



FRIENDS OF THE BOCA RATON PUBLIC LIBRARY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

November, 2023

Dear Members and Donors:

Thank you for another year of commitment to the Friends! We are pleased to present our accomplishments each year so you are aware of our impact on the Boca Raton Public Library's ability to serve our community, and how we are fulfilling our mission to support and enhance the value of the library.

We also look forward to accomplishing our funding goals in the coming year.

This year we donated over \$60,000 to the library for direct program and special project funding, in addition to close to \$10,000 in book donations and value-added services through our funded Sunday Music Matinee series. The library continues to recognize our support on their website program listings, in their monthly newsletters, social media, and at the events we help fund. We continue a strong partnership, with funding expenditures to the library each year that exceed expectations.

Once again, we give kudos to our fine bookstore and the Friends members who run it, for their outstanding fundraising efforts through bookstore sales. We are also grateful for the financial support we receive from you, our members and donors. We are truly thankful every year as well for the time commitment of all our wonderful volunteers, from the people who staff our bookstore to our blog, newsletter and social media writers, and event ambassadors.

2023 funding

Below is an inventory of the library projects and special projects we funded and/or partially funded this year, or will have funded and/or partially funded by year's end:

<u>Library programs</u>	<u>Funding provided or to be provided this year</u>
• The annual summer reading program (sponsored by the Friends every year since 1999)	\$ 9,613
• NEW -Speaker fund (professors, experts, Florida Talks)	\$ 5,000
• Book clubs for all kids and youth (Teen Book Club, Tween Book Jam, Booktastic ages 7-8 and My First Book Club, ages 4-6)	\$ 2,897

- Family Book Brunch \$ 1,765
- Cultural Performance/African Orisirisi Drums \$ 1,500
- FAU Jazz Orchestra \$ 1,000
- National Scholastic Chess Foundation - chess classes for youth \$ 1,000
- Children's Book Week (author and puppet theater) \$ 950
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten \$ 669
- ESOL Foundations I and II classes \$ 606
- Fall-oween Magic Show \$ 450
- Farmer Jay – gardening in small spaces program \$ 400
- Indie Author Day \$ 250

Special library projects

Funding provided or to be provided this year

- Patch Reef Park Storywalk \$ 8,045
- AWE Learning Stations (2 new) \$ 7,495
- Book giveaways for Children's Book Week and Touch-A-Truck \$ 7,141
- **NEW** – Mobile Hotspots \$ 7,056
- Holiday Parade Float \$ 1,800
- Community Bookshelf Books (Boca Helping Hands) \$ 931
- Touch-A-Truck giant sandbox trucks \$ 847
- Pondhawk Butterfly Garden refresh \$ 640
- National Library Week staff appreciation luncheon \$ 500
- Twin Palms Center for the Disabled craft supplies gift \$ 421

2024 and beyond

This year, the Friends Board developed a Strategic Plan for the next three years.

In addition to our commitment to help the library build and maintain community partnerships, and help fund library programming to support community literacy, cultural awareness, and lifelong learning, we have committed to three other important goals:

- 1 - Build committee infrastructure for Volunteer Management, Membership Development, Events Planning and Outreach, and Marketing and Advertising.
- 2 - Increase advocacy for the library by working with the library manager and City Government on critical issues relating to library operations.
- 3 - Cultivate members through more membership promotions, expanding business sponsorship opportunities, and developing regular information sharing with current and prospective donors.

We hope you continue to support us as we advance in our mission to support, enhance and advocate for the Boca Raton Public Library as a vital center of knowledge for a diverse and dynamic community.

Tracy Wasserman, Board President
on behalf of the Board of Directors of
the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library, Inc.