

Focus On Friends

March 2025



A Greeting from FOML President Jill Sadt



March is here, which means spring has finally arrived! At FOML, we have exciting things in the works for our members, including a website makeover to better serve and connect our Friends groups. We also look forward to seeing you at our **Annual Membership Meeting** in April and a **Talk About Friends** session in May.

We're also proud to once again partner with the Michigan Library Association for Library Advocacy Day in April—an important opportunity to support and champion Michigan libraries. If you haven't already, there's still time to renew your membership or join today to take advantage of all that FOML has to offer!

FOML Annual Membership Drive



Now is the perfect time to join or renew your membership with Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML)! Membership provides access to exclusive benefits, including workshops, resources, and our new Consult-A-Friend program launching in 2025. Your support helps strengthen Friends groups and enhance library services across Michigan.

Visit foml.org/membership to explore benefits and renew or join today. Together, we can make a difference for Michigan libraries!

Apply Now: Harriet Larson Founders Grant – \$750 Available!



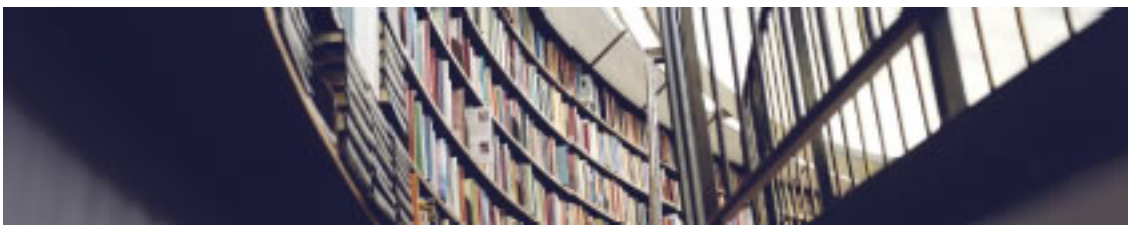
Applications for the **Harriet Larson Founders Grant** of \$750 are due **March 31st**. The grant is in honor of a founding member of the Friends of Michigan Libraries.

The grants will be awarded by the Grants & Awards Committee based on the following priorities when reviewing applications, provided an applicant meets all of the applicable eligibility requirements including being a current FOML member:

- 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 community awareness, or a proposal for a novel approach to advocating for their library in the community.

“Harriet Larson Founders Grant” applications received by March 31, 2025 will be considered at the first FOML Board meeting following that date.

IMLS Funding at Risk: What It Means for Michigan Libraries



On Saturday, the President issued an **Executive Order to eliminate funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**, a federal agency that provides crucial funding to state libraries. In Michigan, **IMLS funding supports the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), including MeLCat and essential research databases**. It also funds Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants, which provide stipends, training, and support for programs like the **Small & Rural Libraries Conference**—helping make it more affordable for small libraries. Additionally, **Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) used an IMLS grant to fund the speaker for its 2025 Annual Membership Meeting**.

What This Does *Not* Impact

These federal cuts will NOT affect your library's core funding, which comes from:

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- 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 community awareness, or a proposal for a novel approach to advocating for their library in the community.

While the situation is still developing, we will provide updates as more details emerge. Libraries remain vital to our communities, and we encourage everyone to stay informed and engaged.

Here are a few links that you might want to review:

[Trump Orders Gutting of 7 Agencies, Including Voice of America's Parent](#) - New York Times (gifted)

[ALA statement on White House assault on the Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) -American Library Association

[Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Continues the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy](#) - White House document

[PETITION: Stop Trump's E.O. Attacks on Federal Funding for Libraries](#) - EveryLibrary

There's a lot of uncertainty right now and no good answers but we WILL know more. We will provide updates as things become clear. Keep doing the great and amazing things you are doing in your communities. Keep celebrating those epic wins and being fantastic.

April 11th Annual Membership Meeting



Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) invites you to join us for the **2025 Annual Membership Meeting** on **Friday, April 11th, at 9:30 AM** at the **Library of Michigan in Lansing**. The program begins at 10 AM, and for those unable to attend in person, a **virtual option via Zoom** is available.

This year, we are excited to welcome **Cordelia Anderson**, a renowned library marketing and communications consultant, as our featured speaker. She previously presented via Zoom in 2022, and now you have the chance to meet her in person! Funding for this event is provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan.

Register today!

On-Site Registration: [Click here](#)

Virtual Registration: [Click here](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!



Funding for this event is provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan.

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!

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