THE ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION



Albuquerque Public Library Foundation Impact Report

2026

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Dear Library Supporters,

As a contributor to the Albuquerque Public Library Foundation (APLF), you recognize that our libraries are some of the best resources available to Albuquerque residents. They provide community, education, and entertainment at no additional cost to users. **Our libraries are essential elements in the social fabric of our City** and answer citizens' fundamental needs such as the needs of young mothers taking their toddlers to reading hour or the needs of cash-strapped residents using the public computers to find and apply for jobs.

But you may not be aware of specific library funding realities:

⇒ The reality is that the City and County fund library budgets through your taxes, but never at a level that allows libraries to stay open as long as they should.

⇒ The reality is that library bonds (which many of us support and vote for) only pay for books and other loanable materials.

⇒ The reality is that 80% of the City's budget goes to staffing, and that the remaining 20% is to cover everything else.

⇒ The reality is that our libraries are understaffed and that staff openings are filled slowly, if at all, causing library closures during what should be regular library hours.

Our library's operating budget does not fund one cent of any of the popular programs and necessary supplies for these programs. That is where APLF comes in and why your support has been and is so crucial. **APLF** (and the Friends of the Public Library through book sales) **fund all programs and supplies at our local libraries.** Moreover, APLF members attend City and County Council meetings, educating our representatives about necessary funding, and asking the questions that need to be asked: "Why does it take six months to fill a library staff position? How can we update old computer systems with only half the money estimated to do so?"

APLF's financial support and advocacy is critical to our library system. The information contained in this year's 2026 APLF Impact Report attests to the value of your support for APLF and the library programs APLF supports. **Did you know that every dollar spent on our libraries provides more than five dollars (>$5) in benefits to the community?** That's an incredible Return on Investment (ROI)*.

Thank you so much for making these enrichments possible.

Julia Grimes
Board Co-President
Albuquerque Public Library Foundation

Maria Geer
Board Co-President
Albuquerque Public Library Foundation

*This ROI is calculated from data collected by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Library Funding Map located at https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/library_funding_map

Community Giving ● Community Strong

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FUNDRAISING

APLF conducted 6 fundraising activities and received $154,969 in gifts in 2025 through 280 individuals and 6 organizations.

$75,000 was spent on library programs. The rest of the funds go into an investment account to ensure support for years to come.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

The Foundation Funds FUN

APLF provides funding for programs and actives at the various 19 branches of the Public Library Albuquerque and Bernalillo County throughout the year!





59 STEM & STEAM programs with **2,203 participants**



300 Read to the Dogs programs with **3,563 participants**





641 TOTAL programs with **8,818 participants**



191 Ukeleles checked out



32,856 Seed Packets checked out

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BOARD MEMBERS

100% Volunteer Foundation

The Albuquerque Library Foundation is comprised of 15 library lovers from all walks of life who have generously given their time and talents to make a difference in our community.

Get Involved



Would you like to speak with someone about getting involved with the Albuquerque Public Library Foundation? Simply send us an email at:
ContactUs@abqlibraryfoundation.org

If you aren't able to volunteer with APLF but still want to be involved, think about calling or emailing your local city council member and letting them know how much you love the library. Tell them that they should make the library's operational budget a priority. This is what will allow the library to hire more staff and stay open more hours.

You can find your City Counselors contact information on their website:
www.cabq.gov/council/find-your-councilor

DONATE

There is still more work to be done. Please continue your support by donating today at our website.
www.abqlibraryfoundation.org/donate

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