



**FRIENDS  
FOUNDATION**  
OF THE  
**BIRMINGHAM  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

February, 2019

Dear Friends,

We greatly appreciate the support you showed the Birmingham Public Library (BPL) through your gifts to the Friends Foundation of the Birmingham Public Library in 2018. The FFBPL had a successful year both financially and in terms of its support of the programs, events, and services of the BPL for children and adults. The mission of the FFBPL is to raise funds for the library, reach out to the community and advocate on behalf of the library, as well as to support the Birmingham Public Library's programs and services financially. Your donations make this possible.

Through your generosity and love for the Birmingham Public Library, the Foundation had a gross income of \$117,238 for 2018. Sources of this income are gifts from individuals like you, grants we obtained for the library, and proceeds from the very successful Friends Bookstore. In addition to gifts of money, many of you volunteered your time and made donations of books and other material to the Bookstore. After expenses for the Bookstore and funds contributed to library programs and services in 2018, the FFBPL has \$20,000 on hand ready to support the library's programs and services for 2019 including the summer learning program, the after school teen engineering programs, and other needs as identified by the library.

In 2018, the Foundation premiered the Progressive Taste and Trivia event in the Lakeview Entertainment District. Forty-two trivia teams of four persons each roved the district, enjoyed refreshments and drinks made just for them, and competed for prizes in a unique contest of trivia that focused on the City of Birmingham, its history, its favorite tourist sites and festivals, and the remarkable growth and progress it is currently experiencing. Owners and patrons of restaurants and venues in Lakeview made in kind and monetary contributions that with team ticket sales covered the cost of the event. All who participated had the opportunity to learn more about Birmingham and the Lakeview District fulfilling the library's mission of fostering life-long learning, fun, and cultural enrichment.

We also sponsored a series of ads on WBHM during National Library Week, reminding Birmingham of the great treasures and resources found in the BPL, including our wonderful librarians. We ran another social

2100 PARK PLACE  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

(205) 226-3610

FRIENDSOFTHEBPL.ORG



media campaign in November leading up to #Giving Tuesday and our annual appeal, pointing out the important role of the libraries in our cooperative system as part of the social infrastructure of Birmingham.

### Plans for 2019

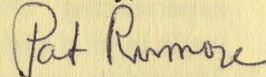
We want the FFBPL to be able to do more for our library in the years to come. Our Friends organization actively recruits volunteers to help man the bookstore and to administer our fundraising, outreach and advocacy efforts. Our Friends Council is adding a new signature event on October 20, during Friends of Libraries week, which they are calling Showcase BPL, an afternoon of fun, food, music, special guests and tours of the two buildings that comprise Birmingham's Central Library. We already have plans for an Avondale Progressive Taste and Trivia event in April of 2019.

We have other ideas that we will be sharing with you in an online newsletter as they develop into reality. Our newsletter will only be sent when we think there's something you really need to know. We hope to use email, our website ([www.friendsofthebpl.org](http://www.friendsofthebpl.org)) and social media to keep you apprised of what we are doing and to offer special events directed only at our donors and patrons. We invite you to send us your email address to [friends@friendsofthebpl.org](mailto:friends@friendsofthebpl.org) if you know we don't already have it, so that we can keep you informed. If you let us know, we will also add your email address to the list of those who receive the BPLinks newsletter emailed to patrons each week by BPL.

There are many ways to serve the FFBPL and the library. We would welcome you to help in the work of the foundation board and the Friends Bookstore. Check out the opportunities and needs at <http://www.friendsofthebpl.org/volunteer>.

Again, on behalf of all those who make the Foundation function, we truly appreciate your ongoing support of the Birmingham Public Library and its Friends Foundation!

Sincerely,



Patricia B. Rumore  
President