



**Friends of Michigan Libraries**  
*Connecting Friends across Michigan*

# Focus On Friends

June 2025

**Our Website**

## Letter from the President - Joe David



### Contingency Planning Can Counter Confusion

Unless you have a crystal ball or a smattering of wizard mixed into your DNA, there's a real good chance you're as confused as everyone about how Washington's efforts to defund IMLS are going to turn out. Recent court rulings have temporarily restrained the administration from more cuts. But, "temporary" is the operating word here. And, temporary means it is almost impossible to make definitive plans for the immediate future, especially for smaller or rural libraries who are sometimes more dependent on federal funding.

Because of the uncertainty at the federal level, FOML recently sent a letter to the Michigan State Budget Office and members of the state legislature encouraging them to make contingency plans to support the critical mission of libraries in the state should federal funding be reduced or discontinued.

Libraries are not an extravagance. They play an essential role in the well being of communities everywhere and, we believe, our state legislators should acknowledge that fact by exploring ways to ensure that libraries will be able to continue delivering critical services regardless of how Washington acts.

If you agree, you might want to consider dropping a line to your representatives in the state legislature to let them know you're counting on them to keep our libraries whole. In fact, I'm including the following link to the letter we sent in case you want to use it as a template for something you write: <https://foml.org/news/>

I've always found that it is both much more gratifying and productive to choose the role of activist rather than victim. Hopefully, you feel the same.

Joe David  
FOML President

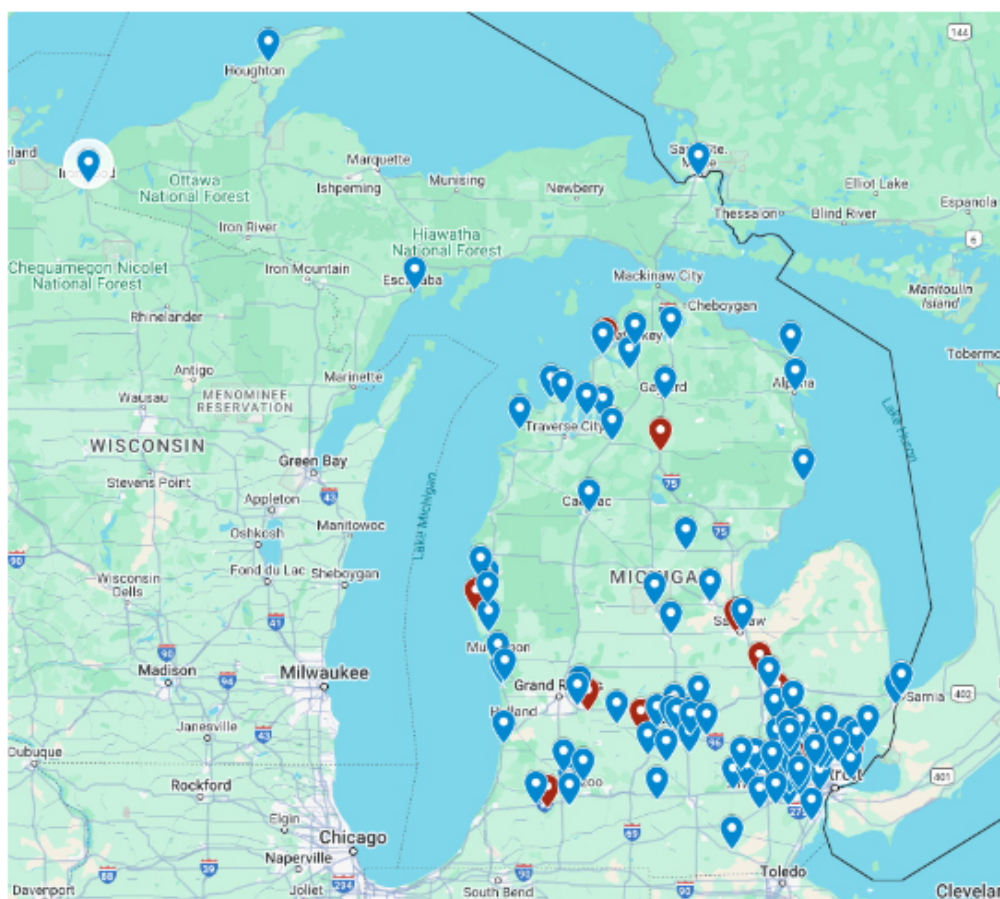
# Thank You for being a Friend!

