



Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library

A Proud Tradition

1873 - 2008



2008 Report to the Community



Laura Bramble

135 Years of Service

It is with a sense of pride that I submit to you this report of the 2008 activities of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library.

For 135 years, we have upheld the “Proud Tradition” that was established in 1873 when the doors of the Library first opened to the public. This year, we welcomed 5.6 million patrons, testimony that our wide range of materials and services are meeting the needs of our community. Over 15 million items were circulated to our 468,500 registered borrowers, 64% of which were print materials.

During this record-setting year, we saw increases in nearly every category – a 21% increase in reference questions; the addition of online databases; over 11.9 million catalog searches; and 1.1 million patron hours on our public computers.

New services provided in 2008 included the digitization of a collection of over 100 World War I posters; the Readers Connection that allows patrons to receive alerts about the Library’s latest releases and access reading lists; and the World Languages site from which patrons can learn any of six languages from their home computers with up to 2,000 hours of self-guided study.

Promoting reading and early literacy skills is central to the Library’s mission. Our Outreach focus on preschool and emergent literacy provided service to over 4,500 sites. Live Homework Help, available through our website, served 6,561 students, a 65% increase over 2007. Emphasis was placed on engaging the teen population, and a variety of innovative programs attracted this audience to the Library.

I would personally like to thank the Library Board of Trustees for their commitment; the Library Foundation staff and Board of Directions for their invaluable assistance; and the Library staff for their unwavering dedication to the Mission.

We embark in 2009 on a five-year journey to make the Library even more responsive and relevant to the community we serve. I look forward to sharing with you our successes in *Leading a Learning Community*.

Laura Bramble
Chief Executive Officer

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Trustees are appointed by the Marion County Commissioners, the Indianapolis Board of School Commissioners & the City-County Council.

— The Library Mission —

The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library is the community’s place to access essential information resources, technology, programs and services; foster reading and learning; and promote the social, economic, recreational and lifelong learning interests of its diverse population.

5.6 million

patrons visited IMCPL in 2008, an all-time record!

With a greater range of materials and services than ever before, the Library continues to be a centerpiece in the lives of our patrons. Not just a place to check out one's favorite books, today's Library is integrated with the community in developing programs to help individuals improve their quality of life. As a community place, IMCPL is where individuals can learn new computer skills, research the job market, enjoy a classical concert, meet their favorite authors, or develop important literacy skills, all free with the use of a library card.



15.9 million

items circulated in 2008, an all-time record!

468,500

 registered library cardholders

The Information Place

By the numbers . . .

Print materials, which account for 85% of the Library's collection of nearly two million items, were the highest-circulated format in 2008 (64%), followed by DVDs (21%), music CDs (8%), audiobooks (4.5%), and VHS (2.5%). Adult materials comprised 71% of all items circulated, while juvenile/teen items comprised 29%.

- Providing reference assistance is one of the Library's most traditional and relied upon services. Our trained staff answered 865,951 reference questions in 2008, a 21% increase over 2007.
- The Library focused on preschool and emergent literacy through outreach to preschools and home day cares with its full-size bookmobile and the Little Bitty Bookmobiles. Overall, Outreach Services visited 4,541 sites, served 119,640 individuals and circulated 318,093 books and materials.
- Three new full-text online databases were added in 2008, providing researchers with timely, accurate and reliable information. Over 60 available databases, accessible at www.imcpl.org, include standard reference sources, e-books and articles from magazines and newspapers.
- Over 26,000 audiobooks were downloaded through IMCPL's website in 2008. Nearly 3,700 titles were made available for download. A new feature allowed OverDrive MP3 audiobooks to be downloaded on Apple Computers and iPods.
- IMCPL's digital library added "Sowing the Seeds of Victory," a collection of over 200 World War I posters created by prominent artists in 1917 to encourage public support of the war. The Library partnered with the Digital Library Team at IUPUI and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to make the posters available online.
- Live Homework Help, available at www.imcpl.org, served 6,561 students, a 65% increase over those served in 2007. The service has been expanded to serve adult and Spanish-speaking learners.



