Technology: $30,000

The library is improving patrons’ user experiences across computers and other equipment at all nine libraries based on a consultant’s recommendations and an Access to Independence audit.

Professional Development and Staff Day: $30,000

Numerous library staff traveled to conferences and major literary events, including BookExpo America, the International Book Fair and the Oral History Association Annual Meeting. Others participated in local career growth events like the YWCA Racial Justice Summit. Staff Day facilitates training, team building and conversations among the entire library’s staff.

Collections: $20,000

The library added hundreds of eBooks, graphic novels, board books, picture books and teen nonfiction titles, as well as Serendipity materials and audiovisual items.
Your Foundation Gifts at Work

Equity & Innovation: $44,050 ➔
These grants introduce underserved people to new technology, culturally diverse library materials, and inclusive library experiences in meaningful ways. Efforts include new World Language Collection titles to better serve non-English and ESL readers; a Native American Storyteller-in-Residence program to promote intercultural understanding and story sharing of the Ho-Chunk and Native people; an out-of-school program model based on the philosophy of True Play; expansion of the Madison Living History Project to gather and preserve oral histories of people from all walks of life; and Library Takeover, which provides marginalized groups with funding, staff time and space to design their own events.

Mini-Grants: $12,500 ➔
These smaller pots of money go toward miscellaneous projects, including community English classes at Goodman South Madison Library; recruiting for librarians at conferences; Get Out the Vote stickers for the fall election; and the Social Justice Sewing Project. Two mini-grant projects in progress include the #LookForwardMadison social media and web campaign to spread positive, arts-infused messages during the pandemic; and the Staff Spotlight partnership with local artists to tell stories of the important work that the library is doing in our community using the #MPLHelpingHands hashtag.

Director’s Discretion: $6,000 ➔
Library Director Greg Mickells has the flexibility to use these dollars for any needs that arise this year.