

# Port Townsend Public Library Foundation

*2016 Biennial Report*

PRESERVATION • RESTORATION • INNOVATION  
INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

The City of Port Townsend's Public Library is deeply grateful and incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated Library Foundation working to preserve, renovate, and restore our community's beloved Carnegie Library through a myriad of beneficial projects. These projects include grant administration, new furnishings and facility improvements, service enhancements, and aesthetic improvements to restore the beauty of the historic Carnegie. The Library Foundation's Board is made up of caring community members who are devoted to ensuring that the Library remains the thriving heart of our community for many generations to come.

*Melody Sky Eisler, Library Director*



*“There is not such a cradle of democracy on earth as the free public library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration.”*

ANDREW CARNEGIE  
(1835-1919)  
INDUSTRIALIST,  
BUSINESSMAN,  
ENTREPRENEUR  
AND PHILANTHROPIST

#### OUR MISSION:

The Foundation supports the Port Townsend Public Library’s mission and goals through fundraising to supplement the Library’s tax-based support for the benefit of our community.

#### OUR VISION:

We see our public Library not only as an historic library, founded in 1898, but also as a 21st century multimedia learning center that offers current technology and is an easily accessible resource for the community.

As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization, we work to maximize the benefits that our donors and grantors want to confer on the Library, while working closely with the Library staff to understand and plan for ways to pay for projects that optimize the Library’s value to the community.



## WHAT WE DO FOR THE LIBRARY

The Foundation uses our donors' contributions in many varied ways, ranging from capital building projects and the renovation of buildings and facilities, to the purchase of books for collections. We may acquire equipment and furnishings, as well as the most recent technologies and tools that are critically important to the Library's users. Consistent with our Policies, our Board evaluates all requests from the Library to be sure that donations will not be used as a substitute for traditional tax-based funding, unless the donor specifically waives that limitation for a specific purpose.

We work collaboratively with the City of Port Townsend to insure that the projects we propose fit with the City's long-term and short-term plans to enhance the Library. We work in collaboration with the *Friends of the Port Townsend Library* (the "Friends"), a separate and distinct non-profit organization whose focus is to raise money for library services, programs, and materials as requested by the Library Director that are beyond the City budget.

## WHAT WE HAVE DONE

In 2014 we focused on marshalling the assets our generous donors re-gifted to the Foundation after the termination of the 2010-2013 Capital Campaign. We prioritized the completion of projects that were intended to be paid from “restricted funds,” which can only be spent as the donor specifies. We also sought guidance from the Library staff and the City on additional projects that, if approved, would be paid for from unrestricted funds. To date, the Foundation has spent approximately \$208,000 to complete several categories of projects. Here is a look at some of the things we did!





With the help of a \$25,000 gift from the **Wallis Family**, we gave the Library a new adjustable-height “Help Desk,” two Mobile Reference Desks, a “Look It Up” Station, and assorted storage tables and task chairs. These items are flexible and movable to help maximize functionality for both staff and patrons.



Two of our goals are to increase the Library’s use of technology to improve the ability of Library patrons to access the Internet and to enhance the use of space to facilitate programs for all ages. Using a generous grant of \$33,344 from **Gray Wolf Ranch**, we created Technology and Computer Centers in the Carnegie Reading Room and in the Charles A. Pink House. We also added easy-to-use audio/video improvements for program presentations in both areas, and extra seating capacity with the purchase of temporary folding chairs for larger programs made possible by these improvements. This year, for example, the Carnegie Reading Room was filled by over 100 people who came to see a program celebrating the National Parks 100th Birthday. Over 70 people attended a program co-sponsored by the Sierra Club on “The Hidden Half of Nature.” It is wonderful to see our lovely Library being used by so many people.



The **D.V. and Ida J. McEachern Charitable Trust** gave the Foundation a \$30,000 grant to benefit the children and young people who use our Library. These funds were used to provide almost all of the furnishings and interactive materials you now see in the children's and teen areas. The balance of the McEachern Trust's gift also paid for 126 cubic feet of much-needed new storage space for library staff use. The smiles we see on young faces every day demonstrate the significance of this generous gift.



Using unrestricted donations, we purchased all the end panels and canopy tops for the new metal stacks in the Library, as well as two mobile display islands. The new end panels are much lighter than the old stacks, and make browsing much easier.



We also used some of our donor funds to buy other assorted furnishings to maximize the use of space in the Library. Come visit and take a seat in one of a dozen comfortable lounge chairs, as well as other seating opportunities. Enjoy the wonderful displays of work by local artists. Small surprises can be seen in the beautiful new **Charlie Moore Art Case** in the entry area. The case and two end tables were crafted by local woodworker Abel Dances, who generously donated much of his time to create them. We also purchased an art hanging system to help **Northwind Arts Center** change out the art which it graciously displays at the Library in four-month rotations. Our Library offers books, art, technology and programs. It is a vibrant and active space.



We share the Library's goal of improving ease of access for young and old and everyone in between, and so we recently had automatic door openers installed on the front entry door to the Carnegie Building, as well as the two public restroom doors. We are happy to report that the Library has received great feedback and thanks from patrons for these assisted doors. They seem to benefit everyone --



moms carrying kids, small children, the elderly and people with special needs. We also purchased the new permanent signs that are now installed throughout the Library.

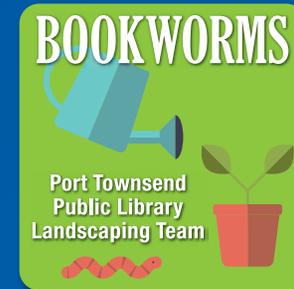




The historic Carnegie Building was built in 1913, and at some time in the past the original lights were replaced. To enhance the historic look of the schoolhouse lights, we replaced the old white plastic stems and ceiling bases with metal fixtures with a bronze matte finish, giving the space a more consistent and pleasing feeling.



