



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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It has been a busy year at the Foundation with many changes, new initiatives and a lot of growth. We've been celebrating the Foundation's 30th Anniversary all year long with \$30 for 30 years. Your \$30 birthday gift goes straight to work helping us build sustainable library programs for the entire community.

With the closing of the Central Library, this summer has been dedicated to looking for a new home. We will announce our new location and official move date once we have a lease. We expect this to happen soon and foresee moving into our new office space early January.

Additionally, the Library is in the process of leadership transition as the search for a new library director begins. I am pleased to represent the Foundation on the search committee. This is a first for the Foundation, and further demonstrates our deepened partnership with the Library and the City of Fort Worth.

Despite the changes, the Foundation is growing and expanding:

- Our development team is on track to surpass its revenue goals for the second year.
- We relaunched DeamBuilders, our monthly giving program.
- We're growing our community connections through speaking engagements, participating in city-wide events like Oktoberfest's Nonprofit Olympics and Lockwood's Cocktails for a Cause, and fostering new partnerships.
- The LaunchPad College App program has expanded with the addition of program specialist Dr. Teri Blaisdell. We're also awarding our first LaunchPad scholarship in Spring 2024.
- Board engagement and support are at an all-time high with the addition of three new members at the close of 2022 and two new members in 2023.

In just a few short months, we will begin 2024. The Foundation will continue striving for another 30 years of community engagement as we start a new chapter in a new location and with new library leadership. We'll also be coming up on the final year of the Foundation's three-year strategic plan and, of course, the 27th year of our famous signature event, the Cigar Smoker (May 1).

Change is never easy, and you can count on challenges along the way, but seeing the blessings within those challenges makes it worthwhile. On behalf of our board, staff and ALL those we serve through our mission, thank you for your dedication and support.

Warmly,

Andrea Ash, President/CEO

LAUNCHPAD: NURTURING STUDENT SUCCESS



In the realm of education, dedicated teachers play an essential role in shaping the future and success of students. Dr. Teri Blaisdell, the latest LaunchPad College App team addition, epitomizes this unwavering commitment to student achievement.

Teri crossed paths with Dr. Paula Tyler, the co-founder of LaunchPad, in the Paschal High School Library in 2008. "We immediately realized we had so much in common," said Teri. Both are English PhDs, both taught at Paschal and both have had a common network of friends. Teri immediately invited Paula to speak to her senior class. This invitation would begin a transformative partnership.

Paula's visits to Teri's classes set the stage for a shared commitment to empower students and enhance their college application journey. Several years later, their vision led to the creation of a week-long summer college essay-writing camp. "It was our desire to reach as many students as possible, and summer seemed like the next obvious step," Teri said.

Fifteen summer camps later, Teri joined the LaunchPad team part-time, beginning a new chapter in her illustrious career that includes many years as a full-time English lecturer at UTA, a decade teaching AP English Literature, three years nurturing students in AP Capstone Seminar and several years teaching evening courses at TCU, UTA and TCC.

"The biggest benefit of working with LaunchPad students versus students in the classroom is the amount of time and flexibility. I get to work with students in person, via Zoom and by email. This flexibility ensures students receive personalized guidance tailored to their individual needs. I also appreciate the ability to work with students from all sorts of backgrounds and experiences," explained Teri.

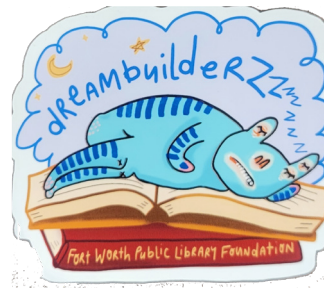
Her dedication to guiding students is evident through stories of growth and transformation. Many hard-working and deserving students sign up for LaunchPad after they have poured their hearts into their first essays. In some cases, the essays don't answer the prompt and/or need significant content revisions. "I'm extremely careful in these cases to make sure they see revising not as a criticism but as an opportunity to really shine," explains Teri. "I encouraged one student to write one paragraph and share it with me. Writing the new essay was so much fun using my strategy that the student was extremely excited about writing, and after a few revisions and drafting, she produced a remarkable college application essay."

The Foundation is thrilled to have Dr. Blaisdell on the team.

Her wealth of teaching experience and unwavering commitment to helping students achieve their aspirations will continue the excellence of LaunchPad services.

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

A DREAM IN THE MAKING



If you've ever taken a stroll around downtown Fort Worth, you more than likely come across strange creatures that seemingly pop up out of nowhere. Hidden down alleyways or secretly waiting for you as you enter your favorite shops, [sighting these monsters](#) become a pleasant surprise.

As a Library supporter, you too can own a small piece of quirkiness that is Cowtown. Local artist, [Diane Pereira](#), collaborated with the Foundation to create a special edition monster sticker to celebrate our DreamBuilders relaunch. You'll receive this special edition sticker when you become a DreamBuilder in 2023.

Born and raised in Toronto, Canada, Diane and her monsters now call Fort Worth home. Diane has gone above and beyond to support our mission with this unique collaboration.

