

You **Believe** in Your Community.  
You **Invest** in Your Library.  
Here's how your support makes a difference.



**“This program is the most respectful thing I’ve seen done for young people in a community. I will be suggesting it to my community.”**

**- Meg Medina**

2019 Saint Paul Read Brave  
featured author

## You **invest** in The Friends. Residents **Read Brave** together.

This past winter, Saint Paul residents across the city came together to discuss a timely and challenging topic: housing. Saint Paul Public Library made these conversations possible through this season of **Read Brave Saint Paul**. Through books specifically selected by Library staff and community forums for dynamic discussions, Read Brave invited us to think about what it means to have a home – and what life is like when that home is lost. People of all ages participated in this citywide read.

*“A 13 year-old student had been a non-reader before Read Brave. She got into Burn Baby Burn and realized she enjoyed reading for the first time. Now she’s read 11 more books and has a goal of reading 20 by the end of the school year. She had her book signed by Meg Medina at the author visit and was able to share this with her, too.”*

- Leslie  
Librarian at Saint Paul Public Library



## Read Brave Saint Paul 2019

- **6,000 people** – students, residents, and community partners – now own Read Brave books, provided to them at no cost.
- **40 school partners and more than 20 community partners** engaged in brave conversations.
- More than **25 public events** took place, from storytimes, to discussions, to hands-on activities like making care packages for people experiencing homelessness.
- **Meg Medina**, award-winning author of featured Read Brave book *Burn Baby Burn*, visited Saint Paul schools and libraries, sparking engaging conversations with students and residents.

Attendees of The Friends' exclusive Read Brave book club event at Summit Brewing got to hear an incredible conversation between Mayor Carter and Meg Medina.



Because of your support, more people in Saint Paul are reading and talking together. Because of you, our City will come together to address another challenge when Read Brave returns this fall.

**Join the conversation at [www.sppl.org/readbrave](http://www.sppl.org/readbrave).**

You **invest** in The Friends.  
Readers and writers **connect**.



The Friends, as the Minnesota Center for the Book, has launched the **Minnesota Writers Directory**, an online, interactive listing of authors throughout the state. The site will connect event hosts – schools, libraries, book clubs – with authors in their area.

Since the January launch:

- **316** author applications
- Almost **10,000** unique website visits

[www.mnwritersdirectory.org](http://www.mnwritersdirectory.org)



Letters About  
**LITERATURE**  
*A Library of Congress National Writing Contest*

*“Reading your take on the future of our earth was shattering. You taught me a lot. You introduced me to science fiction and taught me that we need to protect our environment... I will remember you and this book, and how it changed me.”*

- Sophia  
Letters About Literature participant

More than **1,000 students** across Minnesota participated in this year’s contest. Learn more about the program and see the 2019 winning letters here: [www.thefriends.org/letters](http://www.thefriends.org/letters)

Your support helps connect readers and writers across the state and helps students like Sophia expand their worlds and develop a love of reading.

# Donor Perspective:

## Why I Give to The Friends

“I wish I could put into words the feeling that overwhelmed me as a child when I walked into the downtown library. I can almost call it up now. Part of it was the smell, part of it the size, part because even though I was a child on my own, adults were going

to trust me to take anything I wanted from a universe of possibilities. It made me feel smarter, more grown up—truly respected. Was this how it felt to be an adult?

**Those visits to the George Latimer Central Library shaped nearly every aspect of the person I became.**

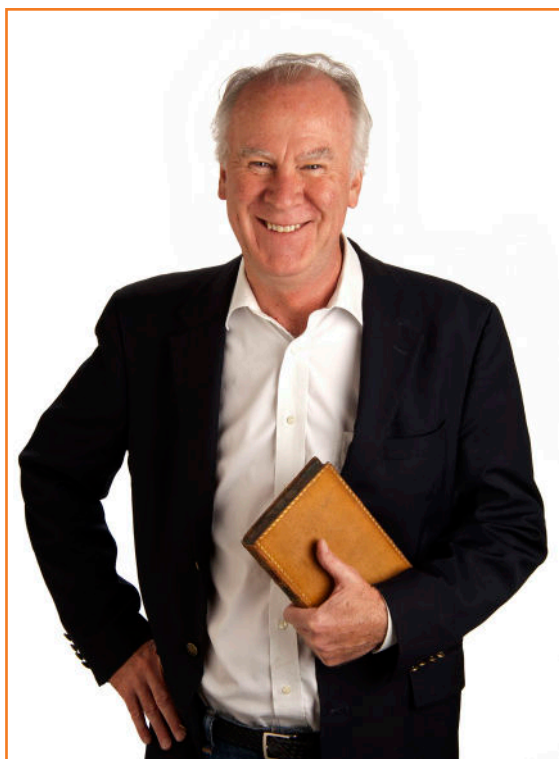
Science fiction excited my curiosity; I fell in love with the outdoors reading Dietrich Lange's novels; as I devoured biographies of heroes like Sitting Bull, history became my passion. I'm

afraid that even my leadership skills were informed by Dr. Seuss's *If I Ran the Zoo*. My lifelong love affair with books began in this library.

**A great city like St. Paul needs a great library system, and a great library needs an exceptional degree of support, and that support comes from an extraordinary Friends group. I am proud to play a small part in making this happen.**

- Pat Coleman

Friends Loyalty Circle member (*donors who have made generous gifts to The Friends for 10+ consecutive years*)





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**Friends like you** make  
our community stronger.

Your investment in The Friends helps libraries  
strengthen and inspire their communities.

**Thank you for your belief and your support.**

**[thefriends.org](http://thefriends.org)**

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