



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.

LIBRARY GRAND OPENING



The anticipated grand opening for the **Vivian J. Lincoln Library** was held on Saturday, July 8, 2023, with remarks and a ribbon cutting before the doors officially opened to the public.

The library is located at **[8901 McCart Avenue](#)**

in far southwest Fort Worth and was named by the community after the beloved longtime educator and first female African American principle in the Crowley Independent School District. The 18,000-square-foot facility features a large meeting room, study rooms, a creative lab, and a quiet room.

The art installation titled "Fabled", located at the new library, can be credited to the partnership between the Library and Fort Worth Public Art. The commissioned artwork by Area C Projects draws on the library's role as a teller of stories. Community members were invited to contribute pictures, videos, memories, words, and historical documents for a multi-media experience.

NOAH AND BELLE: A SPECIAL NOTE



"We love going to our Library! My son Noah reads so many books that I have to take a suitcase to the library to put them in. He drags the suitcase full of new books home, opens it, and looks at every single one. And

he likes to make sure our dog Belle has her own book.

Noah started 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten in November and gets a prize for every 100 books he reads. So far, he's earned five prizes.

Thank you for all that you do for libraries and little ones every day!"

-Janine

Visit fwpl.info/1000books to learn more about 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.

MAKE IT A SUMMER OF CURIOSITY, IMAGINATION, AND EXPLORATION



The Mayor's Summer Reading Challenge officially kicked off Saturday, June 3, 2023, at Trinity Park. Over 400 readers enjoyed sunshine, music by The GO-GO Rillas, fun activities, and Kona Ice!

The Library continues to build a community of learners, dreamers, and

doers in Fort Worth by offering exciting experiences that can be enjoyed with friends and family all summer:

Storybook Characters— Meet storybook characters Llama Llama and Pete the Cat during special summer story times.

Summer Activities— Feed your curiosity at the instrument "petting zoo", get your hands dirty with a gardening class, play with creepy critters, bang around with African drums, and much more.

Guest Readers— Earn your reading minutes by attending special story times with community leaders in Fort Worth. Join police officers, city council members, and even the mayor for summer reading fun!

Nature Center Days — Enjoy FREE admission to the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge on the first Mondays in June, July, and August from 7 a.m.-12 p.m. with your library card. Be sure to attend the special story time at 10:30 a.m. in the Visitors Center for a nature-related story.

Joining is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Sign up online at <https://fortworth.beanstack.com/reader365> or at any Fort Worth library location and pick out a prize.
2. Earn badges when you track your reading and activities.
3. Complete the challenge by earning six badges (one for reading) to get a free book.

Stay connected and share your reading adventures on social media with these hashtags: **#FortWorthReads** **#FWPLsummer**.

To learn more, visit fwpl.info/summer.

The CIGAR SMOKER

benefiting

The Fort Worth Public Library Foundation

The 2023 Cigar Smoker was a resounding success. Fort Worth Library enthusiasts and distinguished guests came together to enjoy cigars, live music, and meaningful connections.

This year, attendees stepped into a world of elegance at the Fort Worth Club, where the air was filled with the rich aroma of premium cigars and upbeat melodies by Amplify817 artists David Tribble and Joseph Neville. Guests enjoyed authentic hand-rolled cigars, local spirits, dinner, and two exciting auctions.

Join us next year on May 1, 2024, for an unforgettable evening where indulgence meets philanthropy. Savor the exceptional selection of cigars and connect with like-minded philanthropists who are committed to making a positive impact in Fort Worth.

Proceeds from this unique event fund crucial programs that promote literacy, education, and cultural enrichment throughout the now 19-branch library system.

Together, we can build a thriving community where knowledge and opportunity flourish.

Do not pass up the opportunity to be a part of change in Fort Worth! Secure your place at the 2024 Cigar Smoker by contacting the Foundation at rachael@fwlibraryfoundation.org.



