

## FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2017

### Adult Classes and Events

#### **Adult Learners at APL:**

Adult Learners at APL includes speaker and lecture series, field trips and short courses for adults ages 50+ who are interested in lifelong learning opportunities. Adult Learners responds to community needs and leverages local experts to provide educational opportunities. Friends funds provide honoraria for presenters.

#### **Books Build Community:**

Books Build Community (BBC) responds to and engages in community initiatives, fostering shared experiences and dialogue on a specific topic, by working with community stakeholders to select a community read book. This quarter, two book discussions for *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond were facilitated by Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities. These events have fostered community dialogue on the complex connections of insecure housing, eviction, poverty, race and gender, and raised awareness of these issues, with specific focus on Appleton and the Fox Cities. Friends funds supported the expansion of the initiative.

#### **Get Crafty:**

Community Partnerships and Children's Services contracted with Creative Juices to invite a local jewelry artist to share a workshop for adults and children. Get Crafty provided an opportunity for parents and children to complete similar activities in the same room at the same time, and each leave with their own work of art. Friends funds provided a stipend for the artist and supplies.

### Teen Classes and Events

#### **Anime Night:**

Anime Night is a monthly event for teens with an interest in anime and the Japanese culture. Friends funds provided an opportunity for teens to create, and take home, an anime-inspired pottery at The Fire.

#### **Game Break:**

Game Break is a monthly teen event featuring video and tabletop gaming. This event provides teens with a safe place to hang out with other teens who share a common interest. Friends funds provide equipment and board games for the program.

#### **Improved! Performance and Workshop**

Teens from North High School's Improved! comedy troupe entertained an audience of tweens through adults with two programs this spring. The program allowed us to showcase local talented teens in a positive, family-friendly performance; and inspired young people to ask questions and learn about the art of improvisational comedy. Friends funds provided a stipend to the presenting group.

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#### **K-Pop Club:**

K-Pop Club is designed for teens with an interest in aspects of Korean Pop culture including music, TV and food. Teens develop friendships with their peers around common interests, build trust with a caring adult (YA Librarian) and have opportunities to build leadership and communication skills through this program. Friends funds provide materials for K-Pop Club.

#### **Minecraft:**

A weekly event for teens where a server is provided to play the video game Minecraft in a cooperative environment. Teens learn about construction, collaboration and problem solving, while developing social and technological skills in a moderated environment. Friends funds support the access to a safe virtual space for this program.

### **Tween Classes and Events**

#### **Tween Scene:**

Tween Scenes are classes designed for 3rd through 6th graders that focus on building, exploring and creating through the STEAM fields. The subject matter varies and remains responsive to the needs and interests of the community. Friends funds provide supplies for the classes.

### **Children's Classes and Events**

#### **Tinker Tuesdays:**

Participants in grades kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade learn about architecture and engineering through hands-on activities; including drawing, building and constructing. Friends funds provided supplies for the classes.

#### **Fairytale Friday:**

Families enjoyed storytime and then moved throughout the room to different interactive hands-on activity stations. Children were able to work on their sensory skills, fine motor skills and more. Friends funds provided supplies for the event.

#### **Iditarod 2017:**

This is an annual reading program for children ages three years to 6<sup>th</sup> grade based on the Iditarod. Children complete 24 reading activities between March 1 and March 31 and earn a drawing slip to win a large stuffed Husky. The program serves as a way to promote and engage children in reading activities. Friends funds provided the incentive prizes for the program.

### Programs for All Ages

#### **Maker Fest:**

Participants explored various hands-on activities as an introduction to the do-it-yourself idea; celebrating science, technology, engineering, arts and more. Friends funds paid for the hands-on activities.

#### **Maker Pop Up:**

Community members were invited to stop at a table in the library entrance and explore Little Bits, which serve as an introduction to circuitry. Friends funds paid for the equipment for the program.

### Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

#### **Artist in Residence:**

The Artist-in-Residence series contracts with local artists to exhibit their work in the library and provide lectures, workshops and demonstrations to the public. The series celebrates the work of local artists and welcomes community members of all ages to experience the arts through engaging opportunities. Friends funds provide honoraria and supplies for the artist.

#### **Memory Café:**

Appleton Public Library's Memory Café is one of eight Fox Cities programs offered in partnership with Fox Valley Memory Project. The Memory Café series is dedicated to providing a place for people with dementia and their caregivers to socialize in a non-judgmental setting. Friends funds support supplies for activities and refreshments.