In its first full year of operation, the newly-transformed Central Library attracted 892,874 visitors, a 25% increase over 2001, the final year of Central Library service prior to its renovation.





“Thanks for your hard work keeping a wonderful website that makes finding, holding and renewing books and videos so easy!”



The Library's wireless environment allows patrons to use their own laptops during their visits.

a virtual library . . .

IMCPL's web branch received 8.8 million visits in 2008, allowing patrons to do everything from placing holds on items found in our catalog to learning of upcoming library events. Over 11.9 million catalog searches were conducted. With an estimated 40 percent of Marion County residents having no computer access, the Library is a refuge for free computer use. In 2008, patrons logged 1.1 million hours on our computers to pursue their own interests. That compares to 738,000 hours in 2007.

Among our new website offerings in 2008 . . .

- The Readers Connection provides entry to IMCPL's vast collection of literary resources and gives book lovers a chance to submit or comment on reviews. Patrons can subscribe to RSS feeds to alert them to the Library's latest releases, check out reading lists and learn of upcoming literary events.
- The World Languages site allows patrons to learn any of six languages from their home computers with up to 2,000 hours of self-guided study. The site also lists new foreign language materials and upcoming multicultural events at the Library.
- Young people can discover the wide variety of learning opportunities available at Central Library's Learning Curve with its new online presence (<http://curve.imcpl.org/>). The site promotes The Learning Curve's many high-tech activities that help children become intelligent users of information.

The Library presented 200 free computer training classes attended by 1,233 individuals in 2008. In addition to helping individuals develop basic computer skills, the classes introduced participants to the Library's electronic resources to assist them in their job searches, market research and philanthropic goals.

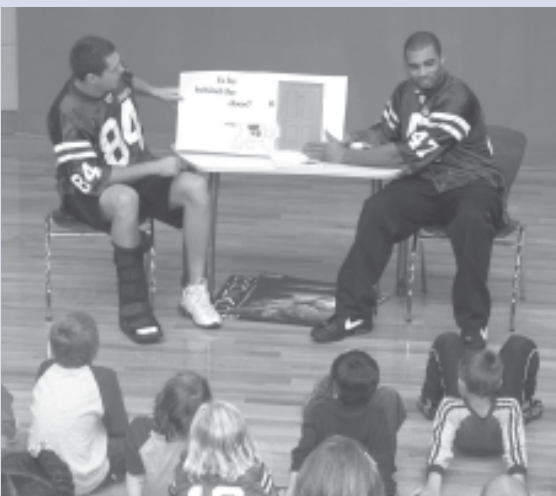


A Place to Grow



Promoting reading and early literacy skills is central to the Library's mission. These and other reading initiatives involved adults as active reading role models, helping to lay a foundation for future reading success . . .

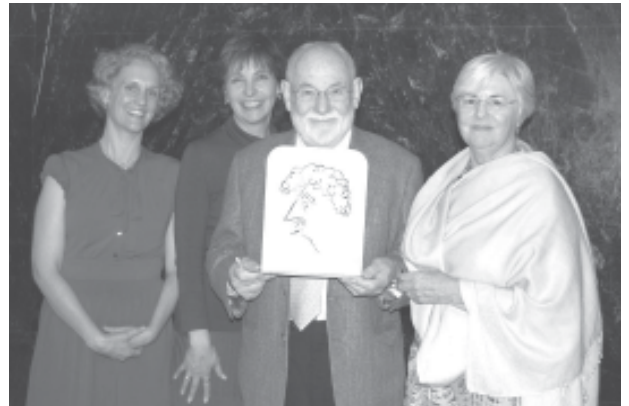
- Inspired by the latest Indiana Jones movie, IMCPL's 2008 Summer Reading Program, "Indy Adventures and the Summer Reading Spectacular," saw over 57,000 children and parents sharpen their reading skills, topping 2007's participation of nearly 55,000. A valuable component of the program involved 190 teen Reading Giants who volunteered to read aloud to young children at the library.
- The November Read-Aloud Program attracted over 24,000 younger children and parents who were asked to "Join the Hungry Crowd! Read Aloud!" They spent at least four hours of reading aloud together to mark the 40th anniversary of the publication of Eric Carle's landmark picture book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
- Over 700 IPS 4th graders were introduced to Central Library and its resources as part of the United Way's ReadUP tutoring program, funded by the Eli Lilly Foundation. The program offered enrollment in the Summer Reading Program and forgave the students' library fines.
- Modeled after the Library's Bunny Book Bag program for preschoolers, 500 new Baby Bunny Book Bags were made available for parents and home day care centers to help them in their efforts to read to infants. The canvas tote bags with 12 tactile books and board books can be obtained with a fine-free Bunny Bag Library Card.
- IMCPL and the Indianapolis Colts continued a successful literacy partnership during the fall "Mane Events." Children and families heard their favorite Colts read stories, demonstrating that reading can be a fun and rewarding activity.



