



To: Library Board

Fr: Shellie Anderson, Adult Library Supervisor

Robert Trunley, Assistant Director

May 20, 2026

Re: Wauwatoso Public Library Foundation Support Request: Foundation Speaker Series

Purpose/Need

Foundation Speaker Series: Five speaker events running from September 2026 to May 2027.

Background

The Foundation Speaker Series has been well-received. Patrons attending the programs always ask us to do more.

The adult department would like to approach the Foundation for funds to have five programs featuring speakers of note from the fall of 2026 to the spring of 2027. We would like to host people who are well known in a wide variety of topics such as medicine, food, business, science, sports, entertainment, history, nature, and gardening.

We see that this would continue the Library Board’s goal of having more adult programming and would “Increase engagement with infrequent users of the Library” per the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. The 2026 Action Plan also instructs us to “Collaborate with the Wauwatoso Public Library Foundation (WPLF) to secure funding and resources to meet WPL’s mission.”

In our experience the lower cost speakers sometimes result in low registration and subsequent cancellation of events. For this series, as in the 2025-2026 series, we are looking at fewer speakers but more notable names (and subsequently higher fees).

Since the speakers are Foundation supported, we are hoping to again have a Foundation board member attend each program to introduce each speaker and to speak about the Foundation.

The 2025-2026 series has been successful: five programs with a combined attendance of 292.

Project Costs

Project total: \$15,000 maximum (\$1,000 to \$5,000 per speaker)

Recommendation

A motion for the Library Board to approve submitting the proposal to the Wauwatoso Public Library Foundation Board for consideration.