



Foundation

MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUMMER 2023

A newsletter from
Madison Public
Library Foundation

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30th Birthday
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Library Foundation to Celebrate Its 30th Year

July 9, 2023, will mark Madison Public Library Foundation’s 30th birthday! In 1993, a small but mighty group of library lovers started the foundation to steward library gifts in support of lifelong learning and free access to information.

We’re proud to share that since that time, the foundation has granted the library more than **\$20 million** to make the patron experience available to everyone. This was possible because of YOU! Every gift reinforces our mission of mobilizing the Madison community to continuously promote, support, and improve the library.

Over the years, your dollars have supported many monumental projects and resources, including:

- six new Madison Public Library facilities — Alicia Ashman, Sequoya, Goodman South Madison, Central, Meadowridge, and Pinney — as well as improvements and furnishings for Monroe Street, Lakeview, and Hawthorne libraries
- thousands of books, magazines, newspapers, music, movies, and other collection items
- computers, tablets, and technology infrastructure
- staff development and training
- programming – in fact, the foundation funds 50 percent of all library programs
- experiences – for instance, the Wisconsin Book Festival, which will surpass 1,000 author events later this year!

Alicia Ashman Library, which opened in 1999, was the first new Madison Public Library facility for which the foundation raised funds.



Happy Birthday to Us!

You’re invited to celebrate with us in all nine Madison Public Library locations from **2–5 p.m. Tuesday, July 11**. We’ll treat you to cookies; commemorative bookmarks; the chance to chat with staff, board members, and volunteers; and the opportunity to share what you love about your favorite neighborhood library!



We also advocate for equity and access. Every Madisonian deserves to have the ability to check out books, use a computer, learn new art skills, listen to music, or watch videos on Kanopy, a great streaming service we fund. And in today’s age, there are many new and nontraditional items to borrow from the library, from birding backpacks to disc golf equipment. You can even find the library outside of its physical spaces: Go to **madpl.org** to discover outreach events this summer that bring the library into many local communities.

We’ll be writing about our organization’s history and plans for the future in our monthly e-news and our fall and winter print newsletters, as well as on social media this year, so be sure to follow Madison Public Library Foundation on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Visit **mplfoundation.org** to learn more about our 30th year.



Back in 1993...

Top 5 Fiction Books

1. *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
2. *Along Came a Spider* (Alex Cross #1) by James Patterson
3. *The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides
4. *The Client* by John Grisham
5. *Girl, Interrupted* by Susanna Kaysen

Top 5 Nonfiction Books

1. *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art* by Scott McCloud
2. *A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* by Karen Armstrong
3. *Chicken Soup for the Soul* by Jack Canfield
4. *The Red Queen: Sex and the Evolution of Human Nature* by Matt Ridley
5. *Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of the Psychopaths Among Us* by Robert D. Hare

Notable Events

- January 20: Bill Clinton is sworn in as the 42nd president of the United States
- April 30: World Wide Web launches in the public domain
- August 10: Ruth Bader Ginsberg assumes position on the U.S. Supreme Court
- Toni Morrison is awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature

Facts

- About 23% of households had computers, compared to more than 97% today

Meet the Summer Bubbler Artists in the Neighborhood

Madison Public Library’s Bubbler recently announced its Artists in the Neighborhood partners for the summer. This series pairs a community artist with each of the Madison libraries to lead and develop creative programming. From June through August, patrons will have the opportunity to connect with local artists and learn how to create something new. The artists include:

Rita Salm, Sequoya Library

Salm is an illustrator and artist who enjoys creating things meant for everyone. They enjoy using a colored pencil texture and hand-rendered typography in their designs. Salm’s favorite things to make are patterns, designs for cards, and little doodles.

Annie Aaker, Pinney Library

Though she has lived in Madison for the past 12 years, Aaker recently earned her master’s in library science and began working as a youth librarian. Aaker has been an artist since she was a kid, and now she helps kids turn “mistakes” into their best masterpieces.

Claudia Linnea, Alicia Ashman Library

Linnea is an art enthusiast and painter in the making, and works in museum education at the Chazen. While helping others express their personal visions, she aims to create space for celebrating difference.

Elias Mittelstadt, Lakeview Library

As a designer and artist, Mittelstadt is inspired by technology, nature, history, and cartography, and creates with 3D printing, digital design, and found objects. Mittelstadt helps local artists and has created programming for people of all ages.

