

The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation Timeline

1873

The Indianapolis Public Library has benefited from philanthropy since day one, opening with a core collection of 3,600 books gifted by the Indianapolis Library Association. Indianapolis residents continued to donate materials and artworks. Some individuals made unsolicited financial gifts, mainly in memory of loved ones.

1909

Library Director Eliza Browning secured a \$120,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie to build six branch libraries, two of which remain in operation as library buildings today (East Washington and Spades Park).

1956

Harold Sander became Library Director, bringing with him the hope of establishing a library foundation similar to the one supporting the Roanoke Public Library, where he had been Director.

1968

The Indianapolis Public Library separated from Indianapolis Public Schools, paving the way for Harold Sander to establish the Library Foundation.

1969

The Library Foundation was incorporated.

1972

Ray Gnat became Library Director, assuming responsibility for the Library Foundation.

1972

The Library established a book sale benefiting the Library Foundation at the Nora Branch. In 1980, the Southport Branch also became a site. The book sales moved to the "old" Broad Ripple Branch Library in 1986 and then to the Library Services Center in 1993. Since inception, the book sale has raised over \$7.5 million.

1973

The Library Foundation celebrated the Library's 100th anniversary by publishing *Indianapolis in the World of Books*. It included the 1868 Thanksgiving Day sermon by Reverend Hanford A. Edson calling for the creation of a public library.

1976

The Library Foundation received a grant from the State of Indiana to reprint Jacob Dunn's 1910 history of Indianapolis, *Greater Indianapolis*, and distribute it to all public libraries, school libraries and educational institutions in Marion County.

1977

With Library Foundation support, Madeleine L'Engle (*A Wrinkle in Time*) gave a lecture during the award ceremony for the Library Foundation's annual essay contest. Her lecture was the precursor to the Marian McFadden Memorial Lecture.

1978

With Library Foundation support, Saul Bellow gave the first Marian McFadden Memorial Lecture. Now in its 42nd year, the annual lecture series was established with an estate gift from Marian McFadden, Library Director from 1945-1956. Alternating between children's and adult authors, past speakers include James Baldwin, Kurt Vonnegut, Maurice Sendak, Amy Tan, Margaret Atwood, Judy Bloom, David McCullough, John Irving, Eric Carle, Neil Gaiman, Khaled Hosseini, Jacqueline Woodson, Junot Díaz and Jeff Kinney.

1980

With Library Foundation support, the Library began a lecture series featuring prominent African-American writers including Nikki Giovanni, Maya Angelou, Mari Evans, Etheridge Knight, Eric Jerome Dickey and more.

1984-1985

The RECOVERY campaign raised funds to restore the Central Library's main Reading Room, now the Simon Reading Room. The Krannert Charitable Trust awarded a \$200,000 challenge grant and Library Foundation Board members raised matching funds.

1987

Library Foundation began the Light Up a Life campaign to raise funds for literacy, lifelong learning and children's programs.

1991

Library Foundation received a gift from AUL, now OneAmerica, to establish a business lecture series. Speakers featured over the years included Louis Rukeyser, Jane Bryant Quinn, Adam Smith, William F. Buckley, Jr., Dr. James A. Taylor, George F. Will, Bill O'Reilly, Howard Putnam and Newt Gingrich.

1992

Danny R. Dean was hired as the Foundation's first Executive Director.

1998

The Library Foundation held a fundraising gala in honor of the Library's 125th anniversary.

2000-2008

The Library Foundation raised \$43 million for the renovation and expansion of Central Library, as well as a \$4.5 million endowment to support childhood literacy, lifelong learning and cultural programs.

2000

The "Raise the Roof" Summer Reading Program allowed participants to donate their reading points to a philanthropic project called "The House that Readers Built." In coordination with the Library Foundation, corporate sponsors matched donated points with funding, supplies and labor to build a new home for a local family in the emerging Fall Creek Neighborhood.

2001

The Library Foundation and Children's Museum of Indianapolis completed an endowment campaign to support the operations of InfoZone, the library branch located in the museum.

2008

The Library Foundation established the Beth Tindel Award to honor Library staff members for extraordinary service to the Library Foundation.

2009-2018

The Library Foundation administered the Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award. The Award celebrated writers with Indiana ties in the national, regional and emerging author categories. More than 30 authors received cash prizes totaling \$237,000. The winning authors collectively awarded \$87,500 to Indiana public libraries. More than 3,100 individuals participated in the Award's free workshops, author talks and school visits.

2012

The Library Foundation secured a gift from the Herbert Simon Family Foundation for a Herbert Simon Early Literacy Specialist, the Library's first endowed position.

2014

The Library Foundation began raising funds for digitalindy.org, the Library's online historical archives. With more than \$2 million raised to date, Digital Indy has grown to include the digital collections of 60 educational, civic, cultural, and community organizations.

2015

Danny R. Dean stepped down from the President's position on December 31 after 23 years of service. He remained on staff as Major Gifts & Donor Liaison in 2016 and 2017 to support the transition to his successor, Roberta Knickerbocker Jaggars.

2017

The Center for Black Literature & Culture opened, thanks to a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. secured by the Library Foundation.

2018

Generous donors enabled the Library Foundation to invest nearly \$3 million in Library programs, services and facilities.

2019

The Library Foundation celebrates 50 years of supporting the Library. Since inception, we have provided more than \$76 million for The Indianapolis Public Library.