The Friends of the Oakland Public Library board approved a “wish list” of grants for the Oakland Public Library totaling $210,000 on September 4, 2019. To be spent during the fiscal year (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020), these grants benefit every location and patrons of all ages.

- **Children’s Services** received $20,000 to pay for performers and supplies systemwide during the next year. (This represents almost 15% of the total Children’s Literacy programming budget.)
- **Teen Services** will have $41,000 to use for programming (including the Youth Poet Laureate scholarship), support for Youth Leadership Councils and teen volunteers, and prizes for the Summer Passport program.
- **Adult Services and Outreach** will use $26,000 to pay for systemwide outreach expenses, special t-shirts to help patrons identify OPL staff, and adult programming at the Main Library.
- **Branch Services and AAMLO** received $50,000 to pay for programming, supplies, exhibits, film licenses, furniture and signage, after school snacks, and Play Café refreshments.
- **Community Relations** will have access to $22,500 to create a 2018-19 Annual Report, promote OPL activities via social media, procure promotional artwork and photos, and support volunteer appreciation activities.
Friends of the Oakland Public Library
2019 - 2020 Grants to the Oakland Public Library
Grant Total: $210K

- **Community Relations** will have access to $22,500 to create a 2018-19 Annual Report, promote OPL activities via social media, procure promotional artwork and photos, and support volunteer appreciation activities.
- **OPL staff at all locations** will have the chance to apply for $1,500-2,000 in mini-grant funds (totaling $20,000) to implement or improve library programs or services.
- **The remaining** $30,500 will pay for OPL’s collection of Wi-Fi hotspots to lend to patrons, three scholarships for OPL staff pursuing their MLIS degrees, hospitality and training for staff, community partnership opportunities, and much more.

Grants pay for materials and supplies that are not funded through the Library’s regular budget. Friends’ grants enhance library services by making these purchases possible. The board is grateful to 1,000 members and other donors, volunteers and Bookmark Bookstore customers and book donors for making this support to all Oakland libraries possible.

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.