



## 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's time for some summer fun!

Like many of you, we've navigated some big changes over the past six months. As the dust (and heat) settles in, let's all take a moment to relish in the progress made toward one another's 2024 goals.

This time of year always reminds me of why I love libraries. For the past 15 years, my kiddos and I have geared up for the summer reading challenge and created a "not so bummer summer" adventure list of new experiences we want to try. Truly, it's one of my favorite times of year. It's also a time to assess the progress on goals set or review a vision board or two.

The same goes for the Foundation. Every summer, we take a minute to review goals, assess what we've accomplished so far and refuel for the second half of the year.

Since January, the Foundation has:

- **MOVED!** Be sure to update your contacts with our new address: **306 W. 7th Street, Ste. 205, Fort Worth, TX 76102**,
- Hosted a very successful 27<sup>th</sup> Cigar Smoker Gala,
- Hired Rhonda Ross, our new Development Director,
- Welcomed Midori Clark as Fort Worth's new Library Director, and
- Assisted hundreds of students with their college application process through the LaunchPad program.

As we look ahead to the second half of the year, you can rest assured that more exciting things are coming:

- A reboot of the Dream Builder monthly giving campaign. If you aren't a Dream Builder yet; you'll want to be by year end,
- A library-wide celebration for North Texas Giving Day on Sept. 19,
- An open house for the Foundation's new office,

- Announcement of our first LaunchPad scholarship recipients; and much more.

But hey, let's celebrate summer first. Not sure what to do? I highly recommend making a summer adventure list with your family and friends. Here are a few things to get you started.

#### Three Must Do's This Summer:

- Sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge! It's not just for kids.
- Expand your music library by attending one of the Amped-Up concert series happening across the city. We'll end the tour with the Amplify817 showcase at the end of summer.
- Make a memory with your family/friends by attending one special program offered at any of the library locations such as Brett Robers' Bubble Adventure. Seriously, who doesn't love bubbles?

Remember, summer fun at your library isn't just for kids, it's for everyone!

Enjoy the season and explore your Libraries,

Andrea Ash, CFRE  
President & CEO



## FIRST MONDAYS ARE BACK!

For a third summer, the Library is partnering with the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge to bring you free admission every first Monday from 7 a.m. to noon in June, July and August. Library patrons will enjoy two nature-themed Family Story Times every first Monday at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Stick around after each Family Story Time for a Nature Center-led hike to take in the splendor and natural beauty of the preserve.

First Mondays are the perfect opportunity for children to explore and learn about their surroundings in a natural setting comprised of forests, prairies and wetlands. This summer, Family Story Times will highlight nature-related themes that focus on grasses, butterflies and dragonflies.

Get your little ones excited about being outside by sparking a curiosity for exploration. Every Family Story Time at the Nature Center is an opportunity for sensory engagement through fun storytelling and hands-on activities!



Visit [www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/library/events/fwncr-free](http://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/library/events/fwncr-free) to learn more about First Mondays with the Nature Center.

## PHILANTHROPY SPOTLIGHT

 The Fort Worth Public Library Foundation was recently awarded a generous grant of \$35,000 from Meta (formerly Facebook) at the 2024 Meta Data Center Community Action Grant awards reception. Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker joined Meta representatives at the Fort Worth Meta Data Center to celebrate the nine organizations who received awards. The funds granted by Meta to the Foundation will support a variety of age-appropriate STEAM programs available throughout the library system. The Library's STEAM programming is designed for kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade and provides students the opportunity to supplement the education they are receiving in school

by attending programs at their local library as well as the possibility to discover a passion that will follow them into their lives beyond the classroom. Thank you, META, for investing in our community.

## EVERY DOLLAR HELPS BUILD A DREAM

Dream Builders is a monthly giving community of donors that provides the Fort Worth Public Library with reliable, sustainable funding all year round for essential services and programs.

Monthly donations ensure various engaging learning opportunities for everyone in our community at all 19 Fort Worth libraries. Your gift makes a positive impact in the lives of community members who are working towards personal growth. There is no gift too small. Every dollar counts.

Your monthly gift helps fund various programs and opportunities like the budding artist who is paid upfront streaming costs as part of the Library's Amplify817 program or weekly after school STEAM projects that open a world of new possibilities for children. From learning new skills as an adult to supporting local high school students on their college journey with the LaunchPad application program, becoming a Dream Builder is easy to do.

Set it and forget it with an automated recurring gift. No more checks to write or payments to make. Your monthly gift, big or small, helps build our community up with access to free programs. Become a Dream Builder today and help someone's dreams come true.

Visit [fwplf.org/become-a-dream-builder](http://fwplf.org/become-a-dream-builder) to set up your recurring gift today.

## LAUNCHPAD: THE STEPS TO SUCCESS



We are so thrilled to have played a part in launching our current class of 138 seniors off to their respective colleges and universities across 24 states this fall.

