



## **FRIENDS OF THE BOCA RATON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### **2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

SUPPORTING LITERACY FOR OUR MODERN AGE

#### **A SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF GIVING TO THE LIBRARY**

Thanks to our members, donors and Bookstore customers, the Friends have gifted over **\$127,000** to the Boca Raton Public Library in 2019, including \$77,000 for the purchase of a city library mobile van that will provide outreach services to those not able to get to the library. We are proud to say that over the past five years, we have given **nearly a quarter million dollars** to support programs and events that enhance the library's mission for community literacy and education. We have all contributed by sponsoring:

#### **LITERACY FOR PRESCHOOLERS THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL**

Inspire a Preschooler to become a book lover through **"1000 Books Before Kindergarten Program"**

Enhance reading levels through the **Annual Summer Reading Program**

Help those in need of extra help with school assignments (**Tutor.com**)

Reading with book clubs - **Children's Read for the Record, My First Book Club, Booktastic (for ages 7-8), Tween Book Jam, Teen Book Club**

#### **ENRICHING THE LIVES OF FAMILIES**

Programs that encourage families to read together - **Summer Reading, Family Book Club Brunch and Read Aloud Summer Picnics.**

Home enjoyment of movies, documentaries and courses - **Kanopy Streaming, TumbleBooks, and Gale Legal Forms and Small Business Builder.**

**Discover Studio** - Technology resources including tools and classes for digitization, augmented and virtual reality, podcasting, and videography, including digital storytelling with family photographs and oral history.

#### **ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURAL AWARENESS**

**Sunday Music and Speaker Series** throughout the season

**Friends Art Gallery** sponsoring local artists to display their works

**Betty Grinnan Historic Interpreters Program** featuring great Americans such as **Abraham Lincoln, Dolly Madison, George Washington, Abigail Adams, Frederick Douglass, Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin**

## **Living Voices - multi-media historic re-enactments of great American Experiences**

### **One Book Boca**

#### **OUR SIGNATURE BUSINESS AND PROJECTS**

**The Friends Bookstore:** The Friends Bookstore inside the downtown Boca Raton Public Library is run entirely by volunteers, and is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 am to 5:30 pm. We sell quality used books at bargain prices. In 2019, the bookstore generated over \$87,000 in income for the Friends.

**Our Giving Trees** – the Friends Giving Trees at both the downtown library and the Spanish River Library provide an opportunity to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a milestone, and the money received from the purchase of a memorial leaf on one of our trees helps fund library programming.

**Homeschool Planning** – The Friends hosted a special event this past summer on home school curriculum planning, added a home school blog to its award-winning website, and continue to plan events for the home school family community.

#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

The Friends continue to be community advocates for the library by reaching out to City Council and to various organizations to ensure that the library is seen as a vital resource to the health of our city. This past year has been particularly busy for outreach and advocacy in the following areas:

**Gifting \$77,000 for a mobile van** for the library was a major collaborative project with the library and the city in 2019. The intent of the van is to extend the library to those who may not be able to get to the library for whatever extenuating circumstances in their lives. It will be equipped with technology so that library staffers can train people how to use resources through the electronic library and to give them the ability to obtain a library card for added enrichment in their lives. It has so many possibilities.

**Brightline/Virgin Trains Station Proposal:** the Friends advocated for the Downtown Library in the ongoing discussions for a train station and garage on the library parking lot. There are over a quarter million visitors a year who come to the Downtown Library, and there was great concern about parking issues, safety and security. The Friends have been very active in voicing the opinions of our members to City Council on the matter and were able to secure 107 open parking lot spaces and 67 free garage parking spaces.

We had an outstanding year! Join us in 2020 as we celebrate 30 years of support and advocacy of outstanding library services at the Boca Raton Public Library.

Cyndi Bloom  
Board President, Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library, Inc.

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