



Brookfield Public Library
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Brookfield Public Library Receives \$1 Million Donation from Linda Sokol Francis

The Brookfield Public Library Board of Trustees approved a transformative \$1 million gift to the Library during their regular monthly Board meeting on Wednesday, September 26. This extraordinary investment sets the stage for the Library Foundation's capital campaign to go public.

Linda Sokol Francis' gift represents the largest donation the Library has ever received and in her honor, the newly built Library will be named after her. Library Trustees and Francis will work together to establish a new name for the Library that honors this transformational investment for a town she loves. "I made this investment because I love Brookfield. I love seeing my family members - especially my grandchildren – utilize the Library and simply want what's best for them and Brookfield," said Linda Sokol Francis.

The Library's capital campaign preparation began with the formation of a foundation in late 2017. Its goal is to raise the necessary funds to create a completely new, modern library with the ability to expand on the corner of Lincoln and Park Avenues. Once this ambitious goal is completed, the Foundation for the Brookfield Library will continue its efforts to raise monies to bridge the gap between necessary enhancements to the facility and tax revenue received annually by the Library.

"This is a historic moment for our community and we firmly believe others will support the library philanthropically for generations to come" said Jo Ann Day, President of the Library Foundation." It is our responsibility to think long-term for the Library and we are thrilled with this lead investment."

To date, the Library has \$5.3 million saved for the project from its capital reserve account, a fund established to accumulate monies for the new facility. Combined with a plan to finance additional funds with a local community lender, the Library plans to raise the remainder of the necessary funds through private gifts and naming opportunities.

If you would like to learn more about the library's plans or make a donation to the capital campaign, contact Foundation President Jo Ann Day at jomillerday@gmail.com or Library Director Kimberly Coughran at kcoughran@brookfieldlibrary.info.

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