This past summer the Foundation also made improvements outside the Library. We added two benches to provide seating in sun and in shade, as well as much-needed trash and recycling receptacles by the entry door. We funded the purchase of planters and flowers to brighten the area near the entry way. We also fund supplies used by the volunteers fondly known as the “Bookworms,” who provide much-needed assistance taking care of the garden and yard areas. All these things work to make the Library a wonderful place for our community.





## HOW WE DID IT

**D**uring this period, we spent approximately \$208,000 in donor funds to complete the projects described above. At the same time, we completed the administration of an earlier grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, given to support a collaborative collection development project between the City and the Port Townsend School District. Since 2014 that grant has, among other things, directly contributed over \$29,000 in books and electronics to all of the School District's libraries, and over \$23,000 in books and electronics to the Port Townsend Public Library.

**W**e believe that all of these improvements

have contributed to our goal of improving the Library so that it can work better to meet the needs of our community. These projects have given the Library staff more flexibility in how they use the space to best meet the spectrum of needs that walk through the door every day – whether people are looking for books, technology, or wonderful programs and presentations. Credit for this goes to the hundreds of donors who re-gifted their Capital Campaign donations to us, as well as the grants from **Gray Wolf Ranch**, the **McEachern Foundation**, and the **Wallis Family** to help us preserve, restore and renovate our Library. We hope that you all will find time to drop in to see how we did. The work has been gratifying.

*The Light That Beckons*  
by Port Townsend artist Kathy Francis

## WHAT WE HOPE TO DO NEXT

Earlier this year we advised the City that the Foundation was prepared in 2016 to commit funds for several different projects, some of which could be used as a match to free up some of the remaining funds in the Washington State Heritage Capital Projects Fund grant that the State originally awarded to the City in 2013. That grant will expire if the funds are not expended by June 30, 2017. We have already completed some of the proposed projects. The remaining projects that are eligible for the Heritage Capital 3:1 match are the reconstruction of the Charles A. Pink House retaining wall, the renovation of the Carnegie Building's restrooms, and excavation work necessary to improve the drainage around the front and east side of the Carnegie Building.

The total cost of these projects is uncertain at this time; hence our offer for these three Heritage Capital projects is capped at \$57,000. The City would fund the balance and of course receive any Heritage Capital matching funds.

The offer triggered a very positive response from the City, which has indicated that they would like to incorporate it into a larger project they are considering to help the Library, which would be paid by a planned refinance of bonds. If the City is successful in that effort, they hope to start work in January. Their larger plan would include repair/replacement of the roof and windows of the 1990 one-story annex, the Carnegie Building's concrete stairs, and the Library's elevator and HVAC systems. We are committed to helping the City make this project happen.

## LONGER-RANGE PLANS

Our Board has discussed the question of where we go from here. We recognize that there will be requests for help with special projects from the Library staff on an ongoing basis and that we need to consider fundraising – which we have not done since 2013 – to pay for future projects, both large and small. We also know that in Port Townsend there are many wonderful non-profits competing for your money each and every year, and that choices must be made. Therefore we want to make sure that future fundraisers are associated with a specific project or fundraising goal that will result in a tangible benefit or improvement for the Library. We will be working with the Library staff to identify that goal, and we would like to ask that you join us in that process. We want to hear your thoughts for a 2017 project that you think would

result in a meaningful improvement for the Library. You may have specific ideas on how to leverage more opportunities for technology. Give us your ideas! Your idea may be the one that the Library staff selects to drive our future fundraising efforts.

As for 2014-2016, we hope that this Biennial Report has given you a better understanding of what the Foundation is, what we strive to do for the Library, and what we have accomplished. There are many projects yet to be done and others that realistically will never be finished, ranging for example from expanding technology access to maintaining and improving the landscaping on the Library grounds. If you are interested in volunteering let us know.

We are on the Web at:

[www.PTPublicLibraryFoundation.org](http://www.PTPublicLibraryFoundation.org)

[You may reach us via email here](#)



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

MARGARET MEAD (1901-1978)  
AMERICAN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGIST

### Library Foundation Board

**Susan Hargleroad,**  
*President*

**Mike Burk,**  
*Vice President*

**Dick Rogers,**  
*Treasurer*

**Jean Baldwin**

**Bonnie Hanson-Buckley**

**John Mericle**

**Richard Wojt**

**Ellen Dustman,**  
*Friends of the Library*

**Melody Sky Eisler,**  
*Library Director*

**Sarah McNulty,**  
*Library Advisory Board*

## HOW YOU MAY HELP

**P**lease consider joining us by volunteering to serve on our Board. We need people who can help us be good stewards of the funds the community donates, or help manage projects, or help with our website, or write grants. And, now and then we really need people who can help organize a fun fundraising function for a great purpose! If you are willing to help out in any way, please let us know, and thank you so much from each of us for your continuing support of the Port Townsend Public Library Foundation.

## HOW TO DONATE

**I**f you wish to make a donation to the Foundation, please note whether you want to impose any limits on how your donation may be used. In the absence of any restriction, the donation will be accepted as unrestricted funds, to be used in the Board’s discretion for the benefit of the Library. The Foundation qualifies under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tax ID No. 94-3223734.

*Contributions can be sent to:*

**Port Townsend Public Library Foundation**  
P.O. Box 857, Port Townsend, WA 98368

*Or you may:*

[Click here to make a donation online](#)