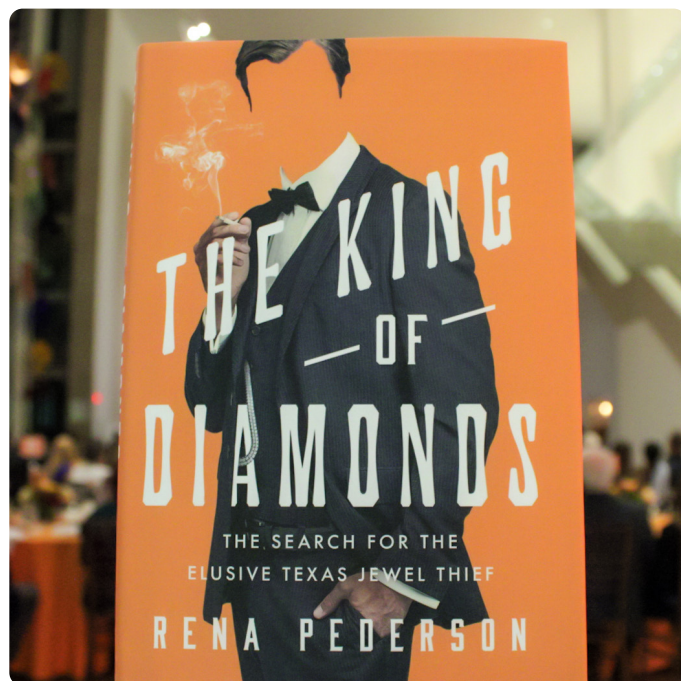
## A DIAMOND DATE

Friends of the Dallas Public Library kicked off its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style with a memorable Diamond Date event on Tuesday, October 15.

Award-winning author Rena Pederson captivated more than 200 guests at the Dallas Museum of Art with an engaging discussion of her latest book, *The King of Diamonds*. Attendees, including supporters, community leaders and library advocates, enjoyed dinner and a lively program.

We were also thrilled to honor Jo Giudice with the Exall Award after serving as our city's Director of Libraries for 12 years. While Jo retired in October 2024, her positive impact on the Dallas Library system will never be forgotten.

Proceeds from the evening went to support our ongoing mission to enhance library services. The event was a fantastic start to this milestone year in our commitment to literacy and the Dallas Public Library.



# LITERARY LIONS LUNCHEON

On Wednesday, April 9, 2025, Friends of the Dallas Public Library hosted the Literary Lions Luncheon, celebrating National Library Week and 75 years of Friends of the Dallas Public Library!

Nearly 300 library advocates gathered at the stunning Arts District Mansion for an inspiring afternoon featuring guest speaker and former Dallasite, Ben Fountain. His moving words reminded us of the importance of our work—advocating for Dallas Public Library and ensuring it remains a thriving, equitable resource for all. Ben spoke passionately about how libraries empower individuals, strengthen communities and preserve democracy. It was a powerful reminder of why your support, and our mission, matters.

We're grateful to all who attended, and we thank our sponsors and donors who made this momentous event possible. We are also appreciative of an Anonymous Donor who generously gifted everyone in attendance a one-year Friends Membership, immediately increasing our community of library advocates and supporters.

## 2025 SPONSORS

### DIAMOND

Mary Cook

### EMERALD

Kay & Elliot Cattarulla

Ellen McStay

Mrs. Margot Perot

Anne & Jeremy Besser

### SAPPHIRE

Drs. Cynthia & John Rutherford

Barbara Lynn

Annette Corman

Barbara van Pelt

Haynes & Boone

TXU / Vistra Operations Company

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

Einstein Printing

Communities Foundation of Texas

Atmos Energy

Martha Stowe & Ken Benson

Mark Perkins

Dallas Institute of Humanities & Culture at SMU

### TOPAZ

McCool Law Firm PC

Susan Fleming

Lauren & Will Waldrop

Westwood Wealth Management

Patti Clap

### AMETHYST

Margaret Wilonsky

Frances Morriss

Pamela Nelson

Susan S. Fisk

Veletta Forsythe Lill

Carole Braden



## WITH GENEROUS DONATIONS FROM:

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Jan Norris

Laura Starks & Joe Dannenmaier

### \$500-\$999

Margaret Black

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Rebecca Jerry

Omni Dallas Hotel

Nancy Perot

Marrie Smith

### \$100 - \$499

Andrea & Jonathan Bard

Melissa & Philip Crew

Sarah Evans

LeDee Sachs

Nikita Sarin

Cristie & Rodney Schlosser

Elizabeth Wally



## CHAPTERS OF SUPPORT ARCHIVE EXHIBIT

After a lovely brunch on Saturday, February 22, 2025, Friends of the Dallas Public Library unveiled an archive exhibit, *Chapters of Support: 75 Years of Friends of the Dallas Public Library*, at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. This special exhibit offered a fascinating journey through time, showcasing archival materials, rare photographs and historical artifacts that told the story of the organization's impactful role in supporting and shaping the Dallas Public Library over the past 75 years.



# LIBRARY LEGACIES

## ESTATE GIFTS & PLANNED GIVING

Since 1950, Friends of the Dallas Public Library has been a positive influence in meeting the distinctive needs of the Library. This organization of dedicated library lovers has promoted bond elections through which the Library has benefited; it has raised funds in support of facilities and programs beyond the City of Dallas budgets; it has recognized library volunteers and staff who have advanced the library throughout our community.

Friends of the Dallas Public Library knows from history that the next 75 years will be more challenging, and having a world-class public library is critical to growth in our community. We are 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.

An important factor in our 75 years of supporting the Library 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.

