



THE KANSAS CITY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

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Mission

The Kansas City Public Library Foundation develops friends and funds for the Kansas City Public Library.

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Student artists transport teens with animation

Excitement surrounds a new partnership between the library's Teen Services Office and The Kansas City Art Institute's Community Arts and Service Learning program.

This spring semester five Kansas City Art Institute animation students are giving back to the city through an internship with the Lucile H. Bluford Branch Library and the Southeast Branch Library. One evening each week, they guide teens through the art of animation with hands-on activities, instruction about techniques and excellent examples.

So far they have created paper and string puppets which they then photographed in different positions to build simple animation shorts in flipbook form.

The five Kansas City Art Institute students, Stephen Henry, Alan Shelton, Brittani Crawford, Jill Dailey, and Megan Curtin, gain teamwork, creation, and planning experience as they work with teen specialist librarians Mary Thompson at Bluford and Gabi Otto at the Southeast Branch. Our teenage customers gain knowledge,



skills and relationships in a fun, free experience.

The Kansas City Public Library Teen Services seeks to provide materials and programs that expand the horizons of this city's teens, encourage their imaginations, support their healthy development, and build their pleasure in learning. We hope to continue our relationship with the Kansas City Art Institute.

Love of reading leads to library support

An early love of libraries and reading led Jan Fortney to financial support of the Library later in life. In childhood, her mother read to her every day. Then at a one-room school north of Filley, MO, the teacher read to the students after lunch and recess.

Later attending school in town, Jan was introduced to the downtown library where new worlds of reading awaited her. Now a 15-year Library donor, Jan says "I want to contribute to organizations with an open mind. It's important to think and talk about ideas."

Jan appreciates the Kansas City Library's kids' opera programs, Meet the Past series and



extensive computer access. "There's nothing you can't find at the Library, online or in books," she says.

An employee of AT&T, Jan has degrees in art and telecommunications. Away from work she has many interests, including quilting and writing newsletters—all made more enjoyable by the Library's resources.

While her closest library is the Waldo branch, she's intrigued by the Downtown film vault and likes the Plaza branch for its Truman Forum auditorium. But most of all, she says, "Supporting the Library is something I can do to support freedom of thought."

Bluford re-opening celebration

After more than six months of renovation, the grand re-opening of the Lucile H. Bluford Branch Library was celebrated on March 6. Key donors included the Hall Family Foundation, the Brownstone Family Fund, the KC Impact Fund, the Sunderland Foundation and many other generous friends whose contributions made the dramatic renovation a reality.

Cutting the ribbon at the Grand Re-opening are Bluford Branch Manager Oliver Clark, Library Director Crosby Kemper III, Truman Medical Centers President and CEO John W. Bluford, retired Air Force Colonel and former astronaut Guion "Guy" Bluford, Jr., and philanthropist Diane Brownstone.



Library customers quickly settle into the bright new spaces, including the Diane Yukon Brownstone Children's Library. As a result of the renovation campaign, the Bluford Branch boasts distinct spaces for teenagers, young children and adults, expanded book collections, and triple the number of public computers.



Steve Roling, President and CEO of the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City visits with Library Deputy Director Cheptoo Kositany-Buckner about the Health Resource Center at the Bluford Branch. The Health Care Foundation has provided generous funding to pilot this initiative to make health care and wellness information more accessible to Library patrons.

Americans connect with library computers

A third of Americans are using library computers for job searches, communicating with friends, doing homework and improving their lives. Those are the findings of a recent study funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and conducted by the University of Washington Information School. Usage is widespread across the general public and not just by low-income families as it was previously thought, although families of four with a household income of \$22,000 use library computers the most, according to the report.

At the Kansas City Public Library, all sites combined record over 839,000 computer sessions in a year, and the number is growing. Our usage is similar to the findings of the national study, with library customers going online for health information, job searches, homework, computer skill-building and social networking.

In our ongoing effort to respond to the public's surging demand for online services, the Library now offers laptops available for check out as well as desktop work stations.



