



COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY

**FRIENDS OF
THE LIBRARY**

2012 Board of Trustees Recruitment

Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library

Deadline to express interest: **October 28, 2011 by 5:00 p.m.**

Friends of the Library
96 S. Grant Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215
P: 614 – 849-1053
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About: Columbus Metropolitan Library

Columbus Metropolitan Library is one of the most well-known and best-used libraries in the nation, as evidenced by being named National Library of the Year for 2010 by *Library Journal*. It was also ranked the #1 library in the country by Hennen's American Public Library Rating Index three times in the last 11 years and received 5 Star ratings from *Library Journal* in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Each year CML circulates more than 17 million items, serves almost 9 million customers who walk through its doors and hosts 10 million visitors to its website at Columbuslibrary.org.

CML's Strategic Plan supports its vision of "a thriving community where wisdom prevails," which positions the library to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten (Ready to Read); high school graduation rates (Homework Help Centers); and adults in need of employment resources (Job Help Centers).

Columbus Metropolitan Library system is comprised of 21 locations throughout Columbus. It's your neighborhood branch, including:

Driving Park	New Albany
Dublin	Northern Lights
Franklinton	Northside
Gahanna	Parsons
Hilliard	Reynoldsburg
Hilltop	Shepard
Karl Road	South High
Linden	Southeast
Livingston	Whetstone
Main, Downtown	Whitehall
Martin Luther King	

As a vital civic institution, an externally appointed board of seven community leaders governs the library. Its annual budget is supported through a portion of the Ohio state Income Tax and a local property tax. CML has close ties to its affinity organizations – the Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation (CMLF) and the Friends of the Library (FOL).

About: Friends of the Library (FOL)

Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library is a voluntary non-profit, 501(c)4, organization of nearly 800 supporters whose membership contributions reflect their strong support of the library's purpose. In addition to paying annual membership dues, many Friends also volunteer their time and talents in the branch libraries and at the Main Library.

Through annual dues and entrepreneurial activities, like book sales, a book store and coffee service, the FOL raise money to support CML. Traditionally, the Friends' revenue has been chosen by the Board to support the library in two important ways, 1.) Branch-level support for programs and services and 2.) Gifts to the political action committees (PACs) organized to conduct the library's levy campaigns. Branch-level support for programs and services takes place annually with gifts to each of the library's 21

locations for programming support, branch enhancements, and community outreach. The Friends have been called upon to support levy campaigns every 10 – 15 years, specifically in 1986, 2000 and 2010. In each case, the Friends have been a primary source of funding for those campaigns.

In 2007, the Friends added one more area of annual support of the library; they began designating funds for support of strategic initiatives and signature library programs. Consequently, the Friends have become major supporters of Summer Reading Club and have had a dramatic impact on expansion of the library's Homework Help Centers to all 21 locations.

About: Friend of the Library (FOL) Board of Trustees

The Friends of the Library is governed by a Board of Trustees and guided by a Code of Regulations. The number of trustees has fluctuated over the years but currently resides at 22 members. The Board is self-selecting from its own membership. In composition, the Board seeks to reflect the diverse neighborhoods, ages, occupations, skills, and interests of the community the library serves. The activities of the Friends Board and organization are facilitated with the help of a library employee, designated as the Friends' liaison. Currently, the Library's Director of Development & Affinity serves in this capacity.

The Friends' Board of Trustees meets the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. to address a variety of agenda items reflecting its central responsibilities:

- The Board has fiduciary responsibility for all funds raised through Friends' book sales and other activities. It has management oversight of the Java's Cyber Cafe coffee shop and the Library Store at the Main Library – both successful business enterprises
- It conducts a continuous membership recruitment campaign to enlist new Friends, publishes a regular Friends' newsletter, and hosts events such as book sales
- It seeks effective ways to build a well-informed constituency of support at those times when public funding of the library is on the ballot
- The Friends employ seven individuals – a full-time Library Store Manager, five part-time Library Store Assistants and a part-time Warehouse Manager.

About: Trustee Commitment

- The Board meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.; except for June and a combined November/December meeting
- The Friends board does much of its work through active committees, each of which usually meets once a month in addition to the regular board meeting
- Board members are required to serve on at least one working committee
- Board members are expected to participate in board sponsored projects, such as the annual "Big Book Sale"
- Board members are expected to become a member of the Friends of the Library
- A board term is three (3) years and members may be re-elected for three (3) terms

About: Candidates for Friends of the Library Board

In composition, the board reflects the diverse neighborhoods, ages, occupations, skills, and interests of the Friends of the Library. Its composition also reflects the qualities required by the tasks that lie before the board:

- A passion for the library and its vital place in our community
- Financial-management knowledge and competence
- An entrepreneurial flair (professionally or as a volunteer)
- Advocacy skills
- Links within the diverse communities and groups served by the library
- Membership recruitment (and retention)

Perhaps, though, the *essential* qualification for membership on the Friends Board is recognition of the enormous value of your library to Columbus and an eagerness to contribute to the library's present and future success.



Express Your Interest!

We would like to know more about you, your strengths, and your interest in the Friends of the Library board. **Deadline is October 28, 2011 by 5:00 p.m.**

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (Day) _____ (Evening)

Email address: _____

Company/Affiliation: _____

____ No, I'm not able to serve at this time but contact me again in the future.

____ Yes, I would like my name to go to the board Nominating Committee for consideration and I am enclosing a resume or personal profile that addresses the following areas:

- Work or profession, present or past
- Volunteer activities and personal interests
- Experience on other boards
- Specific committee experience (fundraising, special events, membership)
- Educational background, any other relevant learning experiences
- Potential contribution to the FOL Board of Trustees

Feel free to include any other information that might help us know you better. And don't hesitate to call Donna Zuiderweg in the Friends office (614/849-1053) with any questions or comments.

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