Connecting with Youth

In addition to housing a wide range of study resources and modern information technology, the Library is a place that provides young people an outlet for expression and creativity. Among the many free programs in 2008 . . .

- Teens were invited to read “Books with Bite” during Teen Read Week, with a chance to win an autographed copy of author Ellen Schreiber’s “Vampire Kisses” series. The week also featured a variety of fun vampire-themed programs at local branches.
- With an increased emphasis on engaging the teen population, IMCPL created a new teen blog on its website, giving teens a place to submit book reviews, find library materials and events just for them, and access homework resources.
- Young children and families were able to meet their favorite authors and illustrators of children’s literature during the “Meet the Authors Gala” at Central Library. The lineup included three-time Caldecott Medal winner David Weisner and Newbery Honor winner Gary D. Schmidt.
- Teens at the Wayne Branch completed a three-year public mural project in which they volunteered to paint the library’s fence using their favorite book or movie theme. The challenge was to maintain continuity of the entire fence, despite their individualized expressions.
- The Library was a proud partner in a project enabling 1,500 IPS 4th and 5th graders to inspire children at Wishard Health Services to “never give up!” The Soaringwords project allowed the students to create personalized messages and artwork that were donated to Wishard children and digitized for display at IMCPL locations.
- To occupy young people during the summer, fun and educational summer craft programs featured such activities as creating self caricatures, sharpening yo-yo skills, and learning about creatures seen in the Indiana Jones movies.



Eric Carle, creator of the classic children’s book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, presented the 31st annual McFadden Lecture. He received IMCPL’s esteemed Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Award for Literature.





Recreational and Lifelong Learning

In 2008, IMCPL presented 12,483 programs for adults and children, which were attended by 333,576 individuals. From author appearances and book discussions to craft programs, art exhibits and musical offerings, the Library served to unite patrons with the world around us.



- For the first time, adults were presented with their own “Summer of Love Summer Reading Program” at Central Library, during which 837 adults registered to read 1,867 books.
- The Library’s African-American History Committee sponsored the 20th anniversary of “Meet the Artists” at Central Library, featuring the works of prominent local artists. Over 2,200 attended the Opening Gala, highlighted by award-winning actor, singer and director Avery Brooks.
- The popular “Living Lean and Green” series gave individuals knowledge of cost-effective ways to lower energy bills, reduce energy consumption and improve family health. Programs were presented by the Central Indiana Environmental Education Program.
- “Author Talk Tuesdays” at Central Library featured local authors who discussed their works by the fireplace in the beautiful West Reading Room.
- Craft programs, film showings, music and dance were on display during the Library’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Events at Central Library coincided with Fiesta Indianapolis on the American Legion Mall.
- Adults were invited to turn old books into works of art during the “Art of Altered Books” craft program. The workshops were led by instructors from the Herron School of Art and Design.
- IMCPL joined over 100 other organizations in presenting special programming during the 13th annual Spirit & Place Festival. The Library’s “Powered by Poetry: Whirl of the Divine” was an innovative production that interpreted diverse poems through the spoken word, dance and music.



