



Vol. 1, Issue 1 (June 2026)

THE BOOKMARK Newsletter

KENOSHA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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FROM THE KENOSHA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION BOARD

Welcome to the first issue of the Kenosha Public Library Foundation's newsletter. Launching the newsletter is an exciting milestone for our foundation and we're grateful to have you with us!

Our mission is rooted in a simple but powerful idea: we aim to strengthen our community through meaningful investment, thoughtful collaboration with community members like you and a shared commitment to lasting impact. Whether supporting education, blurring the lines between education and entertainment, enhancing public spaces or advancing programs that enrich lives, our focus remains the same - to create opportunities that enhance the community today and in the future.

We have several key projects that reflect this vision. Our priorities are outlined on our new website (mykpl.info/foundation) and include the first step in the renovation of Simmons Library. We are launching our first Trivia Night in September to raise funds for future projects. We are continuing to build the necessary infrastructure allowing us to prioritize communication with you. Each of these efforts represents not only progress, but partnership- with individuals, organizations and supporters who believe in the work we do. In the coming months please see mykpl.info/foundation for updates on the foundation's work.

The goal of this newsletter is to keep you informed, engaged and connected to KPLF's work. We look forward to sharing updates, celebrating milestones and highlighting the stories that bring our mission to life.

Thank you for being a part of this important beginning.

Suzette Jaskie, KPLF Board President



A VIBRANT LIBRARY FOR A VIBRANT KENOSHA





eat. drink. be literary. **trivia for a cause**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

5:30PM - 10:00 PM

UW PARKSIDE BALLROOM

BEYOND THE

BOOKSHELVES

**A TRIVIA NIGHT
TO BENEFIT THE KPL FOUNDATION**

A night of fundraising and fun!

- Team Trivia
- Raffles
- Silent & Live Auctions
- Food & Drink Stations
- & More!



Purchase your table or
individual ticket here!



More info at mykpl.info/foundation-trivia

The KPL Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that supports the Kenosha Public Library.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: LANDSCAPING AT SIMMONS LIBRARY

The Kenosha Public Library took an important first step towards the revitalization of the Simmons Library in May of 2026 with the funding and coordination of new landscaping. By enhancing the library's exterior, the Foundation hopes to help create a more welcoming environment and build momentum for future restoration efforts. The new plantings, green space enhancements and aesthetic upgrades reflect the library's role as a cornerstone of the community. Simmons's Library has long served as a vital community resource with the library doors open to the public since 1900. The landscaping, designed in reference to the original landscaping around the library, is just the beginning of the next chapter for Simmons Library, a story that the Foundation is proud to help author.



FOUNDATION PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: KPL KIDS @ UPTOWN LOFTS

Opening in the summer of 2024, Kenosha's newest library, KPL Kids @ Uptown Lofts made an immediate splash in the community. Kenosha's first library exclusively for children and families, KPL Kids attracts families from all over Kenosha County and even throughout the state and beyond. Built around the idea of the power of play, every inch of the library is devoted to learning through hands-on, interactive play. The KPL Foundation was instrumental in the building of the KPL Kids library, launching the Foundation's first ever capital campaign, raising around \$2 million for the construction and furnishing of the new library. The library is a building built by the community with funding coming from donors big and small. A huge thank you to everyone who was a part of making this Kenosha dream a reality.

PARTIAL LIST OF KPL KIDS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

For a complete list of donors go to mykpl.info/foundation-donors.



\$250,000 or more
Callahan Foundation

\$200,000 - \$250,000
100 Extraordinary Women

\$100,000 - \$199,999
Snap-On

\$50,000 - \$99,999
Andrea Family
Scott Bruse
WE Energies
Betsy Brown
Friends of KPL



\$25,000 - \$49,999
Amy Bosman Foundation
Judy Weseman
BMO Bank
Don Cress
Meijer
Penny Enroth

\$10,000 - \$24,999
Kloss Foundation
Petretti Family
SiFi Networks
Uline
Brookwood Foundation
100 Women Who Care

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: JUDITH WESEMAN

Thank you to Judith Wesemean whose multi-year donation funded programming at KPL Kids in its first years. Judy's generous donation has funded nearly every program and activity offered at the new library since August of 2024!

Her donation helped fund:

- over 681 storytimes, staff-led programs, and group visits
- programs for over 13,012 people
- Discovery Area, Art Room & Baby Garden activities that were used over 69,280 times

Examples of programs funded by Judy include:

- LEGO Lab: Musical Monsters
- Magical STEAM
- Superhero Science: Atomic Shifting
- Neurodiversity Awareness Month: Art Sensory Extravaganza
- Paper Circuit Valentine's Day Cards
- The Floor is Lava!
- Kid Kitchen: Stone Soup
- World Explorers: Korea
- Woodworking with Lakeview K-8
- Be an Archaeologist
- Sensory Friendly Days



**A FIRST YEAR SNAPSHOT
JULY 2024 - JULY 2025**

**287
PROGRAMS**



WITH OVER 5,000
PEOPLE IN
ATTENDANCE

**34,795
VISITORS**

DOUBLING LIBRARY USE IN
THE UPTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

**667 NEW
CARDS**

447 OF THOSE
LIBRARY
CARDS ISSUED
TO KIDS

A PLACE FOR PARTNERS

YMCA ACHIEVERS
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
KUSD
AND MORE

**32,206
CHECKOUTS**



**85 SCHOOL &
GROUP VISITS**



KPL STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Megan Nigh
KPL Teen Services Librarian

LIBRARY NEWS: TEEN SERVICES LIBRARIAN WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Kenosha Public Library Teen Services Librarian, Megan Nigh, was recently named a Mover & Shaker by Library Journal. The annual award recognizes librarians and library staff members across the nation who are shaping the future of libraries. Megan was recognized for her work in advocacy and in particular for the community outreach she does in schools and other organizations like the Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha, Shalom Center and Women & Children's Horizons of Kenosha.

From Library Journal: "Megan Nigh spent afternoons as a latchkey kid riding the bus to the library and waiting for her parents to finish work. 'Growing up, teen librarians didn't exist and libraries were quiet places,' she says. Today, she gets to be the person she once wanted—someone who makes the library a place for teens to hang out and be creative."

Read more at libraryjournal.com/story/megan-nigh-movers-shakers-2026-advocates

A big congratulations to Megan from the KPL Foundation. Thank you for all of your work with teens across Kenosha and for representing our community and libraries so well.



KENOSHA
PUBLIC LIBRARY



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