

# SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY



# OVERVIEW



- 13 location and a Bookmobile
- Over 700 open hours per week
- More than 1.1 million visitors through our doors in 2023
- More than 33,000 open hours annually
- 8,700 new library cards in 2023

# MISSION, VISION, VALUES

## Mission

To welcome all people to connect, learn, participate and grow.

## Vision

A city that works for all, where libraries bring people together to experience hope and unlock new possibilities.

## Values

We believe in connection.

We believe in innovation.

We believe in resilience.

We believe in the power of belonging.



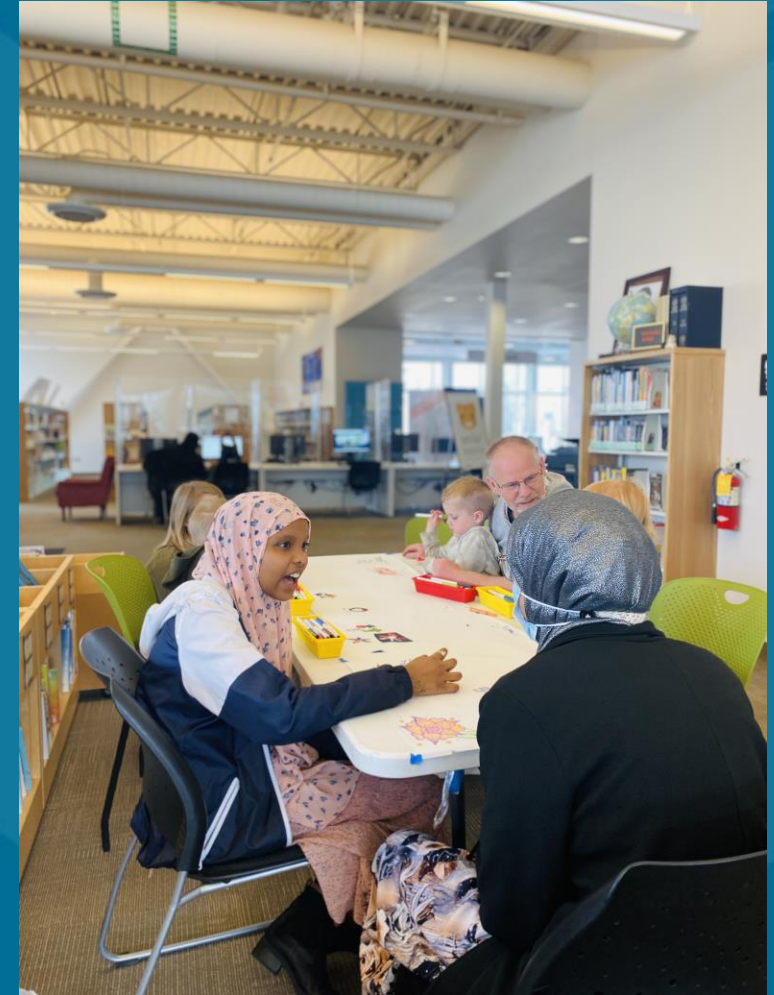
# ESSENTIAL SPACE OF CONNECTION

- Libraries are not just "relevant," they are essential
- Social infrastructure - "resilience centers" - Eric Klinenberg
- Third space
- Deeply inclusive and accessible
- Government-funded – radical!



# RADICAL SPACE OF BELONGING

- Learning
- Reading
- Joy
- Support
- Health
- Information
- City and Community resources
- People like you
- People who are different from you



# A FREE PLACE TO “DO LIFE”

- Reading support or homework assistance
- Meet with friends and neighbors
- Play and read with the kids in your life
- Get help applying for jobs
- Print your resume
- Fax your county or health care forms
- Get questions answered and find information
- Be in community with others





# PEOPLE-CENTERED EMPLOYER

- 181 FTE; 241 people
- 70% are female or gender non-conforming; 52% BIPOC; 17% disabled
- 68% full-time;
- 65% live in Saint Paul
- 80% work directly with the public
- Behind-the-scenes work is less visible but equally important.