Lexie Olson, Meadowridge Library

Olson is an artist and storyteller whose work focuses on the intersection of visual and written language. In the classroom, she’s passionate about encouraging a welcoming space for reflection and artistic expression.

Lelia Byron, Monroe Street Library

As an interdisciplinary artist, Byron’s work includes paintings, sculptures, murals, installations, and public art projects. Her projects often include an investigative component, which begins with interviewing diverse groups of people about a variety of topics and the creative process.

Ella Deitz, Goodman South Library

Deitz is a writer, performer, and organizer who recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Madison with a degree in Creative Writing and Gender & Women’s Studies. She also works in Youth Programming at The JVN Project.



Christina Theobald, Hawthorne Library

Theobald is a community artist who is passionate about making art accessible and fun. With a variety of mediums and techniques, she hopes to show how creativity can build relationships and relieve stress.



Central Artist Residency Links Nature, Human Experience



Mars, Central Library’s Artist-in-Residence, provides eco-friendly, hands-on arts opportunities in the Bubbler Room.

Central Library is hosting Mars through July for *Ecorest Art & Reflection* in the Bubbler Room. This residency is an extension of the *Our Town Everywhere* project, in which the artist-in-residence is encouraged to explore the idea of community portrait through a variety of mediums.

Martina Patterson, known as Mars, is an artist, Master Naturalist, herbalist, environmental educator, and land steward. Through the interdisciplinary art of fiber and eco-mixed media, she explores, highlights, and reflects the phenology of nature and the human experience with the intent to grow, inspire, and educate.

Join Mars for open studio sessions that explore photography and story as fiber from 1–3 p.m. Friday, June 30 and Saturday, July 8. As participants of all ages drop in, they can work individually or in groups weaving together images, found objects, and recyclable materials on a giant community tapestry. They may also

contribute written, oral, or drawn responses to provided prompts or document the open studio process through snapshot photography.

There will be two **Healing Hikes and Photo Reflection Harvest** workshops on Saturday, July 1 and 22, from 1–3 p.m. Registration is required. In this workshop, Mars will facilitate mindfulness community walks through urban nature. Working in teams of two or more, participants can harvest images that inspire reflection around self and environment. Each team will be given a Polaroid camera, and each person will be loaned a sketchbook made by previous participants. Images will be collected to contribute to a larger community art project.

This unique residency is made possible with a gift from Madison Public Library Foundation. Programming and internal support is provided by the library and Bubbler staff. Visit **madisonbubbler.org** for more information.

Donations Fuel Meadowridge Library Food Programming

Madison Community Foundation and Ascendium Education Group each contributed \$5,000 to Madison Public Library Foundation for food programming at Meadowridge Library. The donations will support food-related events for library users, including free snacks and meals, cooking classes, and maintenance of the library’s kitchen.

“These kinds of donations are vital for us to continue the services that we are providing to our community, and help reach lives through different experiences and services,” said Meadowridge Library Supervisor Yesianne Ramirez.

Meadowridge is located in a neighborhood where homelessness, job and food insecurity, and a lack of health resources are prevalent. As a broad resource, the Meadowridge kitchen serves a variety of these community needs. Funding for the project is used to hire chefs for cooking classes, maintain kitchen appliances, and cater library programs.

Some of these programs involve recurring group activities, such as Anime Club, which uses the kitchen twice per month.

Nutrition education and cooking classes also use kitchen space occasionally. Other programs involve partnerships with organizations such as NewBridge to offer lunches for seniors, or the Meadowood Neighborhood Center to provide food for kids and teens after school. When school is not in session, the kitchen also offers food that youth would not have access to otherwise.

“The efforts of the Meadowridge kitchen were a perfect fit for the Ecumenical Housing Fund for Nutrition at the Madison Community Foundation,” said Tom Linfield, Madison Community Foundation’s Vice President of Community Impact.

“The opportunity to provide snacks, meals, nutritional learning, and all-ages cooking classes was the perfect blend of outreach and engagement with local library users and families.”

—Tom Linfield, Madison Community Foundation’s Vice President of Community Impact

In addition to the direct benefits of food-related services, the Meadowridge kitchen connects community members to other kinds of library services that boost health literacy. For example, when seniors utilize the NewBridge lunch program, they interact with staff members who can connect

them to health services like blood pressure monitoring or screening for diabetes. The kitchen also provides space and resources to support cultural events like Día de Los Muertos celebrations.

