



FRIENDS OF THE BOCA RATON PUBLIC LIBRARY

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SUPPORTING OUR LIBRARY

This year the Friends, incorporated in 1990, celebrated 30 years of supporting library programming, events and major projects, while continuing to sponsor their own free community events in a mostly online platform. The Friends have sponsored and continue to sponsor the following ongoing events and projects:

Library support: In spite of the Covid environment, the Friends were able to donate over \$13,000 for library events this year, which included funding for the annual summer reading program, books for children and teen book clubs, STEM and Literacy backpack materials, and funding for a new online database, BrainHQ, to be added to the library's Digital Library offerings in early 2021.

Annual Summer Reading Program: The Friends have helped sponsor the Boca Raton Public Library's annual summer reading program for the last 21 years (since 1999) by providing funding for the summer reading t-shirts, tote bags, prizes, and certain summer reading program events (offered online in 2020).

Major library projects: This year the Friends continued with their support of major library projects, funding the library roll-out of:


- 1 – Storywalk at Pondhawk Natural Area;
- 2 – Community bookshelf projects at area community centers; and
- 3- Four Little Free Libraries locations in Boca Raton.

As a further update on our major library projects, the library mobile van, funded by the Friends in 2019, has been delivered to the library and will be operational by the end of this year.

Bookstore: The Friends have been operating a quality used bookstore since 2007. This year, the physical store closed in mid-March due to Covid and has not yet re-opened, but has transitioned as of mid-July to online sales from the Friends website at bocalibraryfriends.org. We sell grab bags of books, as well as many individual items.

Friends events: The Friends have been presenting a free monthly speaker series for the past 22 years, a free monthly music series and twice-a-month book club discussions for some years, and a twice-a-year historical player performance (the Betty Grinnan Friends of the Library Program for American History) for the past 9 years.

This year the speaker series was transitioned successfully to Zoom (we had over 30 participants at the September and October presentations). We were also able to successfully transition the



book club discussions to Zoom and have gathered more followers and participants than in years past in this virtual platform.

We were able to present historical player “Frederick Douglas” in February 2020 before the Covid shutdown and generated over \$800 in event donation fees.

We elected to discontinue the music series for this year due to the Covid situation and the belief that that program would not be successful in a virtual platform.

FLA 2020 Award: We were excited to announce in early 2020 that Cyndi Bloom, past Friends Board President and current Friends Board Treasurer, received this year’s Florida Library Association award for Outstanding Friends Board Member, based on nomination letters submitted by two Friends Board members and library manager, Ellen Randolph.

As always, we thank our members and donors for their ongoing support that helps us continue our outstanding service to the Boca Raton Public Library and our Boca Raton community.

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

November 2020