



FRIENDS OF THE BOCA RATON PUBLIC LIBRARY, INC.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

November, 2024

Dear Members and Donors:

Thank you for another year of your support for our public library via the Friends!

We present our annual report each year to sum up the impact your membership dues, donations and volunteer hours have had on supporting library programming and project funding.

By year's end, we will have donated approximately \$64,000 to the library, with an additional \$3,000 credited or to be credited for book donations. Book donations to the library from our bookstore are used to stock and refresh the seven Little Free Libraries run by the library in Boca Raton, for book giveaways at Boca Helping Hands every other month, and for the library to use to stock and refresh the Community Bookshelves at Lois Martin Center at Dixie Manor, the Twin Palms Center and the Sugar Sand Community Center camp shelves. Our book donations are also used to restock some titles in the library's collections.

Our popular Friends-run Sunday Music Matinee series is considered a value-added service when our funding is reported to the City of Boca Raton each year, as it brings people into the library. By end of year, we will have spent approximately \$5,500 for the Sunday Music Matinee series in 2024, to be added to the total amount reported as our contribution to the library.

As always, the library continues to recognize our support on their website program listings and in their monthly newsletters.

And once again, we recognize our wonderful bookstore and the volunteers who operate it, for bringing in the lion's share of our income through bookstore sales. As of end of October 2024, the bookstore brought in over \$68,000 from in-store sales, online sales and consignment sales this year. That's over half of our projected income for the year, and we still have two more months to go for the final tally in 2024 bookstore sales. To guide the bookstore in future growth and operation, we are rolling out a new Bookstore Business Plan for 2025 – 2028 that among other things, expands marketing and advertising efforts to advance bookstore sales even further.

We are also extremely grateful for the financial support and time commitment we receive from our members, donors and volunteers.

The following 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> | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual summer reading program (sponsored by the Friends every year since 1999) <li style="padding-left: 20px;">- Includes special programming, tote bag giveaways, t-shirts for staff, staff luncheon, kickoff party and bubble party | \$ 9,980 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday Night Speaker Series (16 presenters) | \$ 6,350 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book clubs for all kids and youth (1000 Books before Kindergarten party, Teen Book Club, Tween Book Jam, Booktastic ages 7-8 and My First Book Club, ages 4-6) | \$ 3,000 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Book Brunch | \$ 420 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Performances (2) <li style="padding-left: 20px;">- Ukrainian dancers <li style="padding-left: 20px;">- Festivals of India | \$ 1,800 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Book Author | \$ 425 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall-oween magic show | \$ 400 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teen K-Pop/ Marvel Trivia | \$ 300 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chess classes for adults/youth | \$ 3,000 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESOL & Citizenship workbooks/instruction materials | \$ 1,000 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer Jay – Junior Sprouts classes | \$ 4,000 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books for Storytime and other programs (funded by donation to Friends from Sharon & Stephen Sadek) | \$ 3,350 | | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEW – Discover Studio Make A Mix Mondays | \$ 400 | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Special library projects</u></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>Funding provided or to be provided this year</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upkeep of Storywalk trails (printing inserts and replacement stands) </td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: top;">\$ 2,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWE Learning Stations (4 upgrade) </td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: top;">\$15,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Hotspots- data renewal (20 devices @ \$29.40/month for 12 months) </td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: top;">\$ 7,056</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | <u>Special library projects</u> | <u>Funding provided or to be provided this year</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upkeep of Storywalk trails (printing inserts and replacement stands) | \$ 2,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWE Learning Stations (4 upgrade) | \$15,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Hotspots- data renewal (20 devices @ \$29.40/month for 12 months) | \$ 7,056 |
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- **NEW – Gale Excel Online High School scholarships \$ 2,200**
- **NEW – Early World of Learning School and
World Book Student Library
(3 year subscription) \$ 2,180**
- **NEW – Seed Library \$ 500**
- **Holiday Parade Float and Trolley \$ 1,250**
- **Community Bookshelf Books (Boca Helping Hands) \$ 425**
- **National Library Week staff appreciation luncheon \$ 600**
- **NEW – Friends logo stickers in book giveaways \$ 300**

For 2025, we have budgeted a donation to the library of approximately \$74,000, which includes the continuation of many of the programs and projects listed above, additional support for some events, and new programming. This includes the addition of summer reading prizes for the annual summer reading program, more funding for the ESOL and citizenship classes that have increased in attendance, a possible new Little Free Library at Boca Tierra park, and a Comicon event.

And as with every year, we anticipate 2025 to bring more new programming as yet to be determined, that will be suggested during the year and evaluated by the library for Friends funding.

We hope you continue to frequent our public library and support its programming and community projects by donating your time and funding to the Friends.

Thank you for another great year!

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