

Friends' Support of the Library in 2015

DIRECT CASH TO THE LIBRARY - UNRESTRICTED	
Annual grant for highest needs as determined by the library director	\$120,000
Library initiatives support from Ortha Robbins Endowment	\$35,936

DIRECT CASH TO THE LIBRARY - RESTRICTED	
Perrie Jones Endowment	\$109,109
Staff professional development	\$76,680
Service in the community	\$32,329
Restricted endowment grants for materials	\$100,649
Grants for the library paid through The Friends	\$154,315
Funds raised for student support programs	\$29,500
Humanities endowment materials grants	\$3,777
Payments for library programming publication	\$10,000

ADVOCACY EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE LIBRARY	
Digitization technology	\$100,000

SUPPORT TO BUILD ENDOWMENTS AND PROVIDE FOR THE LIBRARY'S FUTURE NEEDS	
Contributions to the George Latimer Book Endowment Fund	\$8,555
The George Latimer Endowment Fund for Summer Learning	\$30,602
Additions to existing endowments and activities	\$58,132
Funds raised for capital projects	\$813,775

COMMUNITY CULTURAL PROGRAMS DONE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LIBRARY	
75 cultural programs and events, Minnesota Book Awards and Minnesota Center for the Book year-round programming	\$301,037
TOTAL	\$1,875,387

For more information,
visit www.thefriends.org
or call us at 651-222-3242.

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THE FRIENDS OF THE SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thank you to the 1,752 individual contributors to The Friends in 2015 who helped us meet—and exceed—our annual financial and programming goals. Thanks, also to the 135 businesses and foundations that supported the library through grants and sponsorships last year. Your gifts made it possible for us to provide almost \$2 million in support to the Saint Paul Public Library! Your generosity helps fund Summer Spark—summer learning programs and out-of-school-time activities for youth; Internet access and technology classes for job seekers, small business owners, new Americans and seniors; innovative, free cultural programming in the community; and many of the resources that make our community such a strong and vibrant place to live. Together we're creating a brighter future for everyone in Saint Paul!

[Signature]
Chair, Board of Trustees, and
Peter D. Pearson
Friends President



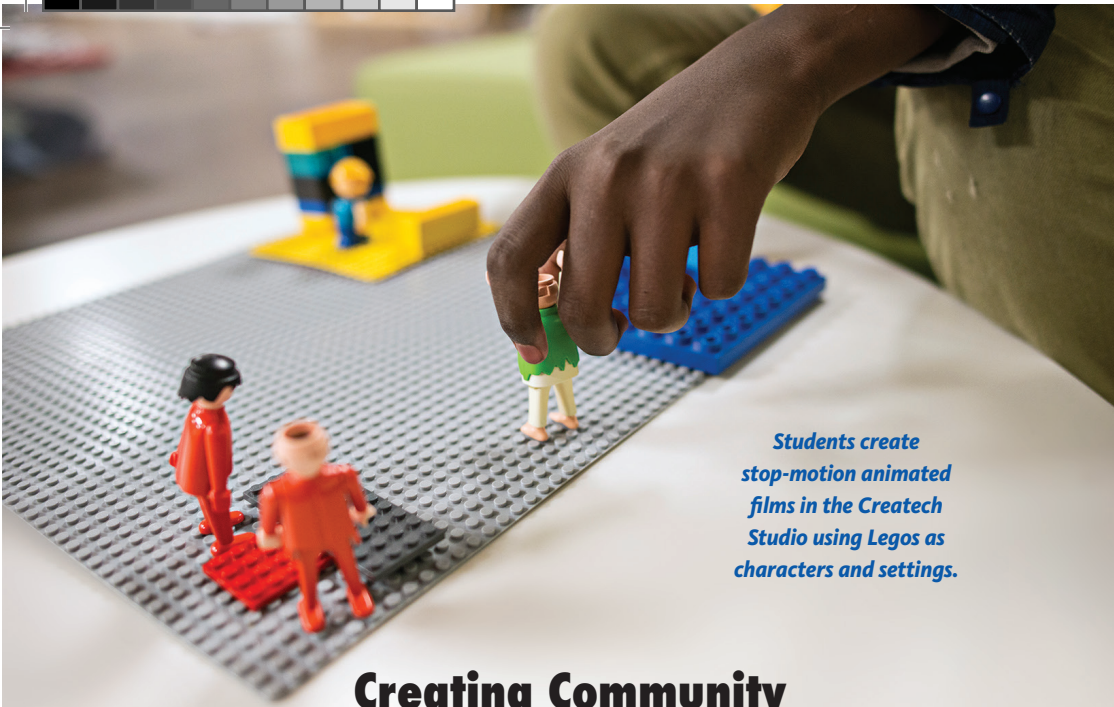
Stronger Libraries for Stronger Communities

Impact Report, Spring 2016



"A library is a collection of possible futures."

