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Eugene Community Shows Love for Eugene Public Library Through Art Exhibition

EUGENE, OR - August 1, 2024. Eugene Public Library Foundation is hosting the **Love Your Library Art Exhibition** featuring a compilation of the entries submitted earlier this year through the Love Your Library design contest. **The exhibition opens on the second floor of the downtown library with an artists' reception from 4- 6 pm on Friday, August 2.**

In response to recent cuts to Eugene Public Library's budget, Eugene Public Library Foundation (EPLF) launched a **Love Your Library** campaign in 2024 with activities to engage public support of the library, including the design competition. Sixty-six entries were submitted earlier this year and the public chose their favorite from 22 finalists. More than 1,100 individuals weighed in and the winners were announced in early May. Prizes ranged from \$1,000 for Grand Prize to \$100 for Third Place. Grand Prize Winner, Michaela Punt, is a literature teacher whose dream is to work in the publishing industry as an illustrator. Accompanying her winning entry was her statement: "The Eugene Public Library is a key part of the community here in Eugene - reading is so important. My entry is very straightforward: there are 3 little ducks (an ode to the Oregon Ducks) marching forward (books = progress) with their book bags and library books."

Winning entries will be used on materials that will help to promote or organize support around the library, including t-shirts, yard signs, and stickers. "Raising awareness of the need to support Eugene Public Library is crucial, especially right now. This award-winning public library serves as the cornerstone of our community, and we believe it is important to keep this valuable asset front of mind. Libraries are among the few third places left - a space that is not home or work - where all ages can go to relax and engage with others in a public space and have access to a wealth of free resources." said Dana B. Fleming, EPLF's Executive Director.

Library Director Angela Ocaña states, "The Love Your Library Art Exhibition showcases the creative passion of our community and their love for our library. I was blown away by the entries and awed by our Foundation who seamlessly put everything together to make it happen. I love this art, this library, and our community!"

The Love Your Library Art Exhibition will be on display at the downtown library through the end of September and there is no charge for admission. The Foundation plans to host this design contest annually. Information about next year's Love Your Library design contest will be posted on the EPLF website in early 2025. More information can be found at eplfoundation.org/love-your-library-contest-gallery.

This project is supported by the Oregon Cultural Trust.



About the Foundation: Eugene Public Library Foundation (EPLF) supports Eugene Public Library in its efforts to inspire lifelong learning and to enrich the entire community. We secure and responsibly manage contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations to build community support for our Eugene Public Library.

EPLF was established in 1983 to work with members of the Eugene community to enhance programs and materials at Eugene Public Library. As the philanthropic partner of Eugene Public Library, we are truly honored to serve the public and Eugene Public Library by providing resources that are open and free to all.

The Foundation supports Eugene Public Library and our community through funding and advocacy for library services, programming, and materials. Additionally, the Foundation endorses and organizes support for local option library levies and bonds.

For more information, visit the Foundation's website, eplfoundation.org, or call the Foundation office, (541) 338-7018.

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Photo caption: Grand Prize Winner, Michaela Punt, at EPLF's annual event, Booked for the Evening, on May 4. *Photo credit: Stephanie McCall*



Photo Caption: Michaela Punt's Grand Prize winning entry to the Love Your Library design contest.