VOTED BEST NONPROFIT EVENT



READER PICK

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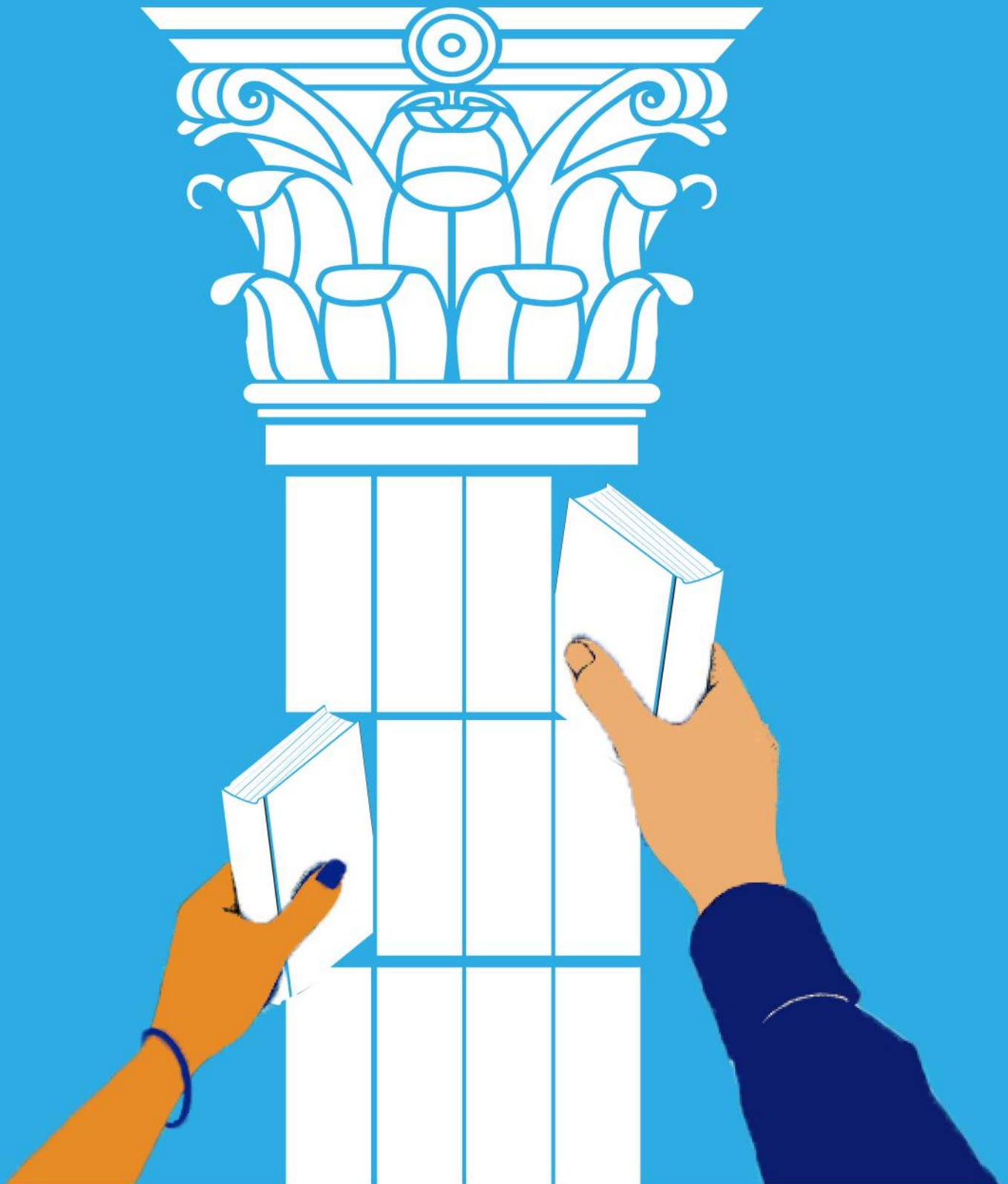


SUMMIT PEAK
INVESTMENTS

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30 THE FORT WORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

BENEFITING THE LIBRARY SINCE 1993





30 YEARS OF BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF LIFELONG READERS

Join us as we embark on another 30 years of transformation through literacy. Help us celebrate our 30th Anniversary with a gift of \$30 or more.

[**CLICK HERE
TO DONATE**](#)

Become a Dream Builder, a group of our most loyal donors, and make a difference all year long with a recurring gift.