# FISCALLY CREATIVE

- \$22M budget – \$21 general fund; \$1.5M Special Funds
- Funding from The Friends of Saint Paul Public Library annually, nearly \$700K in 2023
- Philanthropic funding can allow us to pilot new innovations or supplement city funds
- Capital campaign partnership with Friends. \$28.8M overall; Friends committed to \$10M; City to \$18.8
- Leveraging other city funding sources – ARPA, Public Safety funds, Opioid Settlement





# NATIONAL LEADER

- Lead with our values – the city's values
  - Drag Story Hour
  - #weneediversebooks
- Innovative approaches
  - Eliminating Late Fines
  - Read Brave
  - Social worker
  - Culture-first Community Services team
  - Transforming community-first public safety in public libraries
  - Building joyful and fun social media presence
- The Friends of Saint Paul Public Library



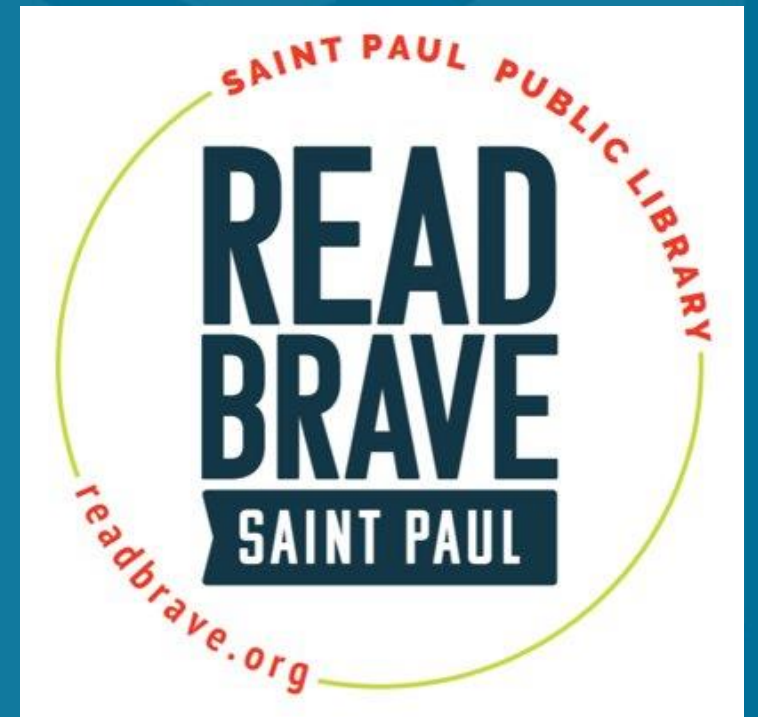
# ESSENTIAL IN CITY PRIORITIES

- Community Public Health and Safety
- Economic Development – downtown and neighborhoods
- Racial and Social Equity
- Digital inclusion and connectivity
- Workforce Development
- Climate Resiliency
- Resident engagement and advocacy



# READ BRAVE

Annual, citywide reading program that uses the power of books to bring people together—across similarity and difference—to read and talk bravely with one another and to think of big ideas that move Saint Paul forward.





# READ BRAVE GOALS

- Build awareness for Saint Paul Public Library through a campaign rooted in our values
- Contribute to building a city that works for everyone by bring together residents from at neighborhoods to read the same brave book and talking bravely about its themes
- Put books in the hands of young people and foster a love of reading
- Encourage connections across generations