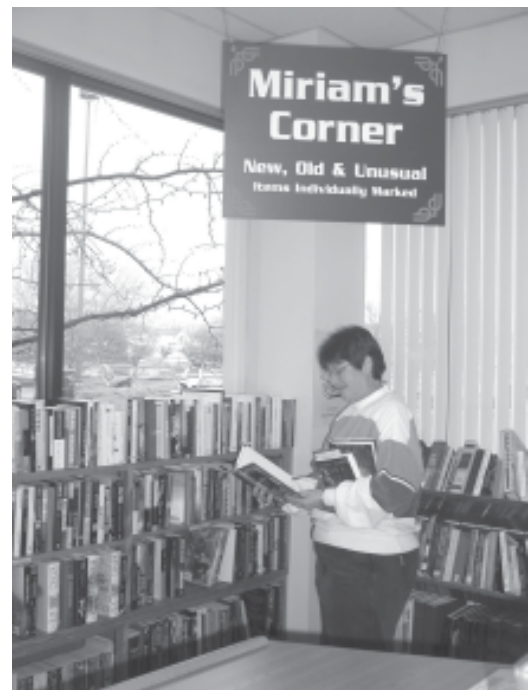
Community Relations

Library promotions, event coordination, meeting room reservations, volunteer management and community initiatives are important in keeping IMCPL connected with the community. 2008 highlights included . . .

- IMCPL facilities served as convenient locations for organizations to hold their meetings and events. 621 community organizations held 6,887 meetings which were attended by 53,966 individuals.
- As the best place in town to buy new and used books and other items at discount prices, the Secondhand Prose Booksale generated \$270,056 in sales to support Library programs and services through the IMCPL Foundation.
- Thanks to the spirit of service demonstrated by volunteers, Library Express delivered books and materials to over 160 homebound patrons.
- Building upon the opening of the transformed Central Library, 240 tours of the new and historic structure were provided to 2,674 patrons. Hospitality volunteers also contributed their time to greet patrons and provide directions throughout Central Library.
- At the branches, volunteers were instrumental in collection support activities, helping facilities run smoothly and efficiently.
- Throughout the IMCPL system, 451 volunteers contributed 18,094 hours in 2008, representing a commensurate value of \$339,629 in service.
- Promotion of IMCPL included televised broadcasts of Library Board meetings and our monthly program, "Between the Lines," as well as publication of our monthly newsletter, *Reading in Indianapolis*, and other media activities.
- IMCPL did its part in supporting community causes by generating staff support for such activities as Gleaners Food Bank, Dress for Success, and United Christmas Service.



Central Library is a popular venue for private events. In 2008, over 200 events were held in its beautiful new environs. For event information, call 275-4200.



Creating Community



The Library not only serves as a bridge between individuals and information, but it successfully partners with many community organizations, acts as an economic stimulus in neighborhoods, and provides a welcoming place for newly-arrived immigrants. Its free and accessible spaces foster a learning community.

Among our many involvements . . .

- The West Indianapolis and East Washington branches were active participants in the Greater Indianapolis Neighborhood Initiative, contributing programming and planning expertise for activities promoting the development of their respective communities.
- Located in the middle of “the square,” the Fountain Square Branch served as a central site for activities of the Fountain Square Merchants Association. The “Scare in the Square” and “Santa in the Square” events attracted several hundred visitors to the library.
- IMCPL's emphasis on immigrant outreach included new programming to foster computer literacy and help new Hispanic residents learn about library resources. Future programming is planned to serve the city's growing Burmese population on the north and south sides.
- In cases where immediate help in translation is needed, Library staff fluent in 10 foreign languages, including American Sign Language, volunteered to serve as important resources.
- The Library continued to position itself at the forefront in making Indianapolis 100% literate by participating with the Indy Reads adult literacy service in the Community Literacy Summits.