When you become a DreamBuilder with a recurring donation, you ensure everyone in Fort Worth has access to free programming and essential services. Remember, every penny counts, so big or small, your recurring donation makes a difference. You make our community great!

Become a DreamBuilder today with a sustainable gift at fwplf.org/dream-builder.

SAVE THE DATE

05 | 01 | 24

The Cigar
Smoker

BENEFITING THE FORT WORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION



<http://i.lead.me/smoker2024>

ABC'S OF BABYSITTING



Families asked, and the Fort Worth Public Library listened. This past summer, after many requests from the community, the Library launched a new teen-focused program to empower teens to successfully care for younger children by learning essential skills.

Focus groups helped the Library understand that teens and preteens are often left with the huge responsibility of caring for their younger siblings when parents and adults are at work. The new program aims to help working families by providing teens with the skills necessary to look after younger children. Additionally, teens were eager to find ways to earn income during school breaks by babysitting.

After a successful debut, the program rapidly gained popularity and was included in the Library's fall lineup of free classes. The four-hour class covered safety, behavior management, and entertainment tips to better prepare teens to navigate the world of babysitting. The safety portion of the class included CPR training from the Fort Worth Fire Department. The Library and the Fire Department have collaborated on programming in the past, including firefighter story times.

Each participant received a babysitting kit packed with fun activities, games, books and bilingual materials.

The program successfully wrapped up fall courses on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Vivian J. Lincoln Library, but teens can still check out a babysitting kit with their library card.

Community donations made through the Foundation help prepare teens to be successful through free programs like the ABC's of Babysitting.

To check out babysitting kits, please visit fwpl.polarislibrary.com.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



During October, the Foundation collaborated with [Lockwood Distilling Co.](#) as their Cocktail for a Cause community partner. Their mixologist created a delicious fruity cocktail called "Read the Room." This blackberry and cherry vodka-based specialty cocktail was inspired by the

Foundation's branded hue of purple. Lockwood donated \$2 for every "Read the Room" sold to support the Library Foundation.

In all, 56 "Read the Room" specialty cocktails were served

during the month, raising \$120.

We celebrated this new partnership and the month-long fundraiser with a Wrap Party on October 25. The Fort Worth Public Library signed up a couple of new library cardholders during the event. The energetic crowd enjoyed learning about the Foundation and the Library through rounds of LINGO, the word version of BINGO. Thanks to Lockwood Distilling Co. and MELT Ice Creams' donations, one lucky supporter got to take home a basket full of prizes.



We continue to grow support for the Library through community engagement by participating in local nonprofit events like Fort Worth's Oktoberfest Olympics for A Cause.

Every event is an opportunity to build amazing partnerships with community members like Daniel Roy. In October, Daniel helped us place third against other organizations competing in Olympics for A Cause.

Daniel has always had a love for food, so it was a no-brainer bringing him on board for the bratwurst eating competition. When he's not training for feasts, he's helping families grow stronger together through jiu-jitsu. As the owner and main instructor at [Goliath Jiu-Jitsu](#), Daniel believes in empowering kids to build confidence in themselves through hard work and perseverance.

BABY STORY TIME



Rick Piersall, trustee of the **Frances C. and William P. Smallwood Foundation**, stopped by Baby Story Time at the Golden Triangle Library in October to see how their generous grant provides learning opportunities for babies. He enjoyed watching grownups and their babies

read books, sing songs, dance and play peek-a-boo, all of which are activities that enhance learning skills. A donation from the Smallwood Foundation provided the books, toys and noisemakers used during Baby Story Time at multiple library locations.

Baby Story Time provides a free, safe space for children to have meaningful, early literacy experiences while providing modeling and community support for the adult caregivers who attend with them. Most of the brain's wiring is supercharged by age three, when it begins building the foundation needed for learning and rapid development.

The Library Foundation is incredibly grateful to Rick and all the Smallwood Foundation trustees for their commitment to supporting early literacy in Fort Worth.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAMILY SCIENCE TIME

Nov. 2023 - Feb. 2024 | Multiple Locations |
6:30 – 7:30 PM

Experience the joys of exploring the scientific world together as a family! New topics each month.

UKULELE BASICS

December 9 | Golden Triangle | 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Learn basic chords, strumming patterns and a few songs with ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro.

Bring your own ukulele or check one out from the library.

BOOKS AND BREWS BOOK CLUB FOR ADULTS

January 3 | T&P Tavern | 6:30 – 8 PM

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

Book: Are You Sara? by S.C. Lalli

TEEN ROBOTICS

January 23 | Summerglenn | 5 – 6 PM

The Library is ready to guide teens through the basics of building a robot with new kits!

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



ONLINE LIBRARY STORE
Now Open

Three t-shirts are displayed: a white t-shirt with a colorful graphic, a black t-shirt with the text 'AMPLIFY4817', and a white t-shirt with a graphic. Below the t-shirts is the URL: <https://stores.inksoft.com/FWPLF/shop/home>