



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GEORGETOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRANSFORMATION SPURS DONOR MOMENTUM

***"Very Close" on \$50K Matching Grant;
Deadline for "Wall of Honor" Opportunities Extended***

(Washington, DC) – Excitement over the re-opening of the dramatically improved Georgetown Neighborhood Library on October 18 is generating fresh enthusiasm among current and prospective donors, reports the DC Public Library Foundation (DCPLF). The Foundation operates the Georgetown Library Recovery and Restoration Fund, which it launched shortly after the 2007 fire to raise critically needed private funds. The foundation has raised over \$300,000 from 440 donors to supplement city funding for the Georgetown library, notes DCPLF Executive Anna Velazco, although additional funds are needed for further restoration of the Peabody Collection's historic archives.

Preview Highlights: Last week DCPLF hosted over 100 donors for the first major preview of the newly restored Georgetown Library. "The space is now light, airy and filled with stunning views - north and south," Velazco notes. Donors' responses were "beyond enthusiastic," she adds, to new features such as a restored outdoor reading terrace, an attic transformed into a state-of-the-art suite to house the historic Peabody Collection, and a sweeping lower level for the children's collection and meeting space for over 100 people. From the lower level, stepped gardens rise to meet Book Hill Park. "This is extraordinary!" stated Frank Babb Randolph, a nationally recognized interior designer.

Wall of Honor: The new library will prominently feature a "Wall of Honor," a permanent installation recognizing all donors of \$500 or more. While viewing a temporary mock-up at the preview, a number of donors said they planned to supplement their prior donations in order to be more closely and permanently identified with the library. Therefore, DCPLF is extending the deadline for "Wall of Honor" listings past the official opening on the 18th in order to facilitate year-end giving. According to Velazco, "the Wall of Honor will recognize those who helped to transform the 2007 library tragedy into an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy that is worthy of Georgetown's unique history and designed to serve the needs of our modern community."

Match Challenge for the Peabody Collection: DCPLF also reports that recent donations puts it just \$8000 away from securing a \$50,000 matching grant from a foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. These funds will be used to restore the Peabody Collection of Georgetown historic documents, maps, artwork, and artifacts. No government funds are provided to restore the Peabody Collection – which encompasses over three centuries of some of the most significant local history in the nation.

For more information, or donate, visit: www.dcpfoundation.org or call: 202.727.4943 Anna Velazco, Executive Director

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About the Foundation: Founded in 1985, the DC Public Library Foundation adds a margin of excellence to the DC Public Library System by providing programs, services, and materials not otherwise available to the library, with a special emphasis on children and literacy. Over the years, the Foundation has raised over \$6 million in private funding.

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