



Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

Y O U B E L O N G H E R E

February 19, 2026

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library Receives
\$10,000 Gift from Carnegie Corporation of New York

WHAT:

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library (BVMPL) received a \$10,000 gift from **Carnegie Corporation of New York**, the foundation established by Andrew Carnegie. The award is part of **Carnegie Libraries 250**, a special initiative celebrating the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and honoring the roughly 1,280 Carnegie Libraries still serving their communities across the United States.

Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of 1,681 free public libraries nationwide between 1886 and 1917. Approximately 750 of them continue to use their original buildings, while others have moved to new locations. BVMPL is one of eight Carnegie Public Libraries in North Dakota built through this historic program.

"Our library was founded in 1917 thanks to funding from the Carnegie Corporation. We take pride in having this historical connection and are grateful to be part of this generous grant initiative over a century later," said Library Director Christine Kujawa.

"Our founder, Andrew Carnegie, who championed the free public library movement of the late 19th century, described libraries as 'cradles of democracy' that 'strengthen the democratic idea, the equality of the citizen, and the royalty of man,'" said **Dame Louise Richardson**, president of Carnegie and former head of the University of Oxford. "We still believe this and are delighted to celebrate our connection to the libraries he founded."

BVMPL received the gift in February 2026 and will use the unrestricted funds to further their mission and serve the community.

PHOTO:

Carnegie Library Exterior, 6th Street and Thayer Avenue, 1917

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

CHRISTINE KUJAWA, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

515 North Fifth Street, Bismarck, ND 58501 USA

Phone: 701-355-1480 | CKujawa@bismarcklibrary.org

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bismarcklibrary.org/2221/For-the-Media

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SENT BY:

Kevin R. Tengesdal, Public Information Specialist

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

Phone: 701-355-1450 | ktengesdal@bismarcklibrary.org