



Friends of the Edgewater Library Fact Sheet

Background

Friends of the Edgewater Library was first formed in 1990. After the library's reconstruction in 2012-2013, the group reorganized about a year later. Friends of the Edgewater Library is one of five Friends' groups in Chicago and is the second oldest and most active.

Friends of the Edgewater Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization led by community volunteers. When the library reopened in 2013, we started with 16 members. By 2018, membership more than doubled to 43. Currently we have about 100 members and several committees.

We're a founding member of the Chicago Coalition of Library Friends and help others begin Friends' groups.

Mission

We support the Chicago Public Library's mission and its objectives to engage, strengthen and encourage a more inclusive and connected community.

Our mission is to partner with and advocate for the Edgewater Branch Library, respond to our community's library needs, and educate and engage the community in using and enjoying all our library's resources.

Our support

We work with Branch leadership and staff to provide resources to support the library and engage our community. For example, Friends of the Edgewater Library provides funds for supplies, equipment, and programs.

In April 2020, we purchased a Zoom meeting account and have shared it with library staff since then. We also purchased face masks for staff when the library reopened that year. We've bought AV equipment and furniture and fund honorariums to presenters for programs arranged by the library and Friends of the Edgewater Library. Our primary source of revenue is from book sales, which are on hold since 2020.

Our programs

Friends of the Edgewater Library initiates and facilitates programs that promote reading and encourage a lifelong curiosity for knowledge. Some programs center on books and authors, Chicago literary figures, historical or literary events, and anniversaries.

Historical portrayals include Rachel Carson, Louisa May Alcott, and Florence Nightingale. We've offered presentations about authors Nelson Algren and Herman Melville and featured authors Mikki Kendall, Nina Barrett, Elliott Gorn, Cyndee Schaffer and Jill Wine-Banks.

We also talk about books. The No Book Club (individuals informally discuss what they're reading) began in August 2016 and is our longest-running program. In 2020, we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment Programs with actors playing the roles of Illinois suffragettes.

We offer program sponsorship and partnership opportunities; the Edgewater Branch is our permanent partner.

For more information

See our website: [home](#), [video gallery](#), [blog page](#), [membership](#), and [leadership](#) page.

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