



Friends of the Oakland Public Library

2016 - 2017 Grants to the Oakland Public Library

Grant Total: \$125,620

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library board approved a “wish list” of grants for the Oakland Public Library totaling \$125,620 in September 2016. Gerry Garzón, Director of Library Services, presented a comprehensive list of funding needs that were identified by staff with input from every library branch and unit. The board approved discretionary grants of \$125,620 to be spent during the fiscal year (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017), these grants benefit every location and patrons of all ages.

- Youth Poet Laureate
- Youth Leadership Council
- Teen Author Series
- Programming Supplement for Children’s Services (mini-grant program to provide consistent, rich program offerings at all locations),
- Support for Adult and Teen Summer reading programs
- Volunteer recognition
- OPL Annual Report design
- Staff hospitality and appreciation
- Scholarships for OPL staff pursuing their library degree
- Small furnishings and equipment for multiple locations
- Mini-grants for innovative staff initiatives
- Support for an initiative to make Children’s programs accessible and welcoming to families with children with autism: “Inclusive story time”
- Craft programs for people with disabilities
- New bike library
- New library cards for a library card art contest planned for 2017
- Bookmark Bookstore gift certificates for reading incentive programs

Separately, the board approved a grant for research regarding a potential tax measure to benefit the OPL. During the year, the board also approved grants representing gifts designated for specific purposes by donors:

- Children’s Literacy Programming Fund, for support of programs at all 17 OPL locations
- Estate of Gertrude Snider Schiffman, for the Dimond Branch
- New Sprouts Chinese School, for Children’s Programs at the Asian Branch
- Second Start Adult Literacy
- Ebooks
- Oakland History Room

Discretionary and designated grants to the library totaled approximately \$310,000.

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](#).