

HERMAN AND KATE KAISER LIBRARY

A modern library in a natural setting



The library that Tulsa built

Tulsa City-County Library's newest addition – the Herman and Kate Kaiser Library – is a hot spot for golfers, tennis and croquet players, runners, walkers and outdoor enthusiasts, as well as families who live in the surrounding neighborhoods and students who attend nearby schools.

Located in LaFortune Park, the Herman and Kate Kaiser Library opened in the summer of 2008 after the Tulsa Library Trust completed an extensive fundraising campaign to raise \$2.4 million in private funds for construction. The library shares a lobby with the Buddy LaFortune Community Center, which runs its own programs and classes. The site was made possible by the foresight of the Tulsa County Commissioners and County Parks Board, who had a dream of a library as part of their Vision 2025-funded community center.

With oversize windows on every wall, customers are treated to gorgeous views of the park from nearly every direction they look. In the whimsical children's section, little ones' imaginations can run wild as they gaze out the windows and see oversized sculptures of a large rabbit and Mother Goose sitting amongst nature.

"Coming to work every day is such a joy! Being located in a large, beautiful park is a definite plus," said Glenda Kilmer, branch manager. "We are a very busy place. Our staff is totally focused on providing our customers with the best experience possible. The Herman and Kate Kaiser Library building was 100-percent donor funded, and the staff continues that legacy by being 100-percent invested in providing quality service to all."



Reciprocal spirit

Bronze busts of Herman and Kate Kaiser, created by local sculptor Rosalind Cook, greet customers at the entrance to the library that bears their name. The library was named after the Kaisers as the Herman Kaiser Foundation donated 51 percent of the construction cost. The Kaisers are profound examples of the reciprocal spirit that defines our nation and community. The Jewish couple fled Nazi Germany in 1938, going first to England and then eventually settling in Tulsa. Without bitterness or self-pity, they worked diligently to become productive citizens and were determined to give back to the nation and city that embraced them in their time of need. The Herman and Kate Kaiser Library is just one of the many wonderful ways the Kaisers have bestowed goodwill to the community they called home.

Collaborative project

The Herman and Kate Kaiser Library has teamed up with the Buddy LaFortune Community Center on a variety of events throughout the year. The biggest project to date is the "Touch-A-Truck" outdoor event held last April. Nearly 1,000 children and their families turned out to explore trucks of all sizes. Coordinated by youth librarian Kristen Gettys, the event featured dozens of big trucks that kids see each day on our city streets – from bookmobiles to backhoes to fire engines to dump trucks. Given the success of this year's event, planning already is in the works for next year's "Touch-A-Truck" collaborative project.

Hangout for teens

The Herman and Kate Kaiser Library is an after-school hangout for teens who stop by daily to use the computers and work on homework assignments. Every Monday and Wednesday afternoon, the library offers a Teen Lounge, featuring arts and crafts projects, Xbox and Wii gaming, and an area for just hanging out with friends.

"Thanks to an annual donation from Frank and Dorothy Effron to supplement children's and teen services, we can keep current with the technology that teens are into, plus purchase high-quality art supplies so that the teens can produce quality work that they can be proud of," said David Morrison, who coordinates the teen programs at the Herman and Kate Kaiser Library.