Leading a Learning Community



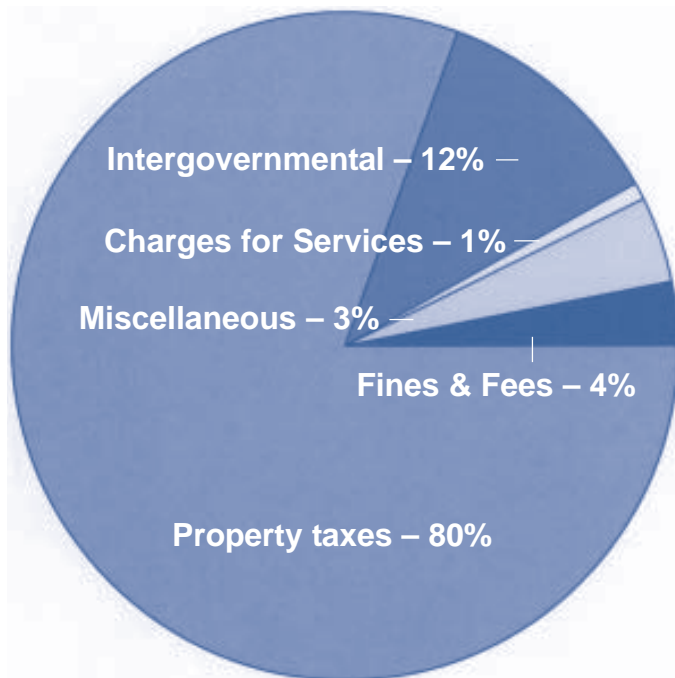
Based on recommendations by a committee of community leaders and library users, the IMCPL Board of Trustees in 2008 adopted a new six-year Strategic Plan that articulates the Library's future vision. It will address the development of programs and services and the allocation of available resources, according to community priorities. Implementation will begin in 2009.

Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library

2008 Financial Report

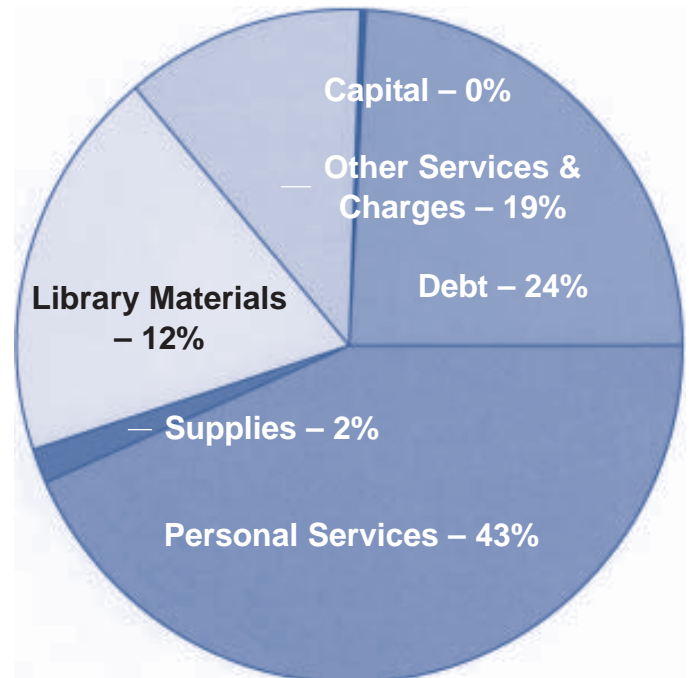
Actual Operating Revenue – \$37,860,928

Property Taxes	\$30,477,865
Intergovernmental	4,368,610
Charges for Services	237,801
Fines & Fees	1,657,226
Miscellaneous	<u>1,119,426</u>
	\$37,860,928



Actual Operating Expenditures – \$46,009,993

Personal Services	\$19,968,605
Supplies	702,030
Other Services & Charges	8,725,498
Library Materials	5,400,518
Capital	71,453
Debt	<u>11,141,889</u>
	\$46,009,993



