our mission

To focus public attention on the Missoula Public Library and its branches and their needs;

To increase their facilities and services;

To enrich the cultural lives of Missoula area citizens with community events and activities for all.

projects funded by the Friends

Creativebug Website Hosting
Family Reading Program
Senior Outreach
MakerSpace Programs
Poetry Workshops
Children’s and Young Adult Programs
Large Type Books
Home Services
Plant Care
Support for MLA
Special Events
Staff Celebrations
National Library Week Events
New York Times Online
Missoula Reads
Volunteer Celebrations
Shelving
Photocopiers
Staff Room Improvements

the friends of missoula public library

EST. APRIL 28, 1969

MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY
455 E Main St, Missoula MT 59802
missoulapubliclibrary.org
(406) 721-2665

Big Sky Branch
Big Sky High School, Missoula

Frenchtown Branch
Frenchtown High School, Frenchtown

Lolo Branch
Lolo Community School, Lolo

Potomac Branch
29750 Potomac Road, Potomac

Seeley Lake Branch
Seeley-Swan High School, Seeley

Swan Valley Branch
6811 Highway 83, Condon
In 2001 the Friends of Missoula Public Library decided that Montana needed a book award in order to recognize literary and artistic excellence. Montana is home to a large number of astounding writers and honoring some of them each year brings attention to their work and their craft, attracts readers, and promotes great literature.

With representation from all parts of the state, the Montana Book Award achieved immediate success as eloquently described below by Diane Smith, winner of the first Montana Book Award, in her acceptance speech:

"... the Montana Book Award has done all Montanans a great service... it's a subtle but very important form of economic development, for the writing profession brings money into the state and, in the process, leaves a very small environmental footprint. And, writing is a profession in which, unlike the industries of the past, the rewards of the worker's labor stay in the state, and the product these workers produce enriches us all. Anything we can do as a community to encourage, support and recognize our writers — and give them voice — is greatly needed. When the Missoula Friends of the Library and others in the state publicly recognize our work, and announce that our work has 'value,' it helps all of us broaden and deepen our audience, and ultimately gives us a platform to affect the kinds of change we would like to see."