



The Limited Edition

BISMARCK LIBRARY
FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Spring Refresh at the Library

FOUNDATION FUNDS SUPPORT MAIN LEVEL PAINTING

The repainting of the library's main floor is now complete! Bismarck Library Foundation and the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library partnered in contributing \$31,000 to make this project possible (remaining funds came from the library's operating budget).

"THE MAIN FLOOR HAS BEEN COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED," SAID LIBRARY DIRECTOR CHRISTINE KUJAWA. "IT IS BRIGHT, MODERN, AND WELCOMING."

Library staff provided input on the refreshed color palette with calming hues of blue and warm tan. A special thank you to the painters at Bob Eckert Painting, who completed the work over eight weeks during the library's closed hours to minimize disturbances for patrons and staff. Library Director Christine Kujawa expressed gratitude to both the Foundation and Friends of the Library, whose support made this possible.

Great Libraries Build Great Communities

The Bismarck Library Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enrich and enhance Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library collections, resources, and facilities through the generous support of our partners and donors.

What's New

- ▶ **CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY**
- ▶ **BUNNIES AND GARDENS GALORE**
- ▶ **A FOUR-STAR FOUNDATION**



Mister and Missus G entertain with stories and songs in English and Spanish during an extra special story time.



Ben Gundersheimer, known onstage as Mister G, combines music and storytelling into engaging performances for children and families.

Celebrating Our Diversity

FOUNDATION SUPPORTS MULTI-CULTURAL LIBRARY EVENTS

Bismarck Library Foundation and the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library came together to help fund two great library events this spring that celebrated our community's rich diversity.

Mister G

On Tuesday, March 28, the library offered a special story time program with Latin Grammy Award-winning artist, author, and educator Mister G, also known as "the bilingual rock star." Mister G shared stories and songs in Spanish and English with over 100 children under the green leafy trees in the children's library. In addition to library patrons, local elementary students participating in English as a Second Language (ESL) educational programs and their teachers were invited to attend. Miss Sparkles joined in the fun singing songs and dancing along to the music.

Families Around the World

Mister G also headlined the library's annual Families Around the World event on Monday, March 27. The library's main level transformed into a multi-cultural fair as patrons visited booths highlighting various cultural backgrounds represented in our community, sampling foods, participating in craft activities, exploring the inflatable Discovery Dome from Bismarck Public Schools, and attending the Mister G bilingual children's concert.

"FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD IS A FAVORITE EVENT FOR MANY, AND ADDING MISTER G THIS YEAR WAS A REAL TREAT," SAID TRACI JUHALA, HEAD OF YOUTH SERVICES.

"We are so happy to be able to provide opportunities for youth to embrace the variety of cultural influences we are fortunate to share in this community," said Juhala. "In addition to the importance of learning about new traditions, it is vital that children see their families and themselves reflected in the materials and programs we make available at the library."

Both engagements were supported by the Arts Midwest GIG Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the North Dakota Council on the Arts. Additional funding was provided by the Bismarck Library Foundation and the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library.



Disc Golf for Everyone

KITS NOW AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT

Bismarck boasts disc golf courses at Sibley Nature Park, Lions Park, United Tribes Technical College, and Bismarck State College, but access to this sport is limited to those with the equipment to play. Thanks to a partnership with Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health, the library has added disc golf sets to its growing “library of things.” Sets include three discs – driver, mid-range, and putter discs – and a carrying case. They may be checked out for seven days, inquire at the checkout desk.

“Being physically active and spending time outdoors has been shown to improve both physical and mental health,” says Katie Johnke, nutrition services coordinator at Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health. “Disc golf provides an opportunity to move your body, connect with others, and improve your mood.”

Other summer items available for library checkout include fishing poles, children’s life jackets, and the ever-popular North Dakota state park pass, which was the library’s top circulating item last year.



Disc golf is quickly growing in popularity. These kits now make this sport accessible to anyone with a library card.

Transforming Stock into Book Stacks

STACKING TAX BENEFITS PROVIDES BOOST FOR FOUNDATION DONORS

Bob and Cynthia Norland are long-time Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library patrons and Bismarck Library Foundation supporters. After consultation with their investment advisor, the Norlands integrated nonprofit contributions into their investment strategy, increasing tax exemptions by donating directly to Bismarck Library Foundation from their portfolio.

“WE’VE FOUND DONATING DIRECTLY FROM OUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO IS A GREAT WAY TO MAXIMIZE OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NONPROFITS LIKE BISMARCK LIBRARY FOUNDATION,” SAID CYNTHIA. “WE’RE GLAD TO KNOW WE’RE HELPING ENSURE THE LIBRARY WILL BE HERE FOR OUR COMMUNITY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.”

