



ARLINGTON LIBRARIES
FOUNDATION

2019 Annual Report

Investing in the libraries we love

Dear Friends,

Arlington is a town where people seek to engage, to learn, and to share ideas. Why are libraries so central to our concept of town life? You have told us it is more than access to materials and highly knowledgeable professionals; it is more than free WIFI; and, even more than the exceptionally broad range of programming, whether for babies or for those looking forward to their 100th birthday. Our libraries are central to town life because they are an invaluable hub of connection and friendship.

This year's annual report celebrates and thanks you – our neighbors. Beginning with Maria Robbins and Edith Fox, the commitment of our community through gifts, through their time, and through advocacy, both grounds our libraries and brings new intellectual and social riches to everyone.

The Arlington Libraries Foundation's vision is to ensure our libraries can be responsive, imaginative in its offerings and always forward-looking. The Foundation builds on longstanding donor commitment to our libraries. Private giving made Sunday hours possible at Robbins and added an extra weekday of service at Fox, eventually leading to increased municipal budget support for the libraries. That tradition of giving continued this year.

Your generosity highlights the importance and impact of our libraries and celebrates the great talents of our library staff and many volunteers. We look forward to an ongoing conversation about your dreams for Arlington's Libraries.

With our gratitude for your generosity and commitment,

Karin Barrett
Chair, Arlington Libraries Foundation

Andrea Nicolay
Director of Libraries



PATRONS & CIRCULATION

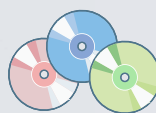
Statistics as reported to the MBLC
(Massachusetts Board of Library
Commissioners) for FY2019

The Robbins
and Fox Branch
Libraries welcomed
340,000+
visitors.



Arlington Libraries have
28,951 active library
card holders. Of these
2,610 were added
in FY2019.

18,500 items added to the collection, and visitors
borrowed **670,000** print, audio, visual and other items.



80,000 were e-content loans downloadable from the internet.

150,000 inter-library loans were processed between Arlington other
Minuteman Network libraries.

These visitors had **75,000** reference
questions answered.



They scheduled events
in the meeting rooms
1,144 times.

All of Arlington's **42,800** residents, have access to
materials, programs, reference support and a safe climate
controlled environment when they walk through the library doors.



2019 YOUR GIFTS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2018–2019, the Foundation granted \$54,000 to the Robbins and Fox Branch Libraries, an increase of 23 percent over the previous year. We are delighted to share a snapshot of these grants.

\$27,350 Overdrive Advantage e-books and audiobooks

Arlington readers love the convenience and rich collection of online access. Readers can access 500 additional e-book titles and 250 audiobook titles purchased for Arlington users, augmenting the 12,000 titles available through the Minuteman Library Network.

\$7,000 Sunday Children's Librarian

Families love stopping at the library over the weekend to get a fresh batch of materials, attend a program, or socialize with other babies, little ones and caregivers. With these funds, the Library offers an additional Children's Librarian at Robbins on Sundays.

\$6,000 Children's Books

Children's collections are among the most comprehensive and heavily used in our libraries, with board books, picture books, series books, easy readers, parenting books, world language collections, and chapter books. This grant funded multiple copies of the highest demand titles.

\$5,550 Books for Adult Collections

Demand for the most popular print materials including hot titles such as Tara Westover's *Educated*, and must-have non-fiction titles in travel, social sciences, self-help, and health sciences continues to increase. These funds support additional titles for the libraries.

\$3,200 Teen Summer Reading Titles and Prizes

Responding to student demand and recommendations from Arlington's public and parochial schools, new titles were added to our Teen Shelves.

\$300 Puppets for the Children's Room

Ask any parent – puppets are a unique draw in the Children's Room. This grant funded 14 delightful high-quality puppets for little ones' imaginary play!

\$4,600 Music, Audiobooks, and DVDs

Foundation funds supported acquisition of adult and children's audiobooks (a circulation leader), music CDs, and non-fiction DVDs. Seventy-two new non-fiction DVDs were purchased including: *Won't You Be My Neighbor*; *RBG*; *Rick Steves' Europe: All 80 Shows 2000–2009*; and, *Eyes on the Prize*.



2019 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INSIGHTS

- The majority of the \$88,000 in gifts were designated as Unrestricted Donations. These funds are granted to the Arlington Libraries to support initiatives the library leadership deems most appropriate beyond the municipal allocation.
- In FY2019, expenses were comprised of a \$54,000 grant to the libraries and operating expenses of \$23,113 which were primarily for the design, printing, and fulfillment of marketing materials, website upgrades, software purchases and general business operating expenses. The Foundation operates with a volunteer board.
- Financial assets of the Foundation typically peak at fiscal year-end ahead of the grant made to the Library early in the following fiscal year (i.e. FY2020 grant was completed in September 2019, within the 2020 fiscal year).
- In FY2019, the Foundation invested endowed funds in a mix of equity and bonds to provide for growth of principal. We note these funds are over \$45,000 due to gifts and investment performance.
- The Foundation keeps a cash reserve above and beyond its grant to the libraries to support strategic investments being made in the Foundation's grantmaking capacity and to enable a capital campaign for renovations of the libraries in the coming years.
- In FY2019 and FY2020 the Foundation has invested in its website, donor database, financial systems, and email capabilities. These essential, upfront infrastructure investments will strengthen our capacity to fund our libraries in the coming years.

REVENUE

Endowed Funds	\$550
Unrestricted Donations	\$86,786
Unrealized Investment Income	\$472
Realized Investment Income	\$71
TOTAL	\$87,879

EXPENSES

Grants to Libraries	\$54,000
Misc fees/business expenses	\$2,962
Printing/Mailing	\$19,854
Marketing	\$297
TOTAL	\$77,113

YEAR END ASSETS

Cash Accounts	\$121,635
Endowed Funds	\$45,501
TOTAL	\$167,136

SUPPORT OUR LIBRARIES

Make your tax-deductible contribution online via credit card or mail a check to the Foundation directly. Legacy gifts or in-memorium gifts are welcome.

CONTACT US

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