

Milwaukee Public Library Foundation (MPLF)  
and  
City of Milwaukee (City) Agreement

**Purpose**

The City of Milwaukee is committed to the operation and maintenance of a strong and exemplary Public Library System. The Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) adds significant value to the city by helping to create an environment that fosters lifelong learning. Resources and services available through MPL help the City increase the educational attainment of its citizens, thereby improving the overall quality of life in Milwaukee.

To support its commitment, the City of Milwaukee dedicates over \$20 million annually to operate its library system. And, despite a six-year freeze in the city's largest source of revenue (State Shared Revenue), funding for the library has increased at an average annual rate of 3.7% since 1996. However, because of various fiscal challenges, including lost shared revenue and employee pension improvements, some budgeted staff positions have been left vacant. These challenges make it difficult for the City to continue to increase the resources available to the library.

Many cities across the country have begun to partner with private partners and foundations to further strengthen their library systems. In Milwaukee, public/private partnerships have been an important tool in helping the city achieve its various strategic goals, be they public education, public health or library services.

In Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation (MPLF) was created to provide capital, program and library materials funding for MPL over and above the city support. It too has been extremely successful and has recently completed a campaign raising six million dollars for renovation of the Downtown Library. Consideration is now being given to further strengthening the MPL/MPLF partnership by increase MPFL's annual support for programs and library materials in addition to its periodic support for capital projects and endowment. In order to enhance the ability of MPLF to raise additional private funds for the benefit of MPL, the following proposed agreement is made.

## **Terms**

Period of agreement is five years from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2006.

MPLF will make its best effort to increase net support for library materials and programs from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000 annually. At the same time MPLF will consider raising funds for capital improvements and endowment.

City recognizing the difficulty of raising significant annual support and being desirous of the continued improvement and enhancement of Library services for its residents proposes to work with MPLF to make changes in governance and operations which will be for the benefit of MPL.

The Mayor agrees to make his statutory appointments to MPL Board of Trustees from candidates recommended by MPLF. Recommendations will take into consideration such qualifications as leadership potential, past contribution and knowledge of the Milwaukee Public Library through service or support, and fundraising ability. City agrees to maintain same level of funding as in 2001 with annual increases sufficient to offset inflation and related costs for the term of this agreement.

City and MPLF agree to work cooperatively on implementing earned revenue projects with net income going to MPLF for benefit of MPL.

Approved by Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees at November 7, 2001 meeting.