**READ BRAVE THEME**

Celebrating Identities

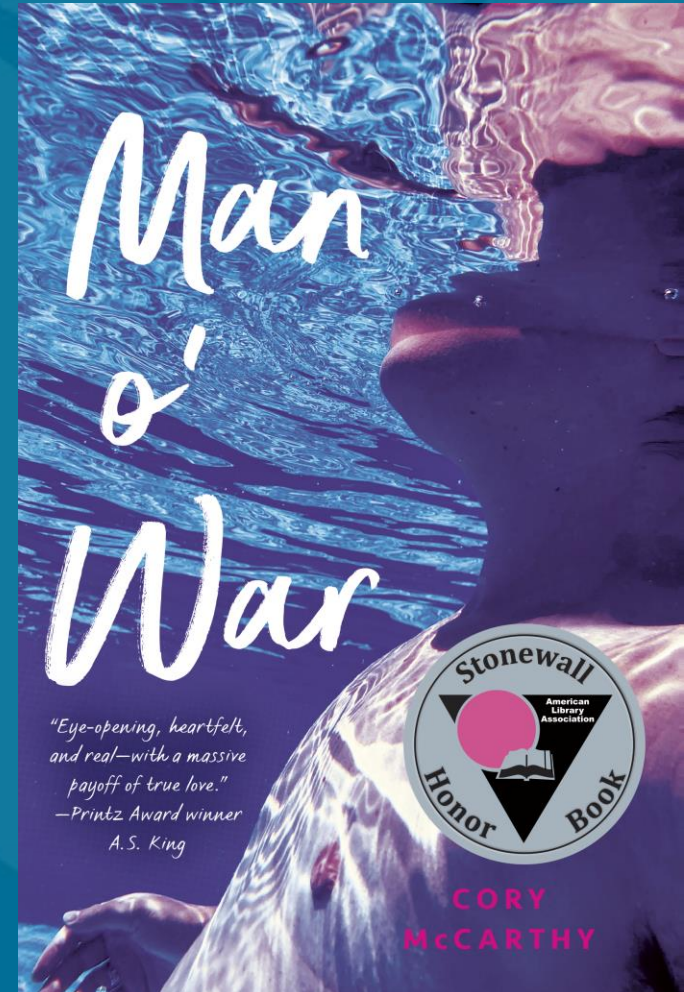


# READ BRAVE BOOK SELECTION

## *Man o' War* by Cory McCarthy

Candid, emotional and often funny coming-of-age story that follows the journey of an Irish-Lebanese-American trans teen navigating the challenges and joy of self-discovery and love in a small midwestern town.

Recommended for older teens through adult.





# READ BRAVE 2024

- Cory will visit Saint Paul in March to visit students who are reading this book and join our community in a public conversation with Mayor Carter.
- Funding is from the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, the City of Saint Paul, the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, with additional support from the Saint Paul Public Schools Community Partnership ARP grant.
- [www.readbrave.org](http://www.readbrave.org)



# READ BRAVE 2024

- **Read:** Pick up a copy of book at library locations.
- **Talk:** Use our online toolkit to facilitate brave conversations that celebrate identities and push our city forward.
- Amplify the importance of a library and a city that welcomes and celebrates all identities.
- Join our public events at [www.readbrave.org](http://www.readbrave.org)
  - **Read Brave Talk Brave [with author Cory McCarthy and Mayor Carter]** March 21, 6-7:30 p.m. at Arlington Hills Library
  - **Community Cares volunteer event** March 23 from 10:30-12:30 pm at George Latimer Central Library





A 79-year partnership with  
the City of Saint Paul



# How Saint Paul Public Library is Funded

## THE PEOPLE OF SAINT PAUL

Our community contributes to the Library through taxes and donations to The Friends.



## THE CITY

Taxpayer dollars support library buildings, staff, and materials to check out. But public funding isn't enough to provide the resources residents seek.

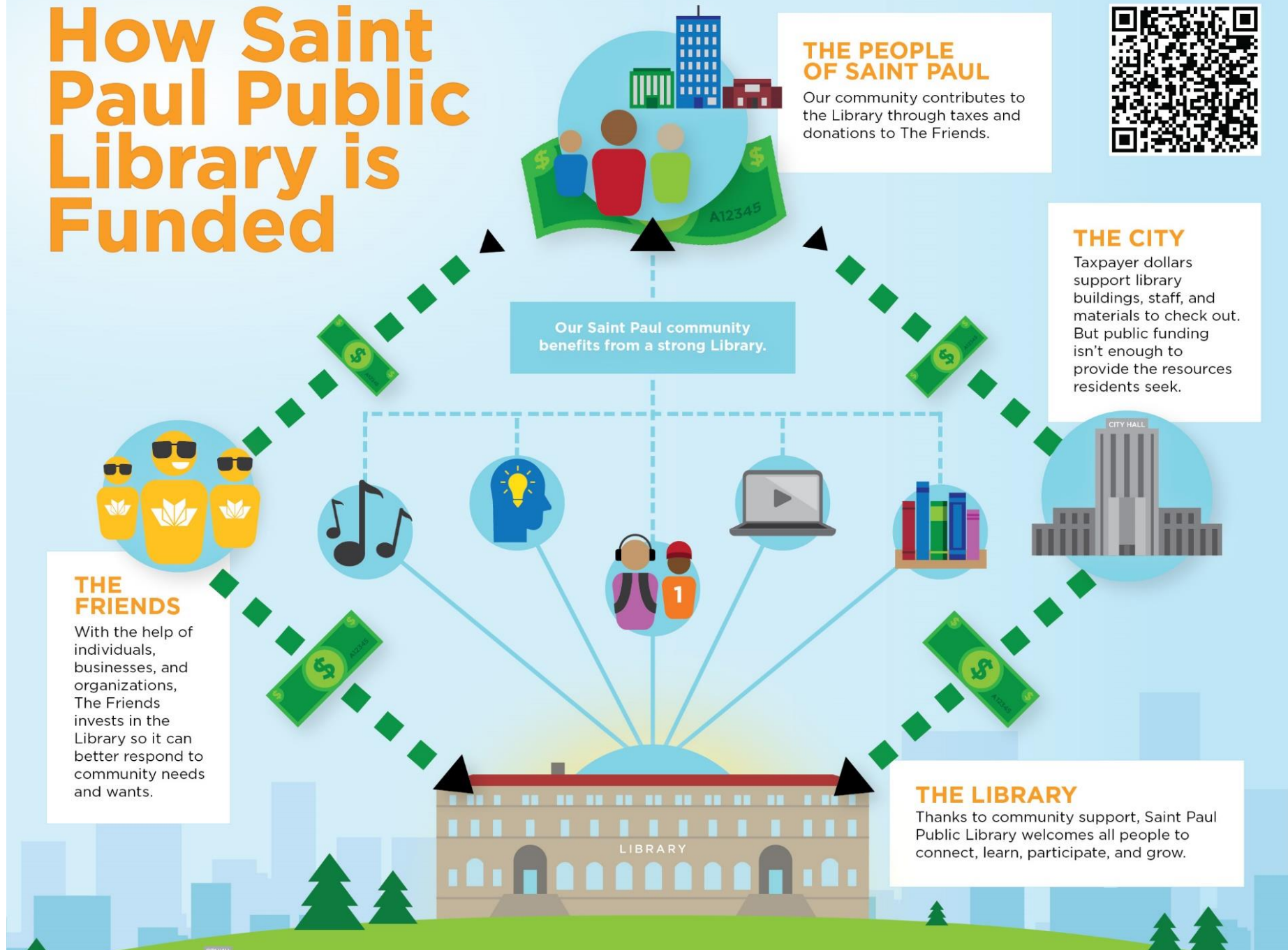
Our Saint Paul community benefits from a strong Library.

