



FRIENDS OF THE BOCA RATON PUBLIC LIBRARY 2016 FUNDING PRIORITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our mission is to support and enhance the value of the Boca Raton Public Library as it serves our community. We are an all-volunteer organization. Our purpose is to raise funds for library programs and provide educational and cultural events for our members and community.

We are proud to inform you that the Friends financial giving to the library and to our library events has been increasing each year through proceeds from Bookstore sales, membership dues, donations, and small grants. We are also proud to say that we have achieved silver status from Guidestar.org which is a leading source of information on non-profit organizations for donors and others. By the end of our budget year (December 31st), we will have the following accomplishments:

***Raised over \$90,000** income from the Bookstore, over \$9000 in membership dues and \$3000 in donations, including small grants from the Junior League of Boca Raton and the IBM Corporation.

***Funded over \$58,000 to the library for programs such as:**

- *Adult, youth and children's instructional programs
- *Summer reading and special programs (received a grant of \$2000 from the Junior League of Boca Raton to help finance the summer reading program)
- *Books and other materials for education events including Children's Book Groups, Read for the Record, One Book Boca, Early Literacy Backpack Program and Friday Children's Special events
- *Mother/Daughter Tea
- *Subscriptions for the eLibrary including Value Line and Lynda.com
- *Civic Engagement and Savvy Citizen Series
- *Transportation for library staff to attend American Library Association Conference in Orlando.

***Funded \$5500 to the library** for upgraded software and classes in the Discover Studio, a place for all ages to learn new technologies and applications such as 3-D printing and more.

***Presented and given \$10,000 for Friends adult cultural programs at the library:**

- *Sunday music and speaker series
- *Monthly foreign films
- *Friends Art Gallery at the Spanish River Library including an artist's reception
- *Book clubs
- *Special events.

***Provided special events and support for our members:**

- *Increased our membership numbers by 20% in the past two years
- *Hosted nearly 100 members at our Annual Membership Meeting Lunch
- *Held a reception prior to presentation of the historical George Washington Re-enactment (to take place on 11/17/2016)
- *Hosted over 60 volunteer members at our Annual Volunteer Recognition lunch
- *Pre-registered members for Friends programs through email and phone calls
- *Held Reception prior to presentation by author Betsy Lerner (The Bridge Ladies).

***Promoted community outreach and advocacy:**

- *Sponsored educational programs at the library for the Florence Fuller Child Development Center
- *Participated in the Junior League's Community Garden special events
- *Advocated for the library at Boca Raton City Council meetings
- *Participated in the Boca Raton Holiday Parade with the library's float.
- *Donated books from our Bookstore to the Boca Regional Hospital, Veterans Hospital, Boca Helping and various shelters throughout the area.

***Engaged our members/volunteers in the work of the Friends:**

- *An average of 70 Friends volunteers work in the following areas: Friends Bookstore, Friends Ambassadors, adult programs, special events, media communications, marketing, membership management, and Board of Directors.
- *Our volunteers provide over 13,000 hours of service per year to support the mission of the Friends.
- * Have recruited new volunteers through VolunteerMatch.org
- * Spotlight on volunteers: interviews highlighting their backgrounds and why they volunteer, published in the Friends email newsletter and website.

***Enhanced Media Communications and Online Presence:**

- *Working towards creating an enhanced website which will include more transparency and communication to our members, donors and public at large
- *Facebook and Twitter accounts maintained with current information
- *Published articles in state and national library organizations
- *Online sales increasing through Amazon.com where we are listed as a professional bookseller
- *Have a presence on LinkedIn.com - world's largest professional network
- *Keep our information current on Guidestar.org for our non-profit status

***Other Enhancements to the Friends Organization:**

- *Rewrote our bylaws to reflect the current working structure and governance
- *Rebranded and updated our graphic image including new logo, trifold brochures, stationery, banner and signage.