Tax Rates

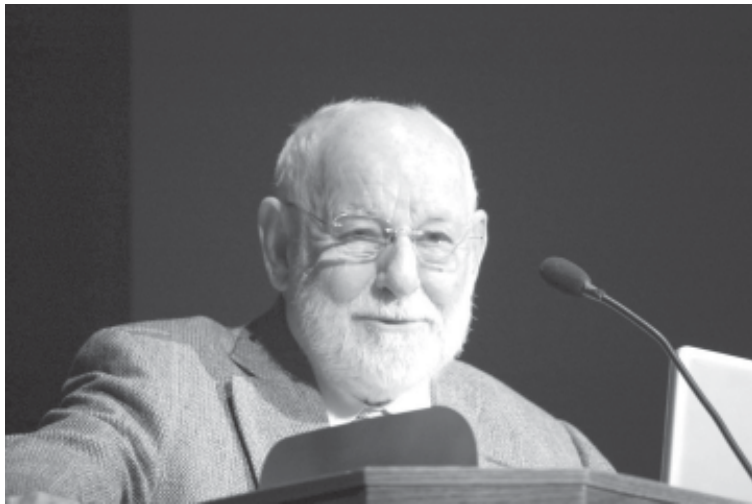
	<u>2008*</u>	<u>2007</u>
Library Operations	0.0795	0.0704
Debt Service	0.0170	0.0198
Capital Project Fund	<u>0.0016</u>	<u>0.0000</u>
	0.0981	0.0992

Cash basis of accounting (unaudited)

* Estimated tax rate for 2008

The IMCPL Foundation

The Library Foundation would like to thank everyone who made a contribution in 2008. These gifts supported a variety of Library programs throughout the year.



Foundation Highlights

Thanks to the generous support of **The Patricia Cornwell Foundation**, the Library welcomed renowned children's author and illustrator Eric Carle (above) in April. He gave the 31st annual Marian McFadden Memorial Lecture before a crowd of 1,000 children and adults.

The 2008 Summer Reading Program was a great success. The Indiana Jones-themed program attracted more than 57,000 participants. Major support was provided by **The Library Fund, a fund of The Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF affiliate; Fox 59/CW4 Community Fund, a fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation; Lilly Endowment Inc.; Carrier Corporation; Chase; Citizens Energy Group; and Pacers Foundation, Inc.**

An inaugural summer reading program for adults was held at Central Library in 2008. The program attracted 837 adults who read a total of 1,867 books. This program was presented by the **Indiana Blood Center**, with additional support from **The Library Fund, a fund of The Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF affiliate.**

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**2008 FOUNDATION STATEMENT
OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Unaudited)**

*Includes revenue and expenses associated with the
Central Library expansion/renovation campaign*

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Cash & Equivalents	\$2,933,872
Receivables & Other	\$1,429,716
Inventory, Prepaid & Fixed Assets-Net	\$198,343
Investments	<u>\$11,410,520</u>
Total	\$15,972,451

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	\$65,753
Accrued Liabilities	\$87,900
Net Assets	<u>\$15,818,798</u>
Total	\$15,972,451

REVENUE, SUPPORT & EXPENDITURES

REVENUE/SUPPORT

Contributions	\$2,199,311
Booksales	\$270,056
Bequests	\$112,479
Other	\$7,319
Investment Income	(\$81,049)
Realized/Unrealized Investment Gains/(Losses)	<u>(\$1,449,857)</u>
Total	\$1,058,259

EXPENDITURES

Library Projects/Programs/Materials	\$1,387,182
Lectures	\$29,566
Awards & Recognition	\$22,383
Central Library Expansion/Renovation*	\$727,796
Fundraising	\$313,818
Management & General	<u>\$246,882</u>
Total	\$2,727,627

* Donations received in prior years

The annual Rock to Read concerts,
presented by 92.3 WTTS and Forum Credit
Union and held at The Vogue in Broad Ripple,
raised money to support IMCPL
children's programming.

Foundation Highlights

With major support from **OneAmerica** and **TCU**, the 2008 November Read-Aloud encouraged families to read out loud together throughout the month of November. This year's program, inspired by Eric Carle's classic children's book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, attracted more than 24,000 participants.

Live Homework Help offers free online tutoring services to help students improve their academic performance. Students interact with live tutors using special online tools. During 2008, this service was used by 6,561 students – a 65% increase over 2007. Major support of this program was provided by **Radio Disney** and **The Library Fund, a fund of The Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF affiliate**.

