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Library Foundation Receives \$1 Million Gift from Naftzger Fund for Fine Arts

The Wichita Public Library Foundation announced today a \$1 million gift from the Naftzger Fund for Fine Arts as part of its "Margin of Excellence Campaign" to build Wichita's proposed new Advanced Learning Library.

"The Naftzger family has a history of supporting community projects," said Wichita Public Library Foundation Chairman Don Barry. "We are grateful that Caesar and Michelle Naftzger are making this substantial investment in Wichita's new Advanced Learning Library. Their commitment to building an ever greater more vibrant Wichita community cannot be overstated. They believe in this great city."

"The Wichita Public Library is one of our city's most treasured assets," said Caesar Naftzger. "Libraries continue to play important roles in supporting lifelong learning and engagement with art, music and literature. This gift will contribute to the modernization program and will ensure that our community is well served by its public library for decades to come. We are pleased to play a small role in making the Advanced Learning Library a reality."

Caesar Naftzger is the son of the late John and Elsie Naftzger of Wichita. He is the President/Owner of Riedl First Securities Company of Kansas. The Naftzger Fund for Fine Arts was established by Caesar's grandfather, M.C. Naftzger, in 1956 and is managed by Southwest National Bank as Trustee. Caesar and his wife, Michelle, have two children.

The Naftzger Family has a long commitment to the City of Wichita and has made generous gifts over the years for the benefit of its citizens, including: Naftzger Memorial Park located at 102 South St. Francis, a collection of Charles M. Russell works at the Wichita Art Museum, preservation of the Covey Mural from the City Carnegie Library depicting the "Spirit of Kansas" (currently displayed at the Southwest National Bank 400 E. Douglas), the Annual Naftzger Young Artists Auditions at Wichita State University and the Lee Southwell Naftzger II Scholarships at Wichita State University, Friends University and Newman University.

"This gift is a wonderful demonstration of Naftzger's commitment to the future of Wichita. The vision of this project depends on those who cherish the advancement of education, opportunity and preservation of our collective community history," said Library Campaign Chairperson, Mary Lynn Oliver.

The Advanced Learning Library Capital Campaign serves to augment the City's \$30 million investment in what is being called "a community keystone project." The campaign has secured \$5.5 million toward its \$8 million goal.

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