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## WHEN YOU GIVE TO THE FOUNDATION, YOU GIVE TO THE LIBRARY

Our work is made possible because of the generosity of people, foundations, community organizations and businesses that give to the Library Foundation and share our belief in the transformational power of libraries for all Fort Worthians. Your gifts enhance library programs that nurture literacy, imagination and lifelong learning.

### FROM ONE COWTOWN TO THE COWTOWN, MEET MIDORI CLARK

You've heard all the buzz surrounding the arrival of Fort Worth's new library director. The Fort Worth Library



rang in the New Year with Midori Clark leading the way. Now, get to know your new library director, who comes with 20 years of library leadership experience directing library and cultural services.

Midori is no stranger to cowboy boots and spurs

the good folks of Fort Worth are so accustomed to. She calls the small town of Greely, Colorado home. Known for its farming community and cattle ranching, she feels quite comfortable in Fort Worth. "I do feel very comfortable and at home here because I also grew up in a Cowtown," said Midori. "Not the Cowtown, but a much smaller one."

As a kid, Midori often moved around because of her parents' work in higher education. Midori said being able to live in different regions across the country

*"For me, it was an easy transition and made a lot of sense. These are both information careers and are both about connecting people to community resources."*

allowed her to have a lifelong learning experience. "I love to learn. I'm very invested and connected to the notion of lifelong learning," Midori said. One of the reasons she chose to come to Fort Worth is because of how engaged the community is in the future of libraries. She says people are eager to talk to her about the library the moment they find out she's the new library director. "Since I've been here, I've already met with

many citizens who want to talk about the future of the downtown library. To me, that is very welcomed and exciting because the alternative is that no one cares – which could be a cause for concern," said Midori.

Midori spent her early career working in journalism where she enjoyed connecting and sharing information with the community. "When you think about it, that's a lot of what we do at the public library. For me, it was an easy transition and made a lot of sense. These are both information careers and are both about connecting people to community resources," said Midori. "How information is disseminated is different, but in many ways it's parallel and very similar."

As the first Asian American to have led a public library in Colorado, Midori says it's important to have diversity and make sure that the people who come through our library doors see themselves reflected in the people who serve them and on the leadership team. With cultural roots in Japan, Midori often visited her grandmother who lived in a small fishing village on the west coast of Japan. "I'm proud of who I am. I just own it and lean into it. This is me, this is who I am," Midori said. "I'm proud that other people of color can aspire to being library directors too. Asians specifically, can see that there's someone who helped build a foundation for other Asian people who want to immerse themselves in the library."

When she's not managing library operations, you can find Midori on the tennis court scoring championship points. She's played competitive tennis for 15 years and has even gone on to win state with her Pueblo, CO team. She also enjoys spending time with her two mini dachshund rescue dogs, Cooper and Bailey, who keep her active.

You can't help but smile when you're around Midori. Her charming personality and contagious positive energy are exactly what Fort Worth needs to usher in new library initiatives. Be sure to say hello if you see her around town.

Learn more about programs and services our libraries offer by visiting [fortworthtexas.gov/departments/library](http://fortworthtexas.gov/departments/library).

## LAUNCHPAD: STUDENT SUCCESS



This has been another busy and productive year for the LaunchPad college application advising program. We have had the pleasure of working individually with 140 high school students, coaching them on how to investigate and

create potential college lists, pursue financial aid, and brainstorm and hone their application and scholarship essays. Several current and post-graduate college students have also worked with us as they apply to a variety of graduate schools and programs.

As always, we have multiple college acceptances to many Texas public and private colleges and universities, including UT, A&M, TCU, SMU, Southwestern, and Baylor. Two of our local STEM-enthusiast students will be heading to Houston to attend Rice University. Many students have also been admitted to schools around the country, including MIT, UVA, USC, Amherst, Barnard and Penn State.

A few of our highlights from the past year include working with a homeschooled student who was accepted into TCU and earned the prestigious TCU Chancellor scholarship, which provides full tuition for four years. Also, one of our valedictorian candidates, who comes from a single-parent family and works multiple jobs to pay her expenses and help save for college, has earned at least three full-ride scholarships to East Coast colleges. Additionally, one of our students worked diligently on her essays to apply and be accepted to the UT Austin Plan II Honors program and get into her highly selective major.

To learn more or to partner with us on this amazing program, please visit [fwplf.org/programs/launchpad](http://fwplf.org/programs/launchpad).

to showcase its new space in early summer. In the meantime, if you are visiting the Fort Worth Club, please stop in to visit.