Thanks to all of you who are members of Friend of Michigan Libraries. We have 91 Group Members in 2025 and seven Lifetime Group Members. We have 33 Individual Members and five Lifetime Individual Members. We thank you for your support. A list of all members is on [foml.org](https://foml.org) at FOML Members.

We were able to meet many of you at the Annual Membership meeting at the Library of Michigan in April and at the recent Talk About Friends in Novi. We plan to hold a September Talk About Friends in Charlevoix.

With your support we offer grants in the form of the FOML Merit Award and the Harriet Larson Founders Grant. The next grant opportunity is the Harriet Larson Founder Grant. Applications are due by the end of September. For more information visit <https://foml.org/harriet-larson-founders-grant-2/>

If you aren't a member and want to join, visit <https://foml.org/membership> for more information. Take a look at where FOML Friends are located. Friends groups are in blue and FOML Board Members are in red. We cover the state. Come be a part of Friends of Michigan Libraries!



# Talk About Friends at Novi

By Sue Johnson, Novi Public Library



FOML held a Talk About Friends event at Novi Public Library on May 9, 2025 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Twenty eight people attended from 16 libraries. Sue Johnson, President of the Novi Friends, greeted the group and introduced Clare Membiela, Library of Michigan Library Law Consultant. Clare discussed ways that libraries are funded and the impact of defunding IMLS, components of MelCat and the importance of this eLibrary.

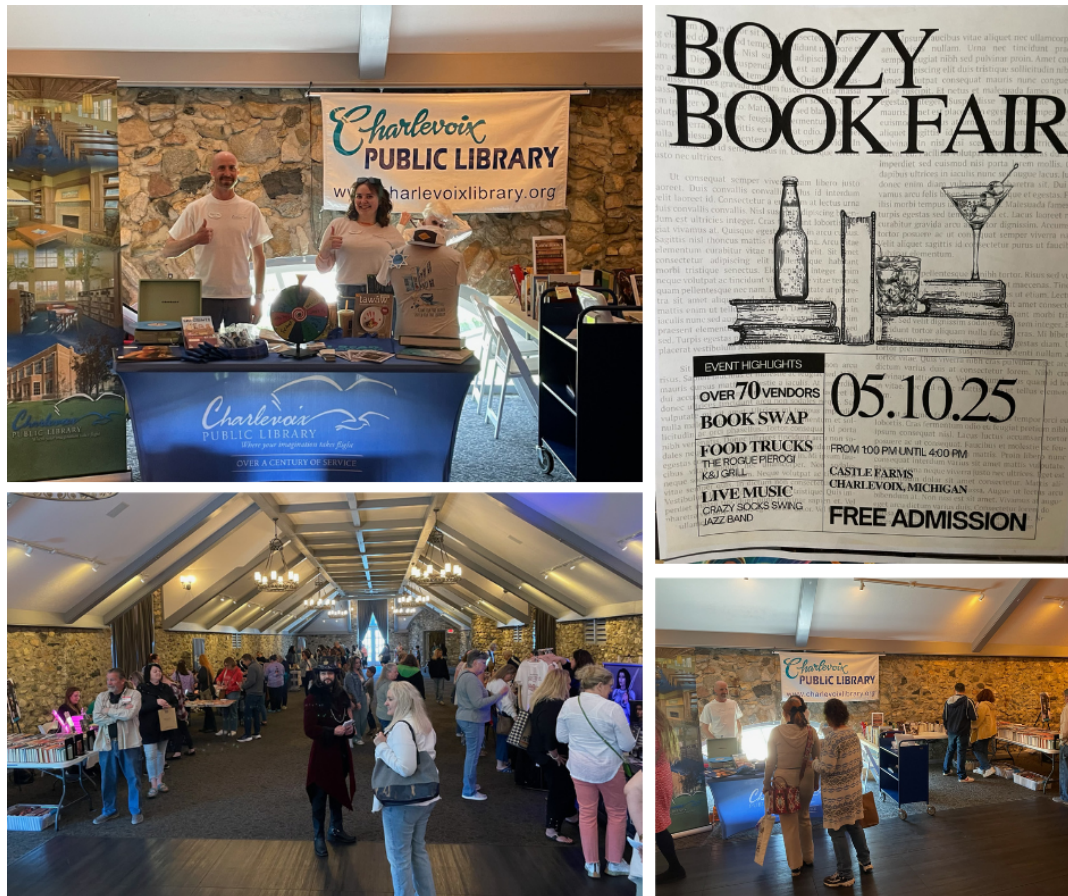
The popular TableTalk followed. Attendees had a chance to discuss issues and ideas with individuals from other libraries. Here are some suggestions for events other than book sales for fundraising.

- One group belongs to the local chamber of commerce and a member of the chamber gave them \$500 for the purchase of book bags
- Have a basket raffle (need a license for this). Have people donate items for basket(s)
- Craft shows-rent tables to vendors for \$25.00
- A vending machine in the library (drinks and snacks)
- A Cookie Walk in December; members make the cookies, need to put in print that they were not made in an inspected kitchen
- Dine to Donate at a local restaurant. Usually 20% of sales go to the Friends donation jar at the desk
- Ideas for recognition programs for volunteers, library staff and/or members.
  - Some Friends support the library staff with appreciation dinners, gift cards
  - Some Friends support the volunteers in the book shop with gift cards, thank you cards
  - Friends give a scholarship for high school senior (who works/volunteers in the library)
  - Friends put on two events a year for volunteers (April/October) a luncheon or dinner
  - The library did luncheons/dinner for the Friends; buy T-shirts for the Friends

A tour of the Novi Public Library followed featuring the Friends Book Nook, Single User Pod and iCube marketplace. Evaluation comments were very positive.

# Boozy Book Fair - Chapter 2

By Steve Hall, Friends of Charlevoix Public Library



On Saturday, May 10, Castle Farms in Charlevoix became home to over 70 authors, vendors, artists, and two local Charlevoix County library Friends groups. The three hour event included local authors Annie Russell, Thomas Ford Conlan, plus JR Erickson, D. A. Henneman, and many others. Representing local library Friends groups were the Friends of Boyne City Library and the Friends of the Charlevoix Public Library. The Charlevoix Public Library was also represented and provided guests with an opportunity to spin a prize wheel that offered such things as ring toss discs, cozies, stickers, or even a bad (dad) joke from the library director.

While the authors and others were there to sell new books or other wares, the Friends groups had gently used books available for purchase with proceeds going directly to help their respective libraries. For the Charlevoix Friends, the best of their used books were displayed. This included fiction and non-fiction hardcover volumes along with cookbooks and several rare and collectable books.

At the end of the day, Friends of the Charlevoix Public Library had generated over \$300 for the youth department of the library, selling over 100 volumes. Organizers of the event reported that over 650 people attended, an increase of 30% versus the event last fall.

Plans are already in the works for a "BBF -Chapter 3."

## Apply for the FOML Harriet Larson Founders Grant

In honor of a founding member of Friends of Michigan Libraries, FOML awards up to two grants annually. The Harriet Larson Founders Grant is an award of up to \$750 based on the decision of the FOML Awards Committee after its review of the grant applications.

The grants will be awarded by the Grants and Awards Committee based on the following priorities when reviewing applications, provided an applicant meets all of the eligibility requirements.

- A new Friends group is being officially formed;
- A Friends group that is being rejuvenated, with a higher priority given to a group with a longer period of inactivity;
- An existing Friends group has a proposal for increasing membership, increasing awareness or a proposal for a novel approach to advocating for their library in the community.

Applications are due September 30.

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### Get Featured

Attention all Friends of the Library groups! Your hard work deserves recognition, and The Friends of Michigan Libraries newsletter wants to feature you! Send us images and a short article highlighting a project you're proud of, and we'll showcase it in our newsletter. Let's celebrate the incredible efforts of Friends of the library groups across Michigan and inspire others with your accomplishments. Email us today to be part of our next issue!

