

HISTORY

In 1901, at the suggestion of Andrew Carnegie, a group of Fort Worth ladies asked local gentlemen to donate “the price of a good cigar” to help raise money to build a local library and bring literature to Cowtown. To honor our history and further promote literacy in our city, The Fort Worth Public Library Foundation hosts the Annual Cigar Smoker at the Fort Worth Club.



Since 1997, this prestigious event has served as the Library Foundation’s largest annual fundraiser, raising more than \$1.8M for the Library programs and services. As one of Fort Worth’s most anticipated social events of the year, The Cigar Smoker is as unique as Fort Worth itself by offering guests a rare opportunity to enjoy cigars at the Fort Worth Club.

Vital to our community, the Foundation provides funding to the Fort Worth Public Library. Manya Shorr, our Library Director says, "The City gives the Library the cake—buildings, people, and basic services. Through the Foundation, donors frost the cake with essential, innovative programming and services making the Library a true community gathering place."



Key Impact Areas:

- Books & Reading
- Digital resources, literacy programming, and materials
- Amplify817
- Annual summer reading challenge
- STEAM Learning Kits
- LaunchPad college application mentoring program that helps high school students navigate the complexities of selecting, applying to, and financing college. Over 120 students served each year.

When you support the Foundation – you support the Fort Worth Public Library!