

absolutely vital

A newsletter from
The Toronto Public Library Foundation



Welcome to York Woods

After closing to the public in 2019 for major renovations, York Woods branch is back and better than ever. The re-opening is an exciting moment for the Jane and Finch neighborhood, as this building serves the community in many important ways. There is a stunning updated entrance, more public spaces, and a new Musical Instrument Lending Library where patrons can borrow a wide variety of instruments, from guitars and keyboards to 8-key African bellaphones and electric violins. The performing arts theatre has also been revitalized with new lighting and sound systems. Other fun features include a 3D printer, a green screen, new furniture, a Youth Hub, and an early literacy centre.



Meet Anna

Services Specialist, York Woods Branch

Anna is the Services Specialist at the Musical Instrument Lending Library at York Woods branch. She loves her role because she gets to witness the joy of music every day. She encourages people to come out and borrow an instrument, and patrons can choose from over 35 different types of instruments at three branch locations across the city: York Woods, Downsview, and Parkdale. She says, *"Music always has a way to make people happy and feel good about themselves and having a Musical Instrument Lending Library brings that value to the community."*



Anna Rupert, Bonnie Stern, Naomi Parness

Exclusive Heritage Society Event Family and Food Traditions

This August, Heritage Society donors joined us for a special event featuring bestselling cookbook author Bonnie Stern and co-author, Anna Rupert (her daughter). The duo had a lively conversation hosted by journalist Naomi Parness, discussing their latest cookbook, *“Don’t Worry, Just Cook”* and their personal relationships to cooking. It was a celebration of food, family, and cultural heritage.

An Evening with Literary Circle Members Celebrating Asian Excellence with Trevor Lui and Guests

In September, the TPL Foundation had the pleasure of hosting Literary Circle donors and friends for an evening celebrating all things food, in partnership with Quell, a talent agency representing underrepresented food, drink and lifestyle leaders. Madelyn Chung, writer and founder of the RepresentASIAN Project, hosted Chef Trevor Lui and Chef Eva Chin in a frank and emotional conversation on how the Toronto food scene connects communities, celebrates traditions and highlights cultural diversity. We enjoyed a delicious menu of cocktails and hors d’oeuvres prepared by Trevor and his team at HighBell Group, and all added some new restaurant recommendations to our “must-try” list.

tplfoundation.ca/literary-circle



Chef Eva Chin, Chef Trevor Lui,
Evelyn Chick, Madelyn Chung

Welcome!

New Toronto Public Library Foundation Board Members



Alaina Aston

C. Dir., VP, Enterprise Information Management Risk, GRM



Maureen Dodig

Non-profit Board member and Lawyer



Serda Evren

Chief of Staff to Chief Product Officer, Mastercard



Florence Narine

Senior Vice President, Head of Investment Solutions, IG Wealth Management



Vikram Rattan

SVP, Sr. Relationship Manager, Bank of America Canada



Adrian Rocca

CEO, Fitzrovia Real Estate Inc.

Learn more:

tplfoundation.ca/board-governors-council

Biblio Bash Buzz

Welcome our 2024 Committee Co-Chairs

Planning for Biblio Bash is underway, and we’re delighted to announce that Claire MacNamara and Farah Nasser are co-chairs of our 2024 fundraising gala. Claire is a dedicated TPL Foundation board director, a longstanding Biblio Bash committee member, and co-chaired the 2023 gala, which for the first time ever, surpassed \$1 million. Farah is an award-winning journalist, Global National’s evening news anchor and honoured host of the gala this past April. She has a passion for the important work the Library is doing to help the residents of Toronto, so we’re thrilled that Farah has decided to take on this new role.

bibliobash.ca



Claire MacNamara and
Farah Nasser

A Safe Space for Stories

Intellectual Freedom at TPL

Vickery Bowles, City Librarian at Toronto Public Library sat down with Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director of the American Library Association, to discuss the vital role libraries play as defenders of free thought. Libraries are seeing increasing threats to intellectual freedom, and a troubling trend of organized attempts to ban books. At TPL, intellectual freedom means supporting and facilitating the free exchange of information, ideas, and protecting access to information. TPLF is seeking ongoing donor support to expand a new year-long Intellectual Freedom series, as part of the On Civil Society program, which challenges perspectives and engages new ideas and conversation. The intellectual freedom series is supported by the TPL Foundation, and in part by Chris M. Reid.

tpl.ca/intellectualfreedom



Vickery Bowles with Tracie D. Hall

Libraries are Essential to Building Digitally Inclusive Communities

A recent Bridge Report on the Impact of Technology Services in Ontario Public Libraries (2021-2022) released preliminary results on how public libraries in Ontario make a significant contribution to bridging inequities of access to technology to a vast majority of patrons who use these services. Most strikingly, the report revealed that 81% of respondents access the Internet at or through the library, with 61% of respondents who use technology at the library wouldn't otherwise have access.

