

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Mission of the Library

The mission of the Birmingham Public Library is to provide the highest quality library service to our citizens for life long learning, cultural enrichment and enjoyment.

Purpose of the Foundation

The Birmingham Public Library Foundation was founded in 1998 expressly for the purpose of receiving and administering contributions to and for the benefit of the Birmingham Public Library.

Governance of the Foundation

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors with a membership that shall not exceed ten members. Ex officio members of the Board include the President of the Birmingham Library Board, the President of the Friends of the Birmingham Public Library, and the Director of the Birmingham Public Library. The remaining public Board members are selected by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

Expectations of the Library Foundation Board Members

Members of the Birmingham Public Library Foundation Board of Directors are expected to:

- ◆ Actively participate in Foundation activities, which include attending Board meetings and serving on at least one working committee
- ◆ Provide advice and counsel to the Foundation and staff
- ◆ Support the Library Foundation's efforts through direct financial support
- ◆ Ask others for their financial support of the Library's efforts
- ◆ Promote and support the Library whenever the opportunity presents itself in both personal and professional settings

Activities of the Library Foundation

Members of the Birmingham Public Library Foundation Board of Directors are expected to:

- ◆ Conduct capital campaigns as needs arise
- ◆ Develop endowment funds to support the Library
- ◆ Solicit private funds from individuals
- ◆ Solicit private funds from corporations and foundations to fund projects and improve library collections and services

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION?

The Birmingham Public Library Foundation was created in 1998 to receive and administer donations for the benefit of the entire library system

HOW IS THE FOUNDATION GOVERNED?

The Board of Directors governs the Foundation. The Board is made up of ex officio members and public members. The President of the Birmingham Library Board, the President of the Friends of the Birmingham Public Library and the Director of the Birmingham Public Library serve as ex officio members. The Public Board members are selected by the Foundation Board of Directors.

WHO GIVES TO THE FOUNDATION?

Contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations are used to create the endowments contained in the Foundation.

HOW IS THE FOUNDATION'S INCOME USED?

The principal is not touched; only the interest is available for use. Gifts to the Foundation are pooled and invested, and generate a stable source of annual income for the library system.

Income generated by the Foundation is used to fund projects and improve library collections and services. They are projects that the Library could not otherwise afford through its annual operating budget and are considered to be over and above normal operating costs.

Examples of Foundation projects include: the purchase of library material in all formats; the purchase of new equipment such as computers and scanners, special programs for children and adults; volunteer and staff recognition and awards; staff training and development; adult literacy activities; capital projects, and numerous other library enhancements.

WHAT IS THE TAX STATUS OF THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION?

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that the Birmingham Public Library Foundation is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers or gifts to the Foundation are **tax deductible**.

Birmingham Public Library
2100 Park Place
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
Telephone: (205) 226-3610