LAUNCHPAD: UNLOCKING STUDENT POTENTIAL



The culmination of a great year arrived in June, marking the success of 2023 high school graduates who participated in the LaunchPad College App mentorship program. Students graduated from local high schools, including Marine Creek, Dunbar, Paschal, Arlington Heights, and Southwest, as well as private schools.

Let's celebrate the 176 talented individuals who embarked on a transformative journey under the guidance of Dr. Paula Tyler and Dr. Teri Blaisdell to write, edit, re-write, edit, re-write (okay, you get the picture) multiple college and scholarship essays. Students' hard work paid off as they received acceptances from 60 institutions nationwide.

Many students chose to stay close to home and will make 19 major universities and regional campuses across Texas their academic homes for the next four years.

Across the county, 15 six-figure four-year scholarships were awarded to students based on the merit of their applications. The list of accolades includes the coveted Questbridge Scholarship to Rice University, Boston University Merit Scholarship, TCU STEM and Community Scholarships, SMU Distinguished Scholar Award, and Pitzer College Scholarship. Students have reported an astounding \$4.1 million in scholarship offers—a testament to their talents and the belief placed in their potential.

It's essential to acknowledge the profound impact of Launchpad director Dr. Paula Tyler on these extraordinary students. Many come from underrepresented backgrounds and have been overlooked as serious college candidates or are the first in their families to attend a higher learning institution. Students will forever be impacted by their LaunchPad experience as the mission to instill literacy beyond the college application carries on through to their upcoming classes and careers.

To learn more or to partner with us on this amazing program, please visit fwplf.org/programs/launchpad.

BOARD SPOTLIGHT: HAYDEN BLACKBURN



Unsurprisingly, Hayden Blackburn made The 400: Fort Worth Inc.'s list of the most influential people in Fort Worth.

As a Library Foundation board member of six years and Executive Director of TechFW, Hayden plays a significant role in helping guide Foundation

decisions by leading informed conversations.

When asked why he serves on the board, Hayden quickly responded, "Filling gaps. Whether it's for entrepreneurship or education, sign me up. The Foundation's ability to partner with the City of Fort Worth to help fill gaps in service offerings and to be a vehicle for increased public and corporate support for the library system is why I am honored to serve on the Board of Directors."

The Foundation is a bridge to new possibilities for families and community members of all ages. From providing mobile Wi-Fi hotspots for the LaunchPad College App mentorship program to loaning musical instruments to Amplify817, the Foundation and the library system create knowledge, inspiration, and opportunities that all Fort Worth members deserve.

"Thank you to those who came before for creating a path beyond city funding. We now have new levels of creativity to unlock the potential of our community," Hayden said.

Please help us congratulate Hayden for his commitment to making Fort Worth a better place to live.

WATER COOLER TALK



We are excited to introduce our new Communications Assistant, Ruby Forch! She is a highly skilled communications professional who loves reading and spending time outdoors.

Ruby has previous experience as a Communications Specialist

at the Lower Colorado River Authority, where she demonstrated a proven track record of success. She studied at Texas State University where she honed her expertise in crafting effective messaging strategies.

With her exceptional writing abilities, attention to detail, and keen eye for visual aesthetics, Ruby is poised to make a significant impact in amplifying the Foundation's mission and fostering community engagement while also bringing her passion for reading to her work.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE GAME OF LIFE (LIFE SIZE)

July 21 | Shamblee | 4:00PM - 5:00PM

What decisions will you make as you move along the path of life! This program is for all ages.

WRITE ON, WRITE ON, WRITE ON!

July 24 | Southwest Regional | 6:30PM - 7:30PM

Join other local scribes and scribblers for writing sprints, accountability and weekly read and critique sessions. All levels welcome! This program is specifically designed for adults age 18+.

MAD SCIENCE: FIRE & ICE

July 26 | Northwest | 2:00PM - 3:00 PM

Prepare to be wowed by foggy dry ice storms and mind boggling vanishing paper.

To learn more about library events, visit fwpl.info/events.

BOOKS AND BREWS BOOK CLUB FOR ADULTS

Aug. 2 | Old Texas Brewing Co. | 6:30PM - 8:00PM

Each month we enjoy a new book, great conversation, and brewed beverages (beers, ales, coffee, tea etc.).

Book: Killers of a Certain Age by Deanna Raybourn

ONLINE LIBRARY STORE *Now Open*



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