



IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
9 December 2004

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DC Public Library Foundation Awards Grants To Library Sixteen Projects To Share Nearly \$75,000

(Washington, DC) – Encouraged by the success of its first year in grantmaking, the DC Public Library Foundation awarded almost \$75,000 in funding to strengthen the DC Public Library and enhance its services to the community. Through a competitive proposal process open only to Library staff, the Foundation selected sixteen winning entries that range from \$410 to \$7,500, the maximum award amount.



The Foundation's now-annual grantmaking program has sparked increased participation, creative thinking, and healthy competition among library staff. As a result, the quality and quantity of proposals received by the Foundation increased substantially—the number of proposals grew by 25% and the Foundation's review committee reported stronger proposals. Out of 37 submitted proposals, sixteen were funded. More than half the proposals submitted were from library branches, and more than half of the funded projects were also from branches.

“After decades of declining funding, the DC Public Library faces substantial need,” says Christian Doucette, Executive Director. “Our challenge is to identify the highest priority needs that can be addressed with \$75,000. And who better to do that than Library staff? It is this effective partnership that highlights the vital role the Foundation plays in securing resources for an under-funded yet critical system.”

The proposals were carefully reviewed by a four-member committee of the board and recommendations were approved by the full board of directors on November 18th. The winning applicants were awarded their grants in a special ceremony on December 7th hosted by the Board and the interim library director at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. The winning proposals are:

\$7500

Adult Literacy Resource Center

Renewing support for this 6-week summer ESL conversation group for adults to develop their ability to speak and understand English.

\$830

Northeast Branch Library

Providing three youth writing initiatives focusing on Black History Month, Women's History Month, and Writing a Summer Diary.

\$3850

Staff

A continuing education scholarship to earn a General Engineer certificate.

\$6752

Audiovisual Division

Creating a digital media processing resource center to catalog, coordinate, and manage electronic audio/visual material.

\$7500

Audiovisual Division

Expanding access to English as a Second Language literacy programs in video and audio formats.

\$7017

Collection Development

Purchasing 11 sets of The Complete Arkangel Shakespeare--38 unabridged plays--for libraries throughout the District.

\$4000

Georgetown Branch

Piloting a wireless Internet connection in the Georgetown branch for patrons with their own laptop computers.

\$2978

Lamond-Riggs

To expand the collection with a set of Books In Print, a new dictionary, foreign language media, and young adult titles.

\$7460

Washington Highlands

For the development of a community health education and resource collection east of the river.

\$4200

Language and Literature Division

To celebrate National Poetry Month with an all-day event on April 23, 2005.

\$2700

Preschool Film Committee

Improving the collection of pre-school films, a system-wide program that reaches 900 children per month.

\$700

Watha T. Daniel/Shaw

A creative writing contest for children and young adults in which children narrate a story based on illustrations.

\$7500

Young Adult Services

Celebrating Teen Read Week in October 2005 with a series of author talks for young adults.

\$410

Thorton/Shepherd Park

To increase school loan usage rates by purchasing carrying crates that improve mobility.

\$6762

Children's Collection

To expand the children's collections with Read Along books and cassettes in English and Spanish for children's rooms in 23 branches.

\$2383

Southeast Branch

To expand a Black Authors collection.

Founded in 1985, the DC Public Foundation leverages and enhances DC Public Library resources and programs that promote, in all community members, literacy and a thirst for knowledge.

