The Friends of the Oakland Public Library board approved a “wish list” of grants for the Oakland Public Library totaling $145,000 in September 2017. To be spent during the fiscal year (October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018), these grants benefit every location and patrons of all ages.

Without Friends of OPL’s support, many programs simply would not be possible. These include the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate and Scholarship program, scholarships for library staff pursuing a master’s degree in library science, Children’s and Teen programs, and programming for all ages.

Director of Library Services Gerry Garzón presented a list of requested grants designated to help OPL advance its goals:

• Reach more people where they are—Programming and outreach
• **Improve our physical spaces**—Displays and signage; furnishings and landscaping supplies
• **Develop, retain and attract quality staff**—staff scholarships and a fund for innovative mini-grants

Friends of OPL’s grants are made possible by members’ annual dues and proceeds from the Bookmark’s year around book sales. The board thanks all members, volunteers, book donors and customers for giving so generously. Separately, the board approved grants representing gifts designated for specific purposes by donors: $25,000 for Children’s Programs, $1,375 for materials, and $1,125 for the Second Start Adult Literacy Program bringing FOPL’s support to the library this year to $145,000.

Note: The “Get to Know Your Grants” articles in FOPL’s quarterly newsletter, Off the Shelf, provides updates to our members about how the Friends of OPL supports the Oakland Public Library. Back issues are in our newsletter archive.