#### **Fox Cities Reads:**

Fox Cities Reads is a community-wide read event that takes place every April. The Fox Cities public libraries come together to hold this event to build community and promote literacy. Friends funds provide an annual contribution toward the honorarium for the Reads author, as well as copies of the community book and t-shirts for staff and volunteers to promote the event.

#### **Cocoa and Coloring Nights:**

Cocoa and Coloring Nights provide community members with the opportunity to relax and socialize in an open and inclusive environment. This program attracts people of all ages and abilities and facilitates understanding and compassion for individuals with special needs. Friends funds provide adult coloring books, art supplies and hot chocolate.

#### **Music at the Library:**

Music at the Library showcases local musicians and bands, providing music ranging from classic rock, country and folk to classical works by Mozart and Beethoven. Local

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senior living facilities provide shuttle service for their residents to attend these programs. Friends funds provide musicians with honoraria for their performances.

#### **Films at the Library:**

**Monday Morning Matinee** is a twice-monthly film series designed for persons with special needs, but it is open to the public. Local group homes provide shuttle service for their residents to attend G-rated film programs. Additional participants include parents, grandparents, and other caregivers of young children. Friends fund refreshments and movie licensing fees.

**Thursday at the Movies** features blockbuster films and topical documentaries at the library. Community members who cannot afford to attend movies at the theater are an opportunity to attend movie screenings and foster social connections with other community members. Friends funds pay for refreshments and movie licensing fees.

#### **Find Your Ancestors:**

Find Your Ancestors contracts with experts in the field of genealogy to present on various topics. This program is a natural fit with the library; and every series grows in attendance. Friends funding supports the stipend for the genealogy speakers.

#### **FAN Pass:**

The Fox Arts Network (FAN) Pass program provides library patrons with free access to local arts and culture. The offers are available to community members of all ages. Examples of offers include tickets to performances at the Performing Arts Center, workshops at Bergstrom Mahler Museum of Glass, and passes to the YMCA. Friends funds support supplemental items to enhance the display.

#### **Playaway Launchpad:**

Playaway Launchpads are durable tablets that come pre-loaded with educational apps for families to use and to explore. The Playaway Launchpad collection eliminates barriers to access to quality technology. Friends funds paid for the Launchpads.

#### **3D Printing:**

The Digital Creation Lab in the library is equipped with a 3D Printer. Library patrons may schedule a one-on-one session with a 3D printer coach to work through the process of selecting a design from an online collection or designing an object for print. Friends funds provide 3D printing tools and supplies.

#### **Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education (RISE):**

This program was developed in partnership with Forward Services to meet the unique needs and interests of the growing population of refugees and immigrants in Appleton. RISE incorporates informational and recreational topics such as stress management, storytelling and library resources. Through RISE, we have seen an increase of new refugees and immigrants at the library using the computers, checking out books and obtaining library cards. Friends funds provided interpreters, supplies and refreshments.

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#### **Paper Summer Library Program:**

There are four categories of the summer library program; adults, teens, children and baby/toddlers. The adult program encourages adults to read and attend programs at the library. The teen program is designed to promote reading through fun activities and incentives. The children's program is designed to encourage children to read, create and engage in activities with family and/or friends. The baby/toddler program focuses on the building blocks of reading. Friends funds support prizes, events and supplies for the Summer Library Program.

#### **Online Summer Library Program:**

READsquared, our online SLP platform, lets patrons log their reading, play games, take part in missions and earn digital badges for their accomplishments. The online platform makes the summer library program more accessible for patrons. Friends funds pay for the READsquared software.

#### **Summer Library Program Postage:**

During the summer months, the Children's Services connects with area businesses and organizations to procure donation prizes for the Children's, Teen and Adult Summer Library Programs. Solicitation and thank you letters are sent out to businesses. Friends funding pays for the postage.

#### **Ride and Read:**

This partner program with Valley Transit provides free transportation to the library on Wednesdays for children ages 17 and under, June through August. This service is designed to help remove barriers from attending programs at the library. Friends funds, along with Valley Transit, pay for the bus fares.

#### **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten:**

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a national reading program, for children ages birth to 5. It runs year-round and follows the national mission to promote reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers and to encourage parent and child bonding through reading. Friends funds pay for incentive prizes.

### **Special Projects**

#### **Early Childhood Makeover:**

Our early childhood space will be improved with; three area rugs and two tables to accommodate four iPad stations. In addition, three tables were purchased to replace the old ones for children to work on puzzles, etc. The worn-out manipulative wall is being replaced with shelving for lots of new toys. Friends funds paid for the early childhood makeover.