

The DC Public Library Foundation

Annual Report 2005

With support from critical corporate, foundation, government and individual donors, The District of Columbia Public Library Foundation:

- Puts books on library shelves
- Provides learning opportunities for children and adults
- Increases access to media and technology
- Supports cultural events
- Enhances library service capacity
- Provides funds for facility improvements

With over \$4M in net assets, the DC Public Library Foundation has continued to strengthen its infrastructure, provide increased support to the library and its activities, and engage in the process of planning a new library system for the District of Columbia. The Foundation has entered a new chapter in its life. Now that it is solidly operational, it is standing as a key partner to the DCPL in the significant new transformation the library system is about to undergo.

A vote of confidence:

- The DCPL Foundation was chosen to serve as the fiduciary agent for the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Future of the Public Library System.
- Four members of the DCPL Foundation Board of Directors served on the Mayor's Task Force
- The DCPL Foundation is working closely with the DCPL Trustees as they develop plans for a new library system for the District of Columbia.
- These efforts represent nearly \$1M toward the building of a new library system in our City – with the Foundation as an integral partner.

This past year saw the Foundation upgrade and enhance its infrastructure, donor base, and financial capabilities through:

- Obtaining professional accounting services
- Establishing an automated donor database
- Actively participating in the Combined Federal Campaign, DC One Fund, Charitable Choices, and Safeway donor campaigns
- Accepting online donations through our website

The Foundation had its strongest fundraising year since its inception, raising \$333,000.

This year, the Foundation increased its internal grant-making process from \$75,000 to nearly \$100,000 in making awards to librarians, branches, Friends groups, and library departments for innovative programming, technology and infrastructure improvements.

The Foundation is also breaking new ground in supporting and starting new programs at the public library:

- **Washington Post Speaker Series:** In partnership with the Public Library, the Newseum, and the Washington Post, four panels are being convened on intriguing topics featuring noted Post writers, editors, and photographers. Each panel focuses on a different aspect of the newspaper’s coverage: The Front Page, The Sports Section, Metro, and Style
- **Emergent Literacy:** The Foundation has raised \$19,682 to initiate a new program in “emergent literacy.” This program will provide rotating “book kits” to 120 licensed home daycare providers. Library outreach staff will instruct providers in methods to foster pre-literacy skills in children under the age of 5. In addition, each participating child will receive a book to own – in many cases their first book. We estimate that 320 children will be served through this project.

The Foundation is doing its job. We are also having an impact. We look forward to continuing progress in the coming year as we move forward, with library staff and community advocates, toward achieving our vision.

Tom Susman
President

Anna Velazco
Executive Director

Our Mission

The District of Columbia Public Library Foundation leverages and enhances DC Public Library resources and programs that promote, in all community members, literacy and a thirst for knowledge.

Our Vision

We see a District-wide literacy movement, sparked by the Foundation, inspired by a love of words and books, and fueled by expanded educational opportunities for all.

We see a Library system that—through innovative and state-of-the-art facilities, programs, and services—becomes for the community a beacon of lifelong learning, a catalyst for citizen action and organization, and a leader in the pursuit of enlightened civic engagement.

We see a community uplifted, dedicated to opportunity and joined to offer DC residents from all neighborhoods, of all ages, at all literacy levels, the possibility of realizing their full potential.

2005 Accomplishments

- As an indication of the Foundation's growing presence in the community, Foundation President Tom Susman and board members Betsy Kraft, James Lewis, and Miles Steele joined Mayor Anthony Williams' Blue Ribbon Panel on the Future of the DC Public Library.

- In the second annual Grantmaking Cycle for Library staff, the Foundation funded 18 projects proposed by Library staff, divisions, branches and Friends groups totaling \$98,638. See next page for details.

- The Foundation again funded SummerQuest and Holla' Back with a grant of \$57,350. In addition to funding, the Foundation also provides the necessary finance and administrative support for these programs. The purpose of these two programs is to maintain or improve reading and writing skills in children and youth during summer vacation. Over 15,000 children and youth participated in these DC Public Library reading programs.
 - SummerQuest targets children ages 6-13 and provides incentives for the books they read.
 - Holla' Back targets youth ages 14-19 and provides incentives for not only reading books but for writing book reviews.

- The Foundation provided finance and administrative support to a number of Library programs that received donations or grants restricted for specific purposes. Those programs include e-BIC, Reading King, Center for the Book, Taking Poetry to the Street, Mike Fox GED Scholarship Fund, landscaping of Palisades branch library, Deaf Awareness Day, and the enhancement of the GED, ESL, media, and poetry collections.

2005 Grant Cycle Awards

Amt	Unit	Summary
2,200	Young Adult Services Division	To create Chess Clubs and a competitive chess league for teens At MLK and 3 branches: Gregory, Washington Highlands, Capitol View
7,000	Language and Literature Division	To expand the celebration of National Poetry Month from day-long to month-long activities at MLK and 7 selected branches
2,598	Thornton/Shepherd Park	To support infrastructure improvements including: mobile shelving, neon signage, and tabletop sound lectern
6,400	Popular Library	To establish an Urban Fiction collection at MLK
1,500	Capitol View Branch Library	To establish a multi-media Information Literacy collection and programs to work with school students on accessing information
5,000	Information Technology	To purchase a SMART Board, projector, staff training in use of SMART Board technology for computer training classes
6,050	Children's Division	To create a mural and purchase art for the Children's Room
4,700	Art Division	To expand Arts and Crafts Workshops and enhance craft book collection at MLK
10,000	Young Adult Services	To create a "Teen Scene" in the Young Adult Room through teen-friendly media and furniture
4,000	Georgetown Branch Library	To establish an adult audio book CD collection
1,796	West End Branch Library	To purchase subscriptions to key business and political periodicals
9,784	Music Division	To hold Friday music performances throughout the summer at MLK including purchase of portable stage, banner and marketing
10,000	Northeast Branch Library	To convene two Writers' Series: "How do they do that?" where authors discuss the process of developing, researching and creating a book
5,000	Palisades Branch Library	Installation of wooden sign to enhance ongoing landscaping project
6,400	Children's Division	"Super Saturdays" Saturday literacy programming for children MLK and 6 branches during winter months
6,360	Collections Development	Promote and expand educator program through purchase of rolling carts and expanded marketing

6,850	Adult Literacy Resource Center	To convene a citywide literacy conference for practitioners and adult learners celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Adult Literacy Resource Center
3,000	Friends of Southeast Library	To support language and literacy learning through materials purchase and conversation circles
98,638	Total	

2005 Board of Directors

Honorary Board

Nora Drew Gregory
Michael Kahn
Charles Mann
Hon. Howard Metzenbaum
Virginia Hayes Williams

Board of Directors

Thomas Susman, President
Karen Murrell, Vice President
Gregory Chernack, Secretary
Patricia Block, Treasurer
Miles Steele II, Asst. Treasurer

Betsy Harvey Kraft
Jim Lewis
Nancy Peters Register
Francis Buckley, ex-officio

Staff

Anna Velazco
Executive Director

District of Columbia Public Library Foundation
Statement of Financial Position
(as of December 31, 2005)

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$628,455.00
Contributions receivable	\$2,306.00
Investments	\$3,419,848.00

TOTAL ASSETS **\$4,050,599.00**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$11,488.00
Agency funds	\$410,298.00
Grants payable	\$169,914.00
Total Liabilities	\$591,660.00

New Assets

Unrestricted	\$623,075.00
Temporarily restricted	\$2,835,864.00
Total Net Assets	\$3,458,939.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$4,050,599.00**