Post-pandemic, rising costs to hire chefs, fund services, or purchase equipment have created challenges for maintaining the Meadowridge kitchen. In this environment, donations from community organizations like Madison Community Foundation and Ascendium Education Group help keep important services running.

“As we have to confront those new challenges, this kind of support is ideal for us to be able to not take away something that our community is reliant on,” Ramirez said.



Cooking classes for families are a common activity in Meadowridge Library’s community kitchen.

Rosemary Lee Intern Evaluates Library Planning, Engagement Efforts



Katarina Ampian assisted the library with strategic planning and community engagement research in her role as the Rosemary Lee Civic Engagement Intern.

Madison Public Library’s third Rosemary Lee Civic Engagement Intern, Katarina Ampian, completed her three-month internship this past winter under the supervision of Library Planner Rynn Kerkhove.

The internship is named after Lee, who died in 2015. She served on several city committees and later became known for being an active and outspoken citizen through attendance of city government meetings. Her sister, Ellen Lee, created the internship in Rosemary’s name by starting a fund with the foundation.

Ampian — who recently earned her master’s degree from UW-Milwaukee, where she studied library and information science with an archival concentration — had previous library services experience

working at the Wisconsin Historical Society, where she served as a manuscript collections assistant.

During her time with the library, Ampian reviewed other libraries’ strategic planning and community engagement efforts to help Madison Public Library prepare for its *Tell Us* sessions this spring that solicited input for future west side library service.

Ampian’s work helped the library discover the best ways to engage with patrons and see how other libraries shape their facilities, collections, and programming. She learned that many libraries, such as New Haven, Conn., and St. Paul, Minn., are focusing on inclusive engagement by providing media in multiple languages, as well as having the means to engage children, English language learners, people with disabilities, and those who express themselves in ways beyond standard engagement methods.

In addition to her research and reporting, Ampian helped the library by performing community outreach and taking notes during strategic planning conversations.

“[Ampian] approached her conversations with community members about the Library’s West Side Plan with kindness and enthusiasm,” Kerkhove said. “As a researcher, she wrote a thorough report on the planning efforts of other library systems, offering new perspectives on the library planning process that it can use.”

Ampian hopes to find a position as an archivist or librarian, or work in an outreach role for a cultural institution.



Join Library for We Read to Celebrate Literacy

Madison Public Library’s summer *We Read* campaign is in full swing! This summer-long program inspires youth to keep reading and invites families to participate in fun, free library programs in and around Madison.

“Reading, playing, and participating in fun activities over the summer helps kids maintain their learning while school’s out, keeps them engaged in positive activities, and creates joyful memories!” said Youth Services Supervisor Tammy Ocampo.

Each library is hosting a kickoff event in June where kids and families work with a local artist to make their own self-portrait as part of the ongoing *Our Town Everywhere* project, coordinated by the library’s Bubbler program.

The libraries are also offering a *We Read* Card Deck for families to enjoy at the library or at home. The deck has Connect Cards, Challenge Cards, Share Cards, and Prize Cards that invite children to engage with literacy, reading, and libraries in unique, exciting ways.

Finally, the *We Read* Youth Voices Writing Contest invites kids 18 and under to submit a piece of writing on the theme of *Moving Forward – Together*. Submissions on or before June 30 will have a chance to win cash, prizes, and publication. Winners will be announced at the August 12 Forward Madison FC game at Breese Stevens Field, and the anthology will be distributed in the fall.

“However you engage with stories and books, writing, playing, and creating this summer, just know that Madison Public Library is here to support you,” said Ocampo.

We Read is funded by Ascendium Education Group, Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation, Madison Public Library Foundation, Jane Doughty & David Wood, and Dick Goldberg & Lisa Munro.

Visit madpl.org/weread for more information and to learn about upcoming events.

Foundation Gets \$2,900 Dane Arts Grant for Library Exhibits

Dane Arts awarded Madison Public Library Foundation a \$2,900 grant to fund art exhibitions in Madison Public Library locations. The library’s Bubbler program regularly works with local artists to exhibit work throughout its buildings and pays each artist whose pieces are displayed; the grant will help the Bubbler continue these exhibits.

