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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$394K IN GRANTS TO BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY Grants include \$190K for a new program: “BoulderWrites!”**

The Boulder Library Foundation Board of Directors on Wednesday approved 11 grants totaling \$393,600 to support literacy, outreach, oral history, archival acquisitions, children’s musical performances and makers in residence at Boulder Public Library.

The grants were funded through the generous support of the foundation’s annual donors as well as payouts from three endowments and a designated fund.

"As the Directors of the BLF, it gives us great pride to be able to support the library in this generous way," said Foundation Board President Kitty L. deKieffer. "This is what we are here for and I want to personally thank the board members and donors for making these gifts possible."

The largest of the grants comes in the form of a \$190,000 commitment, payable over two years, to help the library pilot a new program it will call “BoulderWrites.” The program is dedicated to providing no-cost, high-quality writing support for teens and adults within the Boulder Public Library District.

BoulderWrites aims to support aspiring writers and community members in improving basic writing competencies and completing their practical and creative projects, such as cover letters, essays, poetry, letters to representatives, fiction, and more. The requested funds will be used to hire a program coordinator, contract workshop instructors and writers-in-residence, and purchase materials to support the program and celebrate writers’ accomplishments.

The BoulderWrites pilot was one of seven annual grants requested by the library, all of which were approved by the Foundation’s board. The other six grants were:

- \$40,000 for a BoulderReads adult literacy marketing plan that will help the library find out more about its user base and build uniform marketing collateral to engage and expand its audience
- \$30,000 for a new Maker-in-Residence program that will fund two nationally recognized artists for extended residencies teaching classes in the library’s maker spaces
- \$30,000 for multicultural events at two library locations with community cultural groups.

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The Boulder Library Foundation increases funding for services that help the people of Boulder develop and grow by raising money, increasing awareness, advocating for the library, and encouraging community involvement.



- \$28,000 to bring the library, activities, and free books to underserved children and families in their communities and in their language
- \$18,000 for four English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults and two Spanish classes for adults
- \$8,000 to expand the Reading Buddies program to an additional school or library branch

The annual grants were made possible through the generous support of the Boulder Library Foundation's annual donors. In addition, the Foundation board approved payouts from the following three endowed funds and a designated fund:

- \$21,900 from the Maria Rogers Oral History Project Endowment, to pay for transcript preparation and processing
- \$8,900 from the new Deanna and Joe La Camera Endowed Fund, to support a new series of children's musical performances in the Canyon Theater this fall
- \$3,900 from the BoulderReads Endowment, to purchase learning materials for low-income participants in the library's adult literacy programs
- \$14,900 from the George Bragg Designated Fund, for materials acquisitions at the Carnegie Library for Local History

"We are excited and grateful to the Library Foundation and the community for their generous support of these core literacy programs and innovative services," said Library Director David Farnan. "Communities build libraries. We are humbled by the Library Foundation's ongoing stalwart advocacy for library programs and services that have made a positive difference in the individual lives of our friends, families and neighbors for over 50 years."

## **ABOUT THE BOULDER LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

The Boulder Library Foundation supports the Boulder Public Library District with resources to connect people, information, and ideas. Donations to our 501(c)3 organization strengthen the community and transform residents' lives. Since 1974, The Boulder Library Foundation has granted more than \$10 million to support innovation, capital improvements, creativity, and expanded outreach and literacy for Boulder's libraries. Learn more at [www.boulderlibraryfoundation.org](http://www.boulderlibraryfoundation.org)

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