More than 1,500 people attended the 2008 Rock to Read concert series, presented by **92.3 WTTS** and **Forum Credit Union**. These annual benefit concerts raise money to support children's programming at the Library. The 2008 program featured three nights of music, including performances by The Elms (below), JJ Grey & Mofro with Eric Hutchinson, and three-time Grammy nominee Susan Tedeschi.



Foundation Highlights

The Library's African-American History Committee launched its 20th annual Meet the Artists exhibition in 2008 with a gala at Central Library. Approximately 2,250 patrons enjoyed works from over 60 local artists, live African-inspired music, and a panel discussion about the local arts community. This conversation was moderated by Hoosier native Avery Brooks (right), an accomplished actor, singer, teacher, and director. This program was made possible by **Barnes & Thornburg**, with additional support from **the Arts Council of Indianapolis; the City of Indianapolis; the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.**

Congratulations to Linda and Tracy Brady (below center), who received the Library Foundation's first annual Beth Tindel Award at the Library's In-Service Day in November. This award was created to honor Library staff members who regularly volunteer at and/or attend Foundation events, advocate for the Foundation, go above and beyond for the Foundation in their daily work at the Library, and support the Foundation financially.



Linda and Tracy Brady (front center) were recipients of the Foundation's first annual Beth Tindel Award.



The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Foundation gratefully acknowledges
the following donors who contributed to the Foundation in 2008.



Due to space constraints, this listing *does not include Friends of the Library* donors. Any individual or organization wishing to support the Library Foundation may call the Foundation office at 317-275-4700.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing.
If there are any oversights, please contact the Foundation office.

*These gifts supported children and adult reading programs, lectures, special collections
and technology, recognition programs, endowments, the expansion/renovation of
Central Library, and special Library events and projects.*

LIBRARY LEGACY CLUB - ESTATE GIFTS

Estate of Paul M. Bain
Jack A. & Edith L. Hunter - in memory of Edith's
sisters, Elizabeth I. Evans and Gladys Evans Grandy,
teachers, whose working lives were devoted to the
Indianapolis Public Elementary Schools
Estate of Louise Lage Kirtland
Estate of Bernice M. Penrod
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LITERARY LION \$1,000 - 4,999

92.3 WTTS Indianapolis
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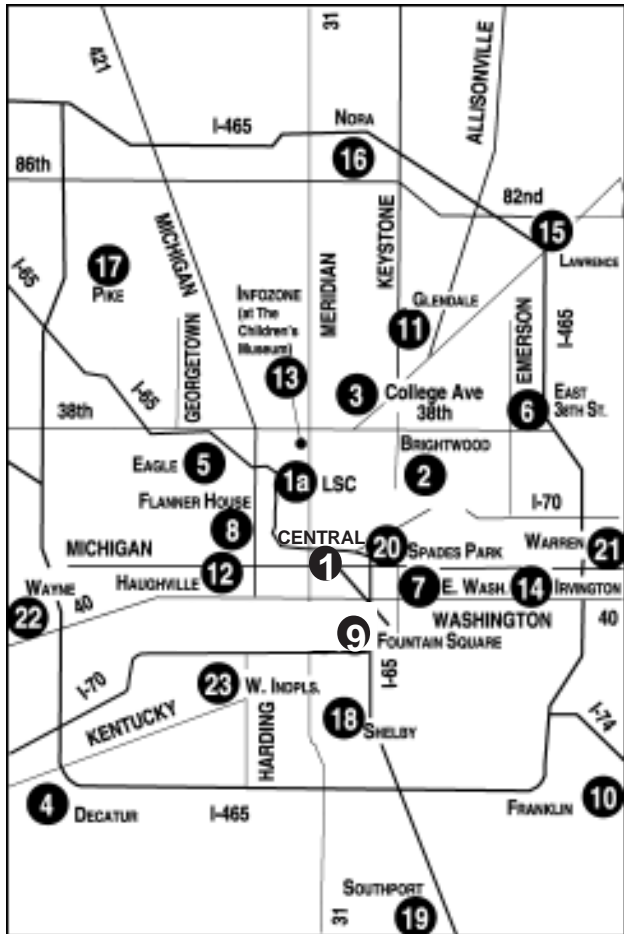
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