



Strategic Plan: 2024 – 2028

Vision

A dynamic library at the heart of every community.

Mission

The Friends acts as a catalyst for libraries to strengthen and inspire their communities.

Values

We believe in libraries. Library spaces, services, and staff are essential.

We believe in connection. We listen and build partnerships to guide our work.

We believe in learning. A growth mindset strengthens our capacity to work with curiosity, skill, and compassion.

We believe in transparency. Clear and open ways of working and communicating inspire trust and accountability.

We believe in the power of belonging. Our work is to welcome every person to participate and contribute to our mission in ways that are personally meaningful.

- Why
- What
- How
- Informed By



As a charitable nonprofit organization that invests in libraries through fundraising, advocacy, and programming, **The Friends is committed to being a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and anti-racist institution.**

Fundraising

Raise \$10 million through the “Transform Our Libraries, Discover Our Possibilities” capital campaign.

Increase annual fundraising efforts to support library priorities outlined in the 2024-27 Saint Paul Public Library Strategic Direction.

Create an inclusive donor community by practicing the principles of Community-Centric Fundraising.

Advocacy

Advocate for maximum government investment for library spaces and library services.

Lead efforts that deepen awareness, understanding, and value for public libraries across public and private sectors.

Activate Saint Paul residents to visit their libraries regularly.

Programming

Connect readers with diverse Minnesota storytellers at libraries and schools.

Support a diverse literary community by amplifying storytellers and encouraging new work.

Provide services to libraries so we all can better serve our communities.

Resource Management

Implement policies & practices to ensure sustainability and align operational and financial management with organizational values.

Support and invest in Friends staff, the people who power our work.

Secure an accessible, welcoming office space that supports our operations and culture.