



The Summer Reading kick-off event drew hundreds, including Smokey Bear and many young artists.

The Limited Edition

BISMARCK LIBRARY
FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Summer Hours

FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THRIVING SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

With summer behind us, you can recount the season. That might be in the number of days spent at the river. The weight of your biggest walleye. Or how many pow wows you attended.

The Library counts summer in hours spent reading. During its 8-week Summer Reading Challenge, **411 young people read for a whopping 6,966 hours!**

The Bismarck Library Foundation raises funds for Summer Reading, which promotes literacy and a love of books. A participant from Simle Middle School says, *“In the summer, mostly I sit around if we’re not going somewhere and otherwise I’ll play video games. Most of the time you’re forced to read, but this program makes kids want to read. I’ve loved reading since I was young and it’s cool that I can get rewarded for it. **After the summer, you’ll probably want to read even more.**”*

The Summer Reading Challenge is made possible by the generosity of Friends of the Bismarck Public Library, the Leach Foundation, and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. **Thank you to our partners and kudos to our readers!**

Great Libraries Build Great Communities

Founded in 1976, the Bismarck Library Foundation is a nonprofit organization with the mission to enrich publicly-funded Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library services by raising private funds to enhance collections, resources, and facilities.

What’s New

- MAKING MOVES. MAKING MUSIC.
- OUR COLORFUL WORLD.
- DONOR SPOTLIGHT.
- WHAT’S ALL THE HOOPLA ABOUT?



Singing along with Kittyko.



Jack Paris from the BisMan Community Foundation presents the music and movement grant check to the Bismarck Library Foundation.



Miss Tiffany and Colette.

Making Moves. Making Music.

NEW GRANT EXPANDS MUSIC AND MOVEMENT PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Our calendar is packed! Singalongs with Kittyko. Movement with Northern Plains Dance. Tiny tot pow wow dancing with Sacred Pipe Resource Center. Wiggling Kids music. These are just a few of the current and future programs made possible by a generous new grant from the BisMan Community Foundation, which is a component of the North Dakota Community Foundation. We recently spoke with Tiffany Towne to learn more. Her official title is Youth Services Program Coordinator for Children, but you might know her as Miss Tiffany of Story Time fame.

BLF: Why is it important to offer music and movement programming?

*TT: It is special to see our generally quiet environment transform into a fun, sometimes rowdy space. **Music helps children learn language through new vocabulary, memory, phonological awareness, and more. Movement creates a stronger mind-body connection and assists kinesthetic learning.** We want kids to love reading, but we really want all kids to feel safe, confident, and capable in all their interests!*

BLF: A diverse group of partners leads music and movement programs. How does this benefit young people and their families?

*TT: We are incredibly lucky to live in a place where there are many different backgrounds, and our music and movement programming reflects this diversity. It is important for children to see themselves reflected in the grown-ups around them. **The beauty of the library is that this is a space for all, and we hope children truly feel that they belong here.***

BLF: What message would you share with the BisMan Community Foundation and other funders who make music and movement programming possible.

*TT: It is particularly valuable that these **programs will be offered without any kind of cost barrier.** Attending one of our events could be the spark a child needs to find a new passion for music, movement, and literacy. **We appreciate your support and are endlessly grateful!***



Our Colorful World

BRIGHT NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY'S ART COLLECTION

You might've noticed the Library walls are increasingly colorful and creative. The Bismarck Library Foundation supports the Library's art collection, which now includes two vibrant pieces generously donated at our annual Art of Books event: the Chippewa floral print "Rejuvenation" by Bill Brien and "The Colorful World of Books" by Brenda Kay Hove.

Brenda is a lifelong Bismarck resident, avid reader since childhood, and career graphic designer for the state of North Dakota. She recently shared with us about her creative practice and the meaning of having her work in the Library's permanent collection.

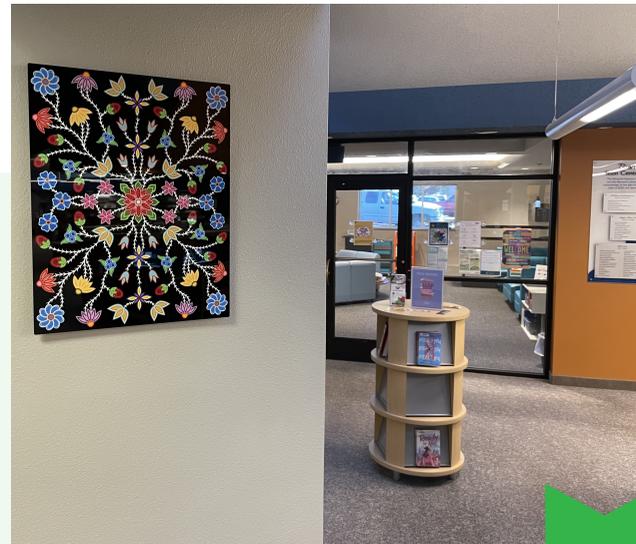
"Once I retired and had more time, I turned to quilting and fiber arts. I love color, texture, and the flexible nature of cloth and paper. My husband, Michael, who passed away two years ago, was always so supportive of my creative projects, even if they took up half of the house. I miss that encouragement."