The LaunchPad team has already begun one-on-one advising sessions with the next graduating class (2025). Our focus is always on college essay writing. Still, before students can start to write, they must have a planned list of colleges they are applying to so we can help them map out the number of essays (the main essay and supplemental essays) to get a realistic idea of how much

work is needed to create the writing portions of their application. If needed, the team will assist in the list-making process by guiding the student in their research.

Once colleges are identified, we help students work through the prompt choices and brainstorm ideas for the main essay. This can take many weeks and rewrites, sometimes changing topics completely, as students try to narrow down the exact stories they will tell. Students typically meet with us one-on-one during the first few weeks of the process and then send drafts for comments and feedback. We continuously read and respond to student drafts for as long as it takes them to produce engaging, multiple long and shorter standard essays. As we near the completion of the main essay, we stress the importance of the supplemental essays. These shorter essays, oftentimes only 150-200 words, are specific to the university they are applying to and therefore equally as important and difficult as the long essay. Every student is unique. Therefore, we tailor our services to meet the needs of each student.

Thanks to our community of donors, LaunchPad continues to be a free program available to all.

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

## MORE THAN ONE WAY TO GIVE

Every form of support you show your Fort Worth Public Library through the Foundation makes a big impact in our community. This year, we're making it easier for our supporters to give back.

We're happy to announce that the Foundation is now registered with **Cars for Charity**. This means you can now donate your unwanted vehicles to the Foundation through Cars for Charity. The Foundation receives 100% of the net proceeds from every donation. Running or not, Cars for Charity offers free towing for trucks, motorcycles, boats, recreational vehicles and heavy equipment. All donations are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS rules and regulations. The donation process is an easy two steps:

Step 1. Fill out and submit the Foundation vehicle donation form to begin the donation process.

Step 2. Schedule your fast, free pick-up.

That's it! That's all it takes to help the Foundation raise funds to support your Library!

To learn more or start the donation process, visit [carsforcharity.net](http://carsforcharity.net).

## GET READY FOR AMPLIFY 817'S AMPED-UP MUSIC TOUR

This summer, you and your family can experience **free, no-cover live music** at the Amped-Up music tour. All ages are welcome at these unique concerts featuring three talented local musicians performing at different library locations across Fort Worth.



Igimèjí



Court Hoang



The Western Flyers

The countdown to the third annual 817 Showcase begins with Igimèjí leading the Amped-Up Tour concert series. Watch **Igimèjí** perform original R&B/Rock-Pop sounds on Saturday, June 22 from 2 - 5 p.m. at East Regional.

Next, head to Summer Glen on Saturday, July 27 to experience the Folk/Rock/Pop sounds of **Court Hoang** from 2 - 5 p.m.

Later this summer, **The Western Flyers** will bring their Texas-styled, energy-filled show to Burnett Park. A date announcement is coming soon.

Let's kick off summer fun in Fort Worth with free music! Come out and support these local artists on tour as we get ready for the annual 817 Showcase. Be sure to bring your family and friends so they don't miss out on this summer music experience!

Visit [fortworthtexas.gov/departments/library/programs/amped-up](http://fortworthtexas.gov/departments/library/programs/amped-up) to stay updated and learn more about the Amped-Up Tour.

## GET YOUR LIBRARY MERCH TODAY

**LIMITED TIME ONLY!**  
Show support for your Amplify817 artists with this exclusive **Amped-Up Music Tour Shirt**.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Full Steam Ahead

July 4 | Diamond Hill Jarvis | 4 – 5 PM

Join us every week as we build skyscrapers, make slime, beautiful art and more!

### Japanese Tanabata Lanterns

July 8 | Summerglen | 2 – 2:45 PM

Look to the skies and make a hopeful wish to the stars by making a Japanese lantern and learn about the festival of Tanabata.

### Mystery, Mayhem and Murder Club

July 31 | Northside | 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Join the Murder Mystery Club as we look for evidence, find clues and solve the crime.

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

### Senior Social Hour

August 5 | 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.

### FW Writes: Writer's Workshop

August 11 | East Regional | 1:30 – 2:30 PM

Writing doesn't have to be a solitary pursuit. Join other local scribes and scribblers for writing sprints, accountability and read and critique sessions. All levels welcome!

### Relax & Refresh

August 23 | Shamblee | 10:30 – 11:30 AM

Enjoy calming music, a simple activity, and tips for everyday relaxation. Learn new ways to use your senses to release stress and spark imagination. Program is designed for adults.

## 2024 SMOKER GALA: A LOOK BACK AT SMOKER'S SUCCESS

**\$300K**  
RAISED

Together, we raised over \$300 thousand at this year's Smoker Gala. This is how we did it:

Sponsor participation makes it possible for us to continue supporting the Library's commitment to uplifting our community.



All our partners, vendors and artists made Smoker unforgettable. Without them, our event wouldn't have been the success it was.

Our community truly showed up to support the Library. It takes a village! Thank you for every individual gift, in-kind donation and for helping us create positive change in Fort Worth.



The Cigar  
**Smoker**  
BENEFITING THE FORT WORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION