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## News Release

### **San Antonio Public Library Foundation Gifts over \$1 Million to the San Antonio Public Library**

*Mission of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation is to strengthen the Library in service to our community*

**SAN ANTONIO (November 21, 2016)** – The San Antonio Public Library Foundation (SAPLF) gifted the San Antonio Public Library with over \$1 million dollars for fiscal year 2016 at its 16<sup>th</sup> annual “Board Builder” Meeting. Over 60 board members and special guests attended the meeting at the Argyle where guest speaker Robert Hammond spoke to the crowd.

Hammond is the executive director of New York’s “Friends of the High Line”, a nonprofit organization he co-founded in 1999 that raises 98% of the High Line’s annual operating budget. Friends of the High Line works with a variety of funders to raise the necessary dollars to operate, maintain, and program the elevated Manhattan park that sees 7.6 million visitors each year. Hammond spoke about his fundraising efforts for the High Line and shared his fundraising tips with the audience.



Before Hammond’s talk, SAPLF Board Chair Shannon Murphy and SAPLF President Tracey Ramsey Bennett announced the donation of \$1M+ to the group and presented a check to San Antonio Public Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Jean Brady, Immediate Past Chair of the San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees. These funds are designated to different initiatives within the San Antonio Public Library System including educational outreach and programming, individual branch library programs, new

technology within the Library system, the Latino Collection, Texana, and the Mayor’s Summer Reading Club.

“We are very fortunate to have the San Antonio Public Library Foundation working on our behalf to bring additional resources in support of our Library system,” said San Antonio Public Library Director Ramiro Salazar. “The private dollars raised by the foundation can be viewed as the ‘icing to the cake’ which allow us to continue to operate as a first-class library system.”

In 1999 a multi-year operations gift from the John and Florence Newman Foundation stipulated annual board training for SAPLF as a condition of the gift. The Foundation strongly believed that well educated and involved boards are necessary for organizations to accomplish their missions. “Board Builder” luncheons are designed to encourage Board giving and Board training with the understanding that an enthused, engaged and educated Board can achieve great results. The Library Foundation brings a top-notch leader in the field of philanthropy to speak each year, encouraging board members to become engaged and actively raise funds for the Library.

In 2013 SAPLF started honoring longtime patrons and board members at the Board Builder luncheons with the “Greater Good” award. Past years’ Greater Good awards went to: Lori Wright, Pat Flynn, John & Florence Newman Foundation, Mrs. Phyllis Browning, The Semmes Foundation, and Valero Energy Foundation. This year’s Greater Good award honored longtime SAPLF board members and Library supporters Alice Lynch and Kye Fox.



"The Library Foundation’s community includes many dedicated, committed volunteers who serve as our board members. Their service to the Library Foundation is an ‘add on’ to the many obligations they juggle daily – career, family, other volunteer obligations, and a social life," explained Tracey Bennett. "Of

equal importance to our mission are our loyal donors and supporters.”

For more information about the San Antonio Public Library Foundation go to [saplf.org](http://saplf.org).

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*Photo #1, from left: Ramiro Salazar, Tracey Bennett, Shannon Murphy and Jean Brady*

*Photo #2, from left: Dennis Martinez, Shannon Murphy, Tracey Bennett, Robert Hammond, Lori Wright, District 1 Councilman Roberto Treviño and Ramiro Salazar.*

***The San Antonio Public Library: changing lives through the power of information, imagination, and ideas.***

*For more than 110 years, the award-winning San Antonio Public Library has been a vital center for free learning, knowledge, communication, culture and enjoyment for the whole community. With a world-class Central Library, 26 locations throughout the city, a Library portal at the Briscoe Western Art Museum, and an extensive collection of e-books and online resources, the San Antonio Public Library is as close as around the corner, the nearest computer or smartphone. For more information, visit [mysapl.org](http://mysapl.org). Be sure to like us on Facebook at [The-San-Antonio-Public-Library](https://www.facebook.com/The-San-Antonio-Public-Library) and follow us on Twitter @mysapl.*

*Powered Libraries is a TLA Campaign that seeks to raise support and awareness of the role of libraries. Read more about the history of the campaign and its key messages, objectives, and goals.*