All artists receive stipends for their exhibitions to fairly compensate participants for the time spent creating their art, as well as to help defray the costs of exhibition. The foundation was one of 59 recipients of Dane Arts grants totaling \$121,500.

Visit madisonbubbler.org to learn about upcoming exhibits.



This summer, Meadowridge Library will feature the art of Palestinian-American artist AJ (Alhaitham Jassar). His work showcasing underwater environments provides a distinct perspective on the importance of preserving our natural world and the beauty that can be found in even the most unexpected places.

You’re Invited to Participate in Our Donor Survey

Madison Public Library Foundation invites all contributors to our organization to complete our 2023 Donor Survey by July 7. We appreciate your feedback, and hope you will share your thoughts about your donation and communication experiences with the foundation. Your answers will be analyzed anonymously, and will help us communicate and engage with donors like you more effectively.



Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/mplf2023survey to complete the survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated!



EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



Visit Sequoya Library's new BCycle station to test out an e-bike.

BCycle Adds New Station at Sequoya Library

Sequoya Library is home to a new BCycle station! Madison Public Library, Madison Public Library Foundation, and BCycle's Community Pass Program is a great way to try out an e-bike there at no cost.

The Community Pass Program allows library card holders to check out a BCycle pass from any Madison Public Library location. Passes can be checked out for up to a week at a time, providing patrons access to more than 350 electric-assist bikes at more than 50 BCycle stations in the Madison area. Madison Public Library Foundation provided the funding to make the program possible. Though BCycle e-bikes usually require a credit card or smartphone to use, the Madison BCycle Community Pass Program offers e-bike access for all riders.

Each library location has two passes available for checkout. BCycle stations outside other libraries include Central and Pinney. To learn more, visit madpl.org/bcycle.



Best-selling author Thrity Umrigar discusses her book *Honor* at the Wisconsin Book Festival Fall Celebration in October.

Wisconsin Book Festival Event Proposals Sought

The Wisconsin Book Festival is taking a break from author

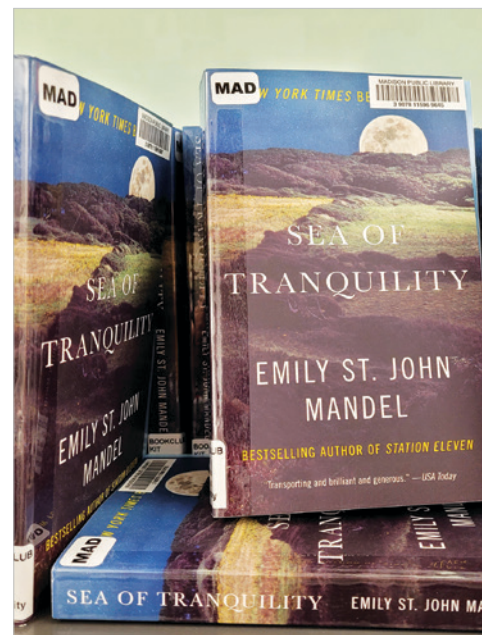


events from mid-June to August to focus on selection of authors for the festival's Fall Celebration in October.

The Wisconsin Book Festival is accepting proposals for the 2023 four-day Fall Celebration (October 19–22) through June 30. The Wisconsin Book Festival focuses primarily on hosting events for recent publications. All genres are welcome!

Do you represent a writer who wants to be a part of our festival? Are you an author? Visit wisconsinbookfestival.org/proposals for more information or to submit a proposal.

Can't wait until August? You can always access a variety of previously recorded festival programs at wisconsinbookfestival.org.



Do you dig dystopian sci-fi? Your book club might enjoy *Sea of Tranquility*.

Book Festival Donates Sea of Tranquility Copies for Book Club Kits

Madison Public Library Foundation's 12th Lunch for Libraries event on April 17 set records by grossing \$108,000 and drawing more than 700 guests. The annual fundraising event at Monona Terrace Convention Center featured a conversation with best-selling author Emily St. John Mandel, who discussed her latest novel, *Sea of Tranquility*. Event proceeds benefited the Wisconsin Book Festival and Madison Public Library youth literacy efforts.

The Wisconsin Book Festival used a portion of its proceeds to donate 24 copies of *Sea of Tranquility* to Madison Public Library's Book Club Kit collection. Copies are available now to check out for up to three months for you to read with your book club. To check out this kit or to learn about other titles in the Book Club Kit collection, call 608.266.6300.



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MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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