By moving funds from an investment fund such as a 401k or IRA to a nonprofit, contributions are typically exempt from federal income tax and capital gains tax. In addition, unique to our state, the North Dakota Charitable Income Tax Credit allows a 40% state tax credit for contributions of \$5,000 or more to qualified endowments, such as the Bismarck Library Foundation’s endowment fund. This is on top of any federal tax savings received by itemizing qualifying charitable donations on one’s tax return. These generous contributions generate ongoing financial support for the library via the endowment fund. Consult your tax advisor to decide what strategy is best suited for you.



Longtime Bismarck Library Foundation supporter Ed Klecker was honored with the Pearce Award for Library Service.



Ali LaRock creates an artwork during the Art of Books event, which was auctioned off at the end of the evening.

For the Love of Libraries

FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL ART OF BOOKS EVENT DRAWS A CROWD

A sold out crowd of over 130 library supporters arrived after-hours at the library on Friday, April 28 for Bismarck Library Foundation's annual Art of Books "Fun"raiser event, celebrating our library with art, food, and fun while raising over \$5,000.

"IT'S WONDERFUL TO GATHER AND SEE ALL THE SUPPORT FOR OUR LIBRARY FIRST-HAND," SAID FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BETH SCHATZ KAYLOR. "THE LIBRARY IS THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY, IN SO MANY WAYS."

Guests sampled food and beverages while browsing local art. Local artist Ali LaRock provided an art demonstration while Katie Cashman Fitzsimmons from Cashman Auctioneers emceed the evening with trivia and a live auction. The Foundation's Pearce Award for Library Service recipient Ed Klecker was also honored at the event, with former Foundation director Gayle Schuck presenting the award to her longtime Foundation colleague and friend.

This event was made possible by sponsors Fredrikson & Byron and Richard & Marilyn Gunsch; contributing local artists; and our contributing donors Anima Cucina, Bismarck Larks Baseball, Bismarck Parks & Recreation, Buffalo Commons Brewing, Cashman Auctioneers, Christine & Sky Kujawa, Dakota Stage Ltd, Ferguson Books, Fern Candle, Gifted Bean Coffee House, Kristi Paris, Michelle Hintz, Mike LaLonde, Nikki Ferderer, Northern Plains Dance, Patty & Paul Sandness, Sleepy Hollow Theatre & Arts Park, Thomas & Katie Hutchens, Transitions Yoga, and local authors Ben Brick, Claus Lembke, and Clay Jenkinson. Thank you!

LIBRARY USAGE IS ON THE RISE IN BISMARCK! IN 2022:

+14%

INCREASE IN LIBRARY VISITORS



+16%

INCREASE IN PHYSICAL ITEMS CHECKED OUT



+23%

INCREASE IN DIGITAL ITEMS CHECKED OUT

Bunnies and Gardens Galore!

FOUNDATION SUPPORTS SPRING LIBRARY PROGRAMS

After the long winter, library patrons were eager to celebrate spring with Foundation-supported spring library programs. Orville the Rabbit made an appearance with a spring backdrop creating a free opportunity for families to take a photo in celebration of the season. The rabbit costume was purchased with Bismarck Library Foundation funding.

Bismarck Library Foundation also partnered with Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health to offer free garden seeds to patrons, with members of the Bismarck Garden Club on hand to offer gardening advice. Both programs were popular with many positive comments from appreciative patrons, including kids sharing with librarians their favorite (and not so favorite!) vegetables to grow and eat. For information on upcoming library programs, visit bismarcklibrary.org.



Librarians Traci Juhala and MacAllistar Kemmer prepare for the library's garden seed giveaway event.

A Four-Star Foundation

FOUNDATION EARNS HIGHEST RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Bismarck Library Foundation is proud to announce it has earned Charity Navigator's highest four-star charity reliability ranking. Charity Navigator is one of the leading resources for assessing nonprofit performance in support of philanthropic decision making.

"THIS RANKING REFLECTS TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND DONORS THE BISMARCK LIBRARY FOUNDATION'S UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO PRUDENTLY MANAGE OUR FUNDS AND UTILIZE THEM TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY, ITS MISSION, AND OUR COMMUNITY IN A COST-EFFECTIVE AND MEANINGFUL MANNER," SAID BISMARCK LIBRARY FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT JUSTIN HUGHES.

Per Charity Navigator, its four-star ranking is given to nonprofits who score 90 or above in its review and are "likely to be a highly-effective charity." The ranking indicates the organization "exceeds or meets best practices and industry standards across almost all areas."



The Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. Donors

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS FROM THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS (OCT. 16, 2022 TO MAY 15, 2023).

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6,500 additional digital
checkouts

9,000 hours logged by
350 youth during
summer reading
challenge

1,500 youth LEGO
kits

3
new boilers on order
for heating equipment
replacement

9
new laptops for
computer lab
upgrade

- New ride-on commercial vacuum
- Tower garden for children's library
- And much more!

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