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Austin Public Library
Friends Foundation

Austin Library Foundation Fact Sheet

Mission Statement

The Austin Public Library Friends Foundation supports the Austin Public Library by increasing public awareness about the library and its importance to the community, and enhancing library collections, programs, and facilities.

History

The Austin Public Library Foundation was established in 1996 to increase private support for the Austin Public Library's collections, programs, and facilities. Since 1962 the Friends of the Austin Public Library has provided grassroots support for Austin's libraries by coordinating advocacy activities. Additionally, FAPL managed the Monster Book Sale, a used book sale that benefitted the Austin Public Library.

In 2009 both the Austin Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Austin Public Library boards voted unanimously to merge, creating a single library support organization: the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation.

Programming Highlights

- **The New Fiction Confab** invites several notable authors to spend a day in Austin's libraries leading writing workshops, reading their work, and engaging in conversations that offer the community a unique opportunity to explore and discuss contemporary fiction with the authors shaping America's literary landscape. The Confab is one of the Library Foundation's largest literary programs, spotlighting the finest fiction on bookshelves today, and the authors who bring these novels and stories to life.
- **The Mayor's Book Club** is an annual citywide reading campaign to develop a community experience through reading and discussion of shared books. Additionally, the program's goal is to broaden and deepen an appreciation of literature in the Austin community, to increase the visibility of the Austin Public Library, and to promote its value to the entire community.





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- **Raise a Reader** emphasizes the invaluable assistance the public library can provide in promoting early literacy and good reading habits at a young age. Through St. David's hospital and local birthing centers, Raise a Reader packets are distributed to new parents. The packets contain a board book, a library card application form and other library information, and brochures with reading tips and early literacy information.
- **Youth Writing Workshops -Badgerdog Creative Writing Summer Camps** - Each summer, Badgerdog hosts three-week writing workshops for rising 3rd- through 12th-graders. These intensive writing workshops allow students to work closely with a professional writer as they explore the arts of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and playwriting. By the end of the summer, all students experience the joy of performing and publishing their original work. The Foundation sponsors youth writing workshops throughout the year. In addition to the New Fiction Confab Youth Writing Workshops, the Foundation also sponsored two Comic Book Writing Workshops given by Jason Neulander, author of *The Intergalactic Nemesis*.

About the Presenters

Tim Staley, Executive Director, The Library Foundation has served as the executive director of the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation, the nonprofit support organization for the Austin Public Library, for over five years.

Prior to the Library Foundation, Tim was book editor and director of development at the University of Texas Press.

Tim lives with his wife and three children in the Barton Hills neighborhood of Austin.