*"The Bismarck Public Library is a beautiful space for young kids and for older kids, like me. It is one of my favorite places to visit. I am honored to have one of my art pieces chosen to hang in the Bismarck Public Library. **The Colorful World of Books is about the imagination that is sparked while reading.** Reading opens up a whole world of color."*

Check out the new artwork on your next visit!



Artist Brenda Kay Hove with her piece "The Colorful World of Books" which hangs near the main Library entrance.



Bill Brien's "Rejuvenation" on display near Teen HQ.

Donor Spotlight

FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS STRENGTHEN OUR SHARED COMMUNITY

Mustafa Kathawala and Sunanda Jain are longtime Library patrons and Bismarck Library Foundation donors. Both doctors and both originally from India, they've made Bismarck their home and raised their children here. With two daughters in college and a son in middle school, their Library love is a family affair.

Mustafa explained, ***"Our daughters came to the Teen Center. They love books and they hung out with other girls and did painting, music, and arts and crafts. Sometimes our oldest will even study at the Library when she comes home from college to visit."***

Sunanda added how they got started as donors, ***"My mother was very fond of books. When I was a child, she used to just drop me in the bookstore. She passed away in 2009, and our first gift was for the Children's Library campaign to honor her memory."***

This was the first of many gifts, motivated by the belief that they are members of an interdependent community in Bismarck. Mustafa says, ***"We continued giving to the Library because it's a resource for everyone else. You're helping yourself by doing it too. We're only as happy as everyone else is happy. There has to be a base level of happiness and comfort for all of our neighbors."***

Sunanda channeled this into an appeal for others to join them, ***"People should donate to the Library because it's a worthy cause. There are many resources in our community, and it's fulfilling when we relate to a cause that's important."***

Mustafa concluded, ***"We are not special people for giving. We are just mediums. When people see others giving, it shows they can do it too. And the Library takes care of everything: your spirit, your learning, your health, your social development."***

Thank you, Mustafa and Sunanda!



Mustafa Kathawala and Sunanda Jain, generous donors since 2009, in the Library.

DID YOU KNOW?

ON AN AVERAGE DAY AT THE BISMARCK PUBLIC LIBRARY IN 2023:

▶ **613** PATRONS VISITED.

▶ **1,635** ITEMS WERE CHECKED OUT.

▶ **66** PEOPLE USED A COMPUTER STATION.

▶ **116** ITEMS WERE BORROWED FROM THE BOOKMOBILE.



What's All the hoopla About?

FOUNDATION FUNDS A VITAL DIGITAL RESOURCE

Around the globe, libraries are constantly evolving their use of technology to expand resources for patrons, and Bismarck is no exception. **Thanks to generous donors like you, the Bismarck Library Foundation provides financial support for hoopla**, a digital lending platform with e-books, audiobooks, comics, music, tv, and movies.

Data tells us that patrons are taking full advantage of the Foundation's investment. So far this year, 11,780 items have been checked out on hoopla, and audiobooks are the most popular format representing 66% of the total. **Average monthly engagement on hoopla includes:**

- **1,472 items checked out**
- **539 unique borrowers**

Can you guess which hoopla items are most popular with Bismarck Public Library patrons? In the top spot is the Hallmark BingePass, which provides access to movies. Next is the audiobook of "The Teacher" by Freida McFadden. The top five is rounded out by multiple audiobooks in Sarah J. Maas's series "A Court of Thorns and Roses."

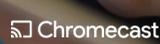
Elizabeth Jacobs, Assistant Library Director, explains the significance of the Foundation's investment hoopla, saying, "Our patrons' borrowing of digital content continues to grow exponentially. **With its catalog of nearly two million titles, hoopla offers our patrons a greatly expanded selection of digital content to read, listen, and watch, with no holds or waiting lists. We are thankful for the Foundation's support of this expansion of our digital library.**"



Tap into Discovery.
Read, Listen, and Watch
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Thanks to generous donors like you, the Foundation provided \$155,793 in grants, gifts, and donations to the Library in 2023. This is a vital boost to Library programs, collections, and facilities including:

- Access to digital collections for thousands of patrons
- Fresh paint to brighten the main floor of the Library
- Children's Library sessions with performers and educators
- Audio/visual upgrades to the Children's Story Room
- New artwork displayed in the Library

Thank you for your generosity!