### 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, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Dallas, TX 75201  
EIN 75-2033106

#### CREATE YOUR LEGACY

To create your legacy,  
call 214-670-1458

#### AS A TRIBUTE

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

*\*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.*

### CONSIDER AN ENDOWMENT GIFT OR BEQUEST

Gifts of any size are appreciated. Endowment gifts, employee match gifts and bequests help fund operations as well as library programming in the areas of:

- Early Childhood Education
- SMART Kids
- Adult Education/Workforce Development
- Vibrant Neighborhoods & Multicultural Programming
- Staff Development
- Branch Support
- Innovation Grants
- Capital & Materials Acquisition

## IN MEMORIAM

*We recall with everlasting affection and gratitude our Friends who passed in the last year:*



**Ann Folz**, a longtime supporter of the Library, passed away November 19, 2024, at 94. Among her many interests and activities, she was a devoted volunteer at the Oak Lawn Branch Library. We were touched and gratified that Ann included Friends of the Dallas Public Library in her final bequests.



**Rhea Wolfram**, a remarkable woman whose lifetime of service included two years as Friends of the Dallas Public Library president from 1983 to 1985, passed away January 16, 2025, at 105. She was a teacher, a counselor and a nationally recognized educational consultant who somehow found time to devote to many organizations and charities.



**Ruth Ann Rogers Montgomery**, a longtime Friend and former board member, passed away on April 7, 2025, at age 94. She valued many causes in her life including the Dallas Historical Society, the Dallas Women's Club and the Texas Historical Foundation. We are grateful that Friends of the Dallas Public Library was an important organization to her as well.



**Norma Stone**, our dear friend and staunch library supporter, passed away on June 17, 2025, at age 96. Norma and her husband, Don, were Friends board members many times over the years, and driving forces behind multimillion-dollar fundraising campaigns to renovate every floor of the Central Library from 1996 to 2021. The 7<sup>th</sup> floor meeting room where the Friends holds its monthly board meeting is named for the Stones, and a lovely portrait of the couple adorns the wall.

# SPOTLIGHT STORIES

A long-time Prairie Creek Branch volunteer summed up the value of volunteering this way:

**“I am doing something valuable to help others. I love the feeling of being able to give back to my community while helping out with programs and other opportunities at the library.”**

Volunteers like this are at the heart of the library’s mission, extending its reach and ensuring that every visitor feels supported and welcomed.

“The Dallas Public Libraries are invaluable resources to our community. They provide not only access to a wealth of knowledge and information but also foster a sense of community and life-long learning.

**The dedication of the staff and the array of programs offered truly make them a cornerstone for education and enrichment in our city.**

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to serving Dallas!”

“My local branch of the Dallas Public Library is my happy place. The librarians are always so friendly, kind, knowledgeable, and helpful, and I really appreciate everything they do. The events and classes they host are very well organized and executed, and everyone in attendance, both online and in person, benefits from them.

**I love our library, and I hope our city officials realize how much good DPL does and how many people it helps in a variety of ways.**

I certainly hope that the leaders of our city continue to actively support it. Thank you, Dallas Public Library!”

“The library is a home, a village, a refuge, a resource—sometimes when you need it most and times when you don’t even know you needed it at all.

**Our library needs our support and an investment to ensure they meet the growing needs of our community.”**

“I wandered into my local library a few years ago and boy, did it open my eyes. I rediscovered my love of reading... it led me to exploring new genres, discovering my favorite authors, and even joining a local book club at the suggestion of my librarian, where I met fun new friends in Dallas. It led to personal healing, growth, and so much joy. What a treat the library is to us all!”

# BECOME A FRIEND

## LET'S STAY IN TOUCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

If you would like to keep up on the latest Friends of the Dallas Public Library news, come by and connect with us on social media! Add us to your social feed and learn all about advocating opportunities, membership benefits, exclusive events and more.



Stay connected with the Friends of the Dallas Public Library for updates, events, and ways to support our work in the community.

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR BECOME A FRIEND OF THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY



Scan to support the library and stay connected with the Friends community.



Passionate about literacy, community, or events? Then bring your voice to the table. Committees are the heart and soul of the Friends of the Dallas Public Library. The hard work of committees helps improve the efficiency and impact of the Friends organization.

**From accounting or investment oversight to advocacy or membership, check out the details below about the different committees!**

### ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT

Oversees and manages the Friends' finances. The Committee Chair serves as Treasurer, with the Assistant Treasurer as a member. Responsibilities include interacting with auditors, reviewing the qualifications, independence and performance of the auditors, and reviewing the Friends' insurance coverage.

### ADVOCACY

Advocates for the Library by articulating its needs and promoting its resources, programs and services to increase public awareness of its value to the community.

### DEVELOPMENT

Increases and diversifies the Friends' revenue sources to ensure stable financial operations and the growth of the endowment. Activities include strategic giving campaigns, special events and donor development.

### GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATING

Develops and implements a year-round process for recruiting, cultivating, nominating, orienting, training and evaluating Board Members and Officers.

### INVESTMENT OVERSIGHT

Formulates investment policy and evaluates the performance of investment managers engaged to execute that policy.

### MEMBERSHIP

Responsible for increasing, strengthening and diversifying the Friends' membership to support the Mission and Vision of the Friends.

### PROGRAMS

Evaluates programs, aligns resources and recommends library and Friends programs for the Friends to commit to and support.

### JOIN A COMMITTEE TODAY!



Scan to learn how you can get involved and support the Friends of the Dallas Public Library through one of our committees.

## Make a Tax-Deductible Donation

Support programs, literacy initiatives, and resources that strengthen the Dallas Public Library. Your gift helps expand opportunities for readers and life-long learners across our community.



[www.supportdpl.org](http://www.supportdpl.org)



[friends@fodpl.org](mailto:friends@fodpl.org)



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