



2021 Board of Trustees Recruitment
Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library

Deadline to express interest: September 30, 2020

Friends of the Library
96 S. Grant Ave.
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 849-1056

About: Columbus Metropolitan Library

Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio since 1873. With its Main Library and 22 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help Centers, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Challenge and Ready for Kindergarten. The library's Strategic Plan supports the vision of "a thriving community where wisdom prevails," which positions CML to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college and career readiness and employment resources.

The library is governed by an externally appointed board of seven community leaders who are responsible for guiding major decisions about library strategies and operations. The library's annual budget is supported through a local property tax levy and the state Public Library Fund.

About: Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library

Friends of the Library's (FOL) mission is to build awareness and resources to champion the vision of Columbus Metropolitan Library.

FOL is a non-profit, 501(c)4 organization with more than 1200 members and fans. FOL provides reach and resources beyond what the library can do on its own, and works closely with library leadership to determine where its support can make a difference.

Through annual membership dues and entrepreneurial activities such as a gift shop, book sales, and cafes, FOL generates revenue to support CML programs and services. FOL is proud to fund programs such as Summer Reading Challenge, Homework Help Centers, and Family History Day. Most importantly, FOL advocates for the library and funds property tax levy campaigns, which secure over 70% of the library's operational budget.

About: Friends of the Library Board of Trustees

Friends of the Library is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees guided by an established Code of Regulations. The Director of Strategic Initiatives & Advocacy and the Advocacy Associate, both of whom are Columbus Metropolitan Library employees, facilitate the strategic direction and daily activities of the FOL Board and organization.

The Board of Trustees meets six times a year to address a variety of agenda items. The Board's work is driven by four committees: Business, Community Relations, Finance, and Governance. Regular responsibilities include:

- Fiduciary responsibility for all revenue earned through FOL lines of business, including oversight of vendor agreements and library café leases

- Continuous membership recruitment resulting in new Friends including the maintenance of social media accounts and hosting of events and programming
- Building a well-informed constituency that will respond to calls to action and advocate for legislative and ballot issues that impact the library
- Managing a small staff of Friends employees including one full-time Library Store Manager

About: Candidates for Friends of the Library Board

The FOL Board seeks to be inclusive of the diverse neighborhoods, ages, occupations, skills, and interests of the communities the library serves. Additionally, the Board must also possess the skills and expertise needed to complete its work:

- A passion for the library and its vital place in our community
- Knowledge of financial management practices and competencies
- Experience with entrepreneurial activities and retail operations
- Connections with the various communities and cultures served by the library
- Experience with membership recruitment, engagement, and retention
- Experience with grassroots advocacy and advocacy campaigns

About: Trustee Commitment

Trustees serve a three-year term for Board service, which can be renewed for two additional three-year terms for a maximum of nine years, unless the trustee is filling a vacancy, resigns, or is removed from office. The trustee is expected to prepare for and attend all Board meetings. Failure to attend three consecutive Board of Trustees meetings may be deemed cause for removal from office at the Board's discretion. Trustees are assigned to and expected to serve on at least one committee. Committees generally meet monthly during regular business hours.

Trustees are asked to volunteer time for CML and FOL programs such as book sales, Summer Reading Challenge Kick-Off, and PBJ & Jazz, as well as events such as the Celebration of Learning and Carnegie Author Series as they are able. Certain committee assignments or special projects may require additional time commitments above and beyond scheduled board and committee meetings. Board members are required to be a paid Friends of the Library member at a level that is personally meaningful and are encouraged to make additional contributions to the CML Foundation.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- The Board of Trustees will serve in accordance with the mission, values and Code of Regulations of Friends of the Library.

- The Board has fiduciary responsibility.
- The Board will provide strategic and fiscal oversight and guidance to Friends of the Library.
- The Board is responsible for maximizing long-term value of Friends of the Library.
- The Board will act as ambassadors of Columbus Metropolitan Library, Friends of the Library, and the library in the community.
- Board members will help identify and facilitate the introduction and cultivation of key partners, donors, community leaders, and future board members.



***Interested in serving on the
Friends of the Library Board of Trustees?***

Tell us about yourself. What strengths and experience would you bring to the Board?
Materials must be received by Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 5 p.m.

Name: _____

Neighborhood Library: _____

Address (Street, City, Zip): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Company/Affiliation: _____

_____ No, I'm not able to serve at this time but am interested in being considered in the future.

_____ Yes, I would like to be considered by the Governance Committee and have enclosed a resume and letter of interest that address the following:

- Work or professional experience
- Board and committee experience
- Educational background or relevant learning experiences
- Volunteer activities and personal interests

Applicants are encouraged to share their library story- a story about how the library has had a place in their life.

Please send this form, resume, and letter of interest to:

Friends of the Library
96 S. Grant Avenue
Columbus, OH 43215

Questions and materials can also be submitted via email to Kimberly White at kwhite@columbuslibrary.org.