

How The Friends Invests

The Friends has a long history of partnering with the City of Saint Paul to invest in our public library. Your tax dollars are critical for safe library spaces, an incredible library staff, and collections of books, music, and more. But public funding is not enough to support all the resources we want and need as community members. With your help, The Friends invests in the Library through **fundraising**, **advocacy**, and **programming** so that the Library can respond to community needs.

Fundraising – Over 2,000 donors, institutions, and corporations provide financial support that is essential to invest in the services, resources, and spaces that allow our libraries to welcome us and support our needs.

Advocacy – The Friends Advocacy Committee is already at work this year partnering with library staff and our local government to make sure the City invests sufficiently in our Library. Learn more at thefriends.org/advocacy.

Programming – We welcomed over 600 people to the Ordway for our first in-person Minnesota Book Awards Ceremony since 2019! The winning authors will travel statewide to connect with readers at libraries this fall. Explore programs at thefriends.org/calendar.

Funding Spotlight: Did you know? The Friends Supports Library Staff Development.



In 1968, Friends founder and former Saint Paul Public Library Director Perrie Jones left the bulk of her estate in an endowment specifically designated for education and development of library staff. Since its inception, the fund has provided over \$2 million to Saint Paul Public Library. This significant investment is unique among library systems and contributes to Saint Paul having some of the most incredible library staff around!



THE FRIENDS
OF THE SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Your investment in The Friends helps libraries strengthen and inspire their communities.

Thank you for your continued belief and support.
thefriends.org/support



Summer 2022
Impact Report

We **Believe** in Our Community.
We **Invest** in Our Library.

Your support makes a difference.



The new Play-and-Learn space at Arlington Hills Library features interactive elements designed to reflect a Somali hut and Hmong story cloth, as well as a custom, interactive mural by local artists and library staff.

We Invest in Our Library.

Libraries Become Centers for Community.

With support from donors like you, The Friends invests in services within libraries, library spaces, and library staff so that our communities are welcome to connect, learn, discover, and grow.



Mother and child in Play-and-Learn space

Learning through Play

With the help of The Friends and partners PNC Bank and education nonprofit Heart of America, Saint Paul Public Library recently transformed children’s spaces at the Rice Street and Arlington Hills library branches.

Featuring areas designed for children ages 0-5, the spaces focus on play-based learning opportunities that connect caregivers and children, including culturally specific books and interactive elements.

Play-and-Learn children’s spaces give kids opportunities to:

- Play cooperatively and learn new vocabulary.
- Think creatively, problem solve, and use their imaginations.
- Experience the joy of reading for fun and learn skills to be successful in school and life.

The transformations are part of PNC Grow up Great®, a bilingual \$500 million, multi-year initiative to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life. Donors like you help stock the spaces with materials and fund dynamic programming.

Navigating a Digital World

In our digital world, having access to and the ability to use technology is critical. Together with individual donors and institutional funders, we help the Library offer many points of technology access and guidance on how to use it.



Funding Spotlight: Library “Digital Navigators” provide assistance to community members who need affordable home internet service, internet-capable devices, and/or coaching in introductory digital skills. Funded by the Minnesota Department of Education as part of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), Digital Navigators collaborate with other library staff to provide culturally responsive digital access and are crucial to serving library users from diverse backgrounds.

Within the program’s first year, library staff have:

- Facilitated over 900 interactions, providing 1:1 assistance to new and regular library users.
- Distributed 500 WiFi hotspots and 30 laptops to Saint Paul residents.



Karen computer class at Arlington Hills Library



Transforming Libraries



Library staff helping a young patron

Saint Paul Public Library is co-creating a vision to transform library spaces to meet the wants and needs of community members, now and for the next generation. With our help, the Library will invest in spaces that are safe, inviting, affirming, and comfortable for people of all cultures, abilities, and communities. This community-informed vision includes transforming the Riverview, Hayden Heights, and Hamline Midway library buildings, and updating technology and children’s spaces at all 13 branches.

In the coming months, Friends like us will have the opportunity to invest in this exciting vision. Right now, the Library welcomes your voice.

The Library is now in the schematic design process for the three building transformations. Community input has been collected through community meetings, youth-led and youth-focused engagement, on-site library activities, and online and in-person surveys. The Library will welcome feedback on the next phase through additional engagement opportunities this month. **Learn about the vision, the process, and how to share your voice at sppl.org/transforming-libraries.**