View report: tpl.ca/impact/reports-and-findings



Special thanks to TD Bank Group for their support through the TD Ready Commitment

Connecting our City's Vibrant Culture

For over a decade, Heritage Programming at TPL has grown in scope and impact. Each program series, which includes Black History (February), Asian Heritage (May) and Indigenous Celebrations (June/October), has a unique cultural identity that fosters authentic learning and engagement, and is a forum for audiences to participate in some of the most important conversations taking place in our city today.

Empowering young people to navigate a changing workforce and economy

Career Coaches in Residence at TPL

Toronto Public Library understands the importance of providing critical help to young adults, particularly those from vulnerable populations as they seek to enter or re-enter the workforce. Thanks to the renewed investment from the RBC Foundation in support of RBC Future Launch program, and generous support from the Azrieli Foundation, Linda Dagg and Kenneth Wiener, Google Canada and Ted Rogers Community Grants, TPL's Career Coaches in Residence program is providing vital services and resources that promote positive change and further efforts to develop career and education paths to help people thrive. The program connects those experiencing barriers to employment to career resources at TPL and beyond.



Learn more: tpl.ca/career-coaches

There are many ways to support Toronto Public Library.

Your gift makes a difference and helps TPL provide the resources your community needs to thrive.

Ways to Give:



One-Time Gift

Make a One-time Gift to support highest priority needs at TPL.



Monthly Donor

Give a recurring gift and help meet the immediate needs of the library.



Tribute Giving

Donate in honour or in memory of someone.



Literary Circle

Be part of a special group of like-minded individuals who share a love of the Library and invest in the well-being of our city.



Gift of Securities

A cost-effective and tax efficient way to make a donation of appreciated securities to TPL.



Gift of Will or Estate

Leave a legacy gift to support future generations using the library.



Become a Donor today.

Visit tplfoundation.ca/all-ways-to-give

Flip to
see more
ways to give.

#ImLibraryPeople

ask an expert

Jessica Roy

Library Service Manager

Located at the S. Walter Stewart branch, and the first of its kind at TPL, the Sensory Room is a self-serve, child-led interactive space created for children with sensory processing needs. This bookable space is open to children of all abilities to enjoy.

Q: Can you please explain why the Library decided to create this unique space?

A: Through consultation with community agencies, feedback from families, and research conducted by TPL's Accessibility Services for Children Work Group, the Library learned that specialized spaces such as the Sensory Room help children with sensory processing needs feel welcome to fully access the Library's services, collections and programs, which reduces social isolation and encourages community connections.

Q: Can you highlight some of the benefits of a Sensory Room?

A: The specialized equipment in the room is designed to blend sights, sounds, texture and motion to soothe and stimulate the senses, and provide a relaxing environment that supports focus, self-regulation and communication so that kids are able to learn and connect with others more easily.

Q: How is this space uniquely meeting the needs in this community?

A: The Library worked with the multisensory specialists to create a calm and soothing space to help reduce agitation and anxiety for kids of all abilities, and particularly for those with sensory processing needs. The space includes fun features like an Image Projector, Rainbow Air Tube, and a custom designed branded mural, which provides a reassuring point of focus for kids.



Thank you

In loving memory of Jae Blue, the Sensory Room was made possible through the generous support of Jae's family and friends.



Margaret Atwood
loving her mug!

Holiday Gifts That Give Back

Looking for a gift for the book lover in your life? Holiday shopping just got easier! Check out our exclusive #ImLibraryPeople merchandise.

T-shirts, mugs, bags, notebooks and more are available at the Spacing Store (401 Richmond St. West, Toronto) or online at imlibrarypeople.ca. Each item sold includes a donation to Toronto Public Library.

TPL's New Sensory Room

All children are welcome at the Library!

This special interactive space is a wonderful new addition at the Library where kids of all abilities can have fun, learn and connect with each other.

Learn more: tpl.ca/sensory-room



November is Make A Will Month

Why I give back to TPL

I envision a future filled with accessible, free public information so that people can read, dream and imagine, and where all of us are included and collaborate with each other. If that's something that matters to you, I encourage you to think about a longer-term giving solution – especially if you're a younger person. Consider naming the Library as a beneficiary in your life insurance or including them in your will so that this incredible institution continues to exist long after we're gone.

– Niya Bajaj, Heritage Society Member and holistic yoga therapist



Now is a great time to support your Toronto Public Library

Donations made by December 31st will be matched*

tplfoundation.ca/doubledonation or call 416-393-7123



Thanks to a generous matching gift from the Friends of TPL, South Chapter, your gift to our Holiday Campaign will be doubled, and directed to priority needs, such as youth-focused initiatives. *Up to \$50,000

- ✓ Career Coaches in Residence
- ✓ Poetry Saved our Lives
- ✓ Young Voices Program
- ✓ After-school Youth Hubs

When you give today, your donation helps put youth on the path for future success.

Join the Conversation

X Instagram Facebook LinkedIn #ImLibraryPeople