

## Toronto Public Library Gets Over \$1M Boost from 2026 Biblio Bash Gala

**Toronto, ON – April 24, 2026** – Last night, more than 400 of Toronto’s leading philanthropists, city builders, and literary voices gathered at the Toronto Reference Library for Biblio Bash, raising over \$1 million for Toronto Public Library (TPL).

Funds raised will support high-impact initiatives including After School Clubs, Leading to Reading, and youth programming delivered in branches across Toronto. Last year alone, these programs reached more than 15,000 children and teens, offering academic support, nutritious snacks, and a place to belong after the school day ends.

Led by gala co-chairs Moez and Marissa Kassam and presented by Fitzrovia, the evening was a powerful demonstration of what collective giving can achieve.

“This year’s cause is so close to mine and Marissa’s hearts. We want to help create a world where every child feels like their dreams are within reach, and the Library is the catalyst,” said **Moez Kassam**. “It has been a pleasure to work alongside the Library, with Adrian Rocca and Fitzrovia joining as Presenting Sponsor for a third year.”

“The Library helps shape the kind of city we want to be—one where every young person can find opportunity, belonging, and the support they need to reach their full potential, said **Will Scott, CEO of Toronto Public Library Foundation**. “The kind of extraordinary generosity we saw at Biblio Bash from Toronto philanthropists who truly love the library helps TPL do even more of that work. It fuels TPL in reaching further into communities and creating more possibilities for more youth. It’s a tremendous gift to our city.”

The evening also brought together 35 celebrated Canadian authors, including two-time Giller winner **Souvankham Thammavongsa**, New York Times bestselling author **Linwood Barclay**, against-all-odds entrepreneur **Brandi Leifso**, and short story-newcomer **Jess Gibson**. A successful live auction led by Afrim Pristine, co-owner of Toronto’s iconic Cheese Boutique, helped drive the most successful fundraising moment in the event’s history.

“For so many young people, the Library serves as a place of first discovery – where new interests are sparked, a new skill is developed, a new sense of confidence or a connection takes root,” said **Moe Hosseini-Ara**, TPL City Librarian. “That’s what makes nights like Biblio Bash so meaningful.



It helps us create more opportunities for youth across Toronto to read, learn, create and connect in ways that truly shape their lives.”

Biblio Bash was made possible by presenting sponsor Fitzrovia, along with the support of Bazil Developments, The MacNamara Family, Amin & Khati Nathoo, North Drive Investments, Turkish Airlines, Toronto Star, Canopy by Hilton Toronto Yorkville and The Gupta Group, Daniel & Vanessa Schlaepfer, The Printing House, Food Dudes, and Coco Bakery.

For more information, highlights, and images, visit [Bibliobash](#).

For the full list of this year’s esteemed authors, [click here](#).

### **Toronto Public Library Foundation**

Toronto Public Library Foundation connects the generosity of donors with the limitless potential of Toronto Public Library—the world’s busiest urban public library system. Together, we transform Torontonians’ love of the library into vital support for programs, collections, and spaces that help people learn, connect, and thrive. With our donors, we’re helping TPL expand literacy programs for kids, bridge the digital divide, strengthen civic engagement, and build inclusive, welcoming spaces in every neighbourhood in our city.

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