– John Barth



Students create stop-motion animated films in the Createch Studio using Legos as characters and settings.

Creating Community

One of the driving forces behind The Friends' support of the **Createch Studio** at the library is the positive and transformative effect it has on teens from diverse communities, working together to imagine and create something new.

Mahamud and Ayuub Ahmed are brothers who lived in refugee camps in Kenya after being displaced by warfare in Somalia. They have embraced Arlington Hills Library in a big way since immigrating to Minnesota in 2014. In the Createch Studio they can “geek out” with technology, making stop-motion films with Legos, creating special effects imagery with Adobe Photoshop, and more.



Fifteen-year-old Ayuub was thrilled to be able to work on social media marketing for “Movies, Munchies and Music” a youth-run film festival and talent show co-sponsored by SPNN and the library.

In addition to short films created by local teens and live entertainment, the festival featured tables and activities by youth-serving organizations such as College Possible, Conservation Corp, TRUarts Speak, and the

Center for Hmong Arts and Talent, who provided participants with resources and information about higher education, job opportunities, and the arts.

The festival was a great success and after it was over, Ayuub came up to library staff with a giant smile on his face, shook the hands of each of them, and thanked them, adding, **“This was the best experience of my life!”**



Keeping Youth on the Right Track

“My first summer job wasn't exactly glamorous, but it taught me some valuable lessons. Responsibility. Hard work. Balancing a job with friends, family, and school. That's the story of so many Americans. Access to a job in the summer and beyond can make all the difference to a young person – especially those who don't have access to many resources and opportunities. Employment can also help bridge the ‘opportunity gap’ we see in the summer months, when young people tend to fall behind in educational achievement.” — Barack Obama

At Sun Ray Library, Andrew and Dalena are **Right Track** workers—a jobs program for youth that provides work experience, teaches organizational skills, and prepares young people for future employment.

Andrew is a senior whose future plans include college—he has already been accepted and offered scholarships at several—with an eye toward engineering. Now in her junior year, Dalena is just beginning the college application process; she's hoping for a career in journalism or sociology.

“We both pretty much grew up at the library,” they cheerfully recount.

“I've been coming to the library daily since I was about 6 years old,” says Andrew. “My mom moved us here from Brooklyn when my brother and I were young because she wanted to raise us in a new, maybe safer environment.” Her strategy paid off. “Around here, I have always been connected to something positive, so I haven't had any complications,” he assures us.

Dalena is the eldest child of Eritrean parents who immigrated in the early '90s; she was born in Minnesota. Her favorite activity is the **Young Mentors Group**, which meets weekly to discuss issues and ways to give back to the community.

She *loves* libraries. “I've been able to learn and develop different skills at the library. There are so many opportunities for all different types of people—reading for fun, quiet space for work or homework, knowledgeable staff members for getting help... The library environment is always homey and positive.”

A New Legacy of Learning

The capital campaign was launched in December of 2011 and lasted four years. The City of Saint Paul contributed \$7 million in public funds, and The Friends raised \$7.4 million in private funds—a total of \$14.4 million for the Sun Ray, Highland Park, and George Latimer Central Library projects. The private funds raised by The Friends, which covered more than half of the budget, meant that the projects were able to be completed years sooner than they would have been, had the City paid the full cost. **With your support**, we were able to save the city more than \$1 million in bonding expenses and project costs because they could complete construction quickly in an era of rapidly rising prices.

The largest institutional donation was from 3M: \$1 million for the Sun Ray Library renovation. The **3M Community Room** was named in honor of this generous gift.

There were 265 individual campaign donors, with gifts ranging from a few dollars to six figures, and together, those **individuals gave a total of almost \$1 million.**

The Sun Ray and Highland Park Libraries were complete renovations and both are neighborhood success stories! Sun Ray Library's circulation is the highest it's been in years, and Highland Park Library averages more than 25,000 visitors a month. Both libraries offer dedicated spaces for children and teens, quiet places for reading and study, and technology-equipped meeting rooms. They are serving the community in more ways than ever, and adding to the vitality of the area.

George Latimer Central Library only recently reopened, but new service areas on every floor are already making a huge difference for library users. The Todd and Martha Nicholson Workforce and Innovation Center Lab celebrated its grand opening in March, offering the first public, **adult Maker Space** in Saint Paul. And a late-January panel discussion on the future of Saint Paul drew a standing-room-only crowd of entrepreneurs, small business owners, and civic activists.



For a complete list of institutional and individual capital campaign donors, visit www.thefriends.org