The Kansas City Public Library Foundation newsletter is published periodically during the year and posted on the Library's website at www.kclibrary.org under the Giving tab. To learn more about opportunities to support the Library, or if you have questions regarding the newsletter, please contact Claudia Baker at 816-701-3518 or claudiabaker@kclibrary.org



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Trustee Tom Brous treasures libraries and time spent reading

All it took was one trip and I was hooked," says Tom Brous of his first excursion to the library with his father. He was only in second grade, but he sensed right away that turning the pages of a book would be one of his greatest pleasures in life - and he was right.

Now as a partner in the law firm of Stinson Morrison Hecker, Tom advocates fervently for the Library. He believes its most important contribution to the community is reading, "a skill without equal." As a professor at Kansas University School of Law, he tells his students that his job is to teach them how to read "more closely, more critically and hopefully, with greater understanding."

Tom was happy to join the Library Foundation Board because of his lifelong love of reading. It's not surprising that he believes the preservation of libraries is crucial to our continued human development.

In the coming years, Tom thinks the Board's most important role is to be a cheerleader for The Library, especially the world-class programming that Chief Executive Crosby Kemper III and Public Affairs Director Henry Fortunato have introduced.

When asked to name his favorite literary work, Tom cites T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*. "These four poems have provided me great joy and a challenge to understand them for more than 30 years," he says. "They provided me with a graduate education by introducing me to other authors who needed to be known in order to understand Eliot's poems."

Tom Brous received his B.S. degree at Northwestern University and his J.D. cum laude at the University of Michigan. He is chair of the Employee Benefits Group at Stinson Morrison Hecker, practicing primarily in the areas of qualified pension and profit sharing plans and exempt organizations.

He is deeply involved in the Kansas City community, serving on many boards in addition to the Library Foundation.



Children's Book Week launches Summer Reading

Make a splash - READ! That's the theme for Children's Book Week in May and for Summer Reading. To celebrate Children's Book Week, the Library again sponsored a bookmark art contest for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Winners from each Library branch will have their art produced on bookmarks available at Library locations throughout the summer. Winners will be recognized on May 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Plaza Branch Family Fun Night.

This year's Summer Reading program runs from June 1 through August 7. Youngsters are encouraged to enroll at their local branch, attend special events, win prizes and read just for fun all summer long! Summer reading also helps children maintain their skills for when they return to school in the fall.



The Greenwood Society is a recognition program for donors of \$1000 or more annually to support the mission of the Library. We appreciate the generosity and shared vision of these members.

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Langston Hughes Circle

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Leave your legacy through the Library Foundation

By Claudia Baker, Library Foundation Director

If the Library is important to you, please consider leaving a legacy to your community through the Library Foundation. Your support will reach into the future to ensure that the Library is there for others, for generations to come.

Including the Library Foundation as a beneficiary on savings accounts, life insurance or retirement plans is an easy way to extend your support for the Library's mission beyond your lifetime.

For most of us, creating a will or trust is the simplest way to achieve this goal. Yet only half of all adults have wills, and fewer than 20 percent of wills include charitable bequests. If you believe you should leave your entire estate to your children and relatives, it is possible that leaving a gift to the Library Foundation could actually reduce the tax burden on your heirs considerably.

You should consult a financial advisor or attorney to learn how giving may benefit your family after you're gone.

Remember, charitable giving is not only for the wealthy. Large and small gifts all work together to make an important difference to the community. Thanks to you and many other generous donors, the Kansas City Public Library is an award-winning forum and champion of reading. When you remember the Library Foundation in your plans, you'll be leaving a legacy of knowledge and delight for future readers.

If you would like to know more about planned giving to the Library, please call me at 816-701-3518 or email claudiabaker@kclibrary.org. I would be happy to send you more information about wills and trusts, or enroll you to receive our quarterly newsletter about planning giving options and benefits.



Book the Vault!

The **Durwood Film Vault** is available for private functions. The old bank vault is equipped with the latest AV technology and 28 comfortable seats for business meetings, birthday parties or other private screenings. Visit www.kclibrary.org/space for more details.