We are located at 306 W. Seventh St., Suite 205, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.



*Foundation offices at the Central Library.*



*New Foundation office located at the Fort Worth Club.*

## NEW LOCATION



The Fort Worth Library Foundation has relocated. Having officed in the downtown Central Library building for over 20 years, the Foundation recently moved into office space located at the Fort Worth Club. "It's a time for many exciting changes for the Foundation – a move, a

new library director, the Foundation and the libraries are growing," said Andrea Ash, Foundation President and CEO. "There is just so much to be thankful for right now."

The Foundation's Board will host an open house

## WATER COOLER TALK



With more than 10 years of fundraising experience in higher education and social services, Rhonda Ross joins The Fort Worth Public Library Foundation as Director of Development, bringing her passion for helping others to our Fort Worth community. "I'm excited to

join the Foundation team and continue to support the vital mission of all Fort Worth Libraries to offer a place the entire community can come to learn and grow," said Rhonda.

Rhonda is originally from upstate New York but has called Texas home for the last 24 years. Growing up being snowed in on a regular basis, Rhonda became an avid reader. She loves getting together with her book club every month to talk about what they've read. Her favorite pastimes include traveling and enjoying new experiences. You can find her flying to a faraway destination, driving to check out a new place for a weekend or just hanging out with her son and soon-to-be daughter-in-law at a new restaurant.

Rhonda believes libraries are crucial to a thriving community and looks forward to being involved with all the opportunities for growth with our Foundation.

Please join us in giving Rhonda a big Foundation welcome. You can reach her at rhonda@fwlibraryfoundation.org or 817-871-8022 ext. 101.

## AMPLIFY IS AWARDED



*Photo by Wyatt Newquist*

Every year, the Fort Worth Weekly Music Awards celebrates local artists by highlighting the best of the best in Fort Worth. This past December, Amplify 817 received an honorary award for the work they do to support musicians in our community. Music librarian, Rita Alfaro, and Library Communications manager, Theresa Davis,

enthusiastically accepted the award on behalf of Amplify 817 at the 22nd Annual Fort Worth Weekly Music Awards.

The Library continues to do amazing work in the Fort Worth community as Amplify grows into its fourth year of nurturing new and upcoming artists. Your donations make it possible for the Library to pay artists licensing rights to stream their music on Amplify817.org. Unlike other streaming platforms, Amplify 817 pays artists up front rather than waiting on specific streaming plays or thresholds.

The Library also supports artists with opportunities for free media training, educational programs, assists with media relations, and helps obtain broadcast news, podcast and daytime television appearances for Amplify 817 musicians.

Wherever you are, stream a variety of commercial-free music from local artists on the Amplify 817 website. As a perk, library cardholders can download featured songs to keep at no cost.

Visit [amplify817.org](https://amplify817.org) to stream music or browse the Amplify 817 catalog.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The 2024 Cigar Smoker was a success thanks to supporters like you! The impact of the Foundation's annual fundraising gala goes beyond one night of celebrating literacy, libraries and the LaunchPad program.

Funds raised at Smoker create opportunities for the entire Fort Worth Community to experience innovative programming and services provided by the Fort Worth Public Library.

Access to these programs and services is essential to improving the quality of life for everyone in our community. Resources can be limited for many in Fort Worth. The Library functions as a community center that provides information to support and enhance lifelong learning and literacy development.

The Cigar Smoker is the Foundation's largest fundraiser and plays a significant role in helping Fort Worth Public Libraries, but it wouldn't be possible without you, our supporters. Thank you to our sponsors, partners, guests and volunteers for making such a positive impact in our community.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ADULT DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

June 2 | Southwest Regional | 4 - 6 PM

Join us to explore dungeons, battle monsters and let your inner warrior out in our beginner-friendly Dungeons & Dragons club.

### TAIWANESE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

June 8 | La Gran Biblioteca | 2 - 3 PM

Among the many Taiwanese customs is wearing scented sachets that repel summer insects. Learn how the Taiwanese celebrate this festival and make your own scented sachet!

To learn more about library events, visit [fwpl.info/events](https://fwpl.info/events).

### SENIOR SOCIAL HOUR

June 10 | Golden Triangle | 1 - 3 PM

Each week, we will host a discussion on a timely theme, enjoy light refreshments and learn more about what's happening in our community.

### BEGINNER SPANISH CONVERSATION

June 15 | Northside | 3 - 4:30 PM

Learn and practice Spanish language skills in a fun and supportive environment.



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*Now Open*

<https://stores.inksoft.com/FWPLF/shop/home>