## THE FRIENDS

With the help of individuals, businesses, and organizations, The Friends invests in the Library so it can better respond to community needs and wants.

## THE LIBRARY

Thanks to community support, Saint Paul Public Library welcomes all people to connect, learn, participate, and grow.





# **THE FRIENDS** **OF THE SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY**

We are an independent charitable nonprofit organization that **invests in libraries through fundraising, advocacy, and programming.** We are:

- a voice for more than 2,000 annual donors and more than 8,000 supporters and affiliated friends
- a board of 42 dedicated community volunteers and leaders representing all 7 city wards
- a staff of 15 dedicated nonprofit professionals





# A Successful Public-Private Partnership

1. The Library identifies a new program or service need.
2. The Friends funds these pilot programs and new initiatives.
3. When a pilot program achieves proof of concept, it is recognized as an essential need.
4. Friends advocate to Mayor and Library Board to bring pilot program into General Fund.
5. The program or service becomes embedded in the daily work of the Library.
6. The Library is recognized for innovation and as a national leader in the library field.



# Friends Impact

- More than **\$15 million toward capital campaigns** since 1988
- Annual grants and funding representing up to **5% of library budget**
- Funding supporting **pilot programs** like:
  - Homework Centers
  - Culture-first approach to Community Services
  - Bookmobile
  - Social Worker







## Beyond Saint Paul

- The Friends serves as the **Minnesota Center for the Book**, a designation from the Library of Congress.
- The Friends produces programs for **readers and writers** in libraries across Minnesota.
- The Friends founded and continues to produce the statewide **Minnesota Book Awards**.
- We provide **consulting services to libraries** and library support organizations across the United States.



# Priority: Continued investment in Library operations

- A **budget** that recognizes the evolving work that happens every day in our libraries
- **Investment** that keeps pace with inflation
- Citywide initiatives that **include** the Library
- **Policies** that support library staff and patrons
- **Recognition** that new and increased funding sources must be identified to address the library as essential public infrastructure



## Continued Investment is Critical

The 2023 sales tax increase for “comprehensive improvements to Saint Paul roads and parks” did not include libraries.

Libraries also have deferred maintenance, aging facilities, and increased public demand.

We look forward to working with you to identify public dollars for library public infrastructure.





Priority: Secure public investment of \$18.8 million toward the “Transforming Libraries” vision.

- Major renovations for the Hayden Heights and Riverview libraries.
- A new library facility in the Hamline Midway neighborhood.
- Play and Learn spaces in every library in Saint Paul.
- Technology investments in every library in Saint Paul.





# Transform Our Libraries, Discover Our Possibilities

Friends Capital Campaign  
Commitment:

## **\$10 million in private support**

- \$6 million in capital funding (bricks and mortar)
- \$3 million in endowment funding (new fund to support children, youth, and families)
- \$1 million in funding for capacity building





Our mission is to act as a catalyst for libraries to strengthen and inspire their communities.

This is only possible through our public-private partnership with you.

Thank You.

# EVERYONE IS WELCOME

- Stop by one of our library locations.
- Get a library card or a new library card.
- Join us for Read Brave in 2024
- Use our meeting rooms to meet with neighbors.
- Ask us questions. All questions welcome.
- Invite library into community and city conversations.