



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Public Library Foundation Created

A Library Foundation has been established for the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County to enrich and ensure the continued excellence of the Library's collections, programs, and services. The Public Library's new Foundation is an independent, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to raising significant private support to meet growing demand for library services that are not covered by public funding. The Foundation can accept contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

A total of 11 individuals have been elected to serve as Directors on the initial Board of the Foundation. They are Joseph J. Dehner, Kimber L. Fender, John H. Hermanies, Thomas E. Huenefeld, Eric H. Kearney, Lorrence T. Kellar, Patricia M. King, H.C. Buck Niehoff, Yvonne Robertson, Peter S. Strange, and Tracy Tunney Ward.

For many years, the funds received from the State were sufficient to operate the Library and enough to construct some new facilities as well. That changed in 2002 when the economic downturn resulted in Library funding being cut by \$4.8 million. The situation worsened in 2003 with funding down about \$5,000,000, when compared with 2001. Although the Friends of the Public Library and the Anderson Library Committee contribute about \$200,000 annually, Library expenses continue to rise while revenues continue to drop. Major cost-cutting measures have been taken, including a 10% reduction in staff and hours of operation, but additional funds need to be raised in order to maintain one of the nation's great public library systems. For more information or to make a contribution, please contact John Reusing at (513) 369-4591.