City of Lincoln
LIBRARIES



PREM PUBLIC LIBRARY

In recognition of Drs. M.K. and Prem Bansal

Prem: a selfless universal love that widens to create community (pronounced Prame, like name)

The Prem Public Library bears the name of Prem Bansal in recognition of a generous gift from Drs. M.K. and Prem Bansal to the City of Lincoln. In Sanskrit and Hindi, prem means love – a selfless, universal love that widens to create community. It is a love that is practiced rather than felt: directed toward all, including strangers – echoing the spirit of agape. Their gift is dedicated to lifelong learning, to human connection, and to the flourishing of this City. This naming also creates a beautiful symbolic connection to the University of Nebraska's Love Library.

The couple embodies these principles—education and lifelong learning, fierce devotion to family and community, interfaith and intercultural understanding, bipartisan public service, and an unwavering belief that in Nebraska and in America, anyone can flourish through lifelong commitment to learning, service, and community contribution. Prem is a mother, wife, active community volunteer and leader, and was a senior policy advisor for five Nebraska governors across party and ideology. The couple raised three successful children in Lincoln who spent many of their summers at the downtown public library in Lincoln.

Public libraries are evolving beyond their traditional roles. Where so much of our lives are now virtual and online, Prem Public Library will serve as vital civic infrastructure – a physical gathering space for lifelong learning, human connection, and the development of relational and community capital. In a world where machines now surpass humans' capacity to process information, and where traditional education pathways are ever changing, Prem Public Library will provide a space for community members to grow in capacities that are uniquely human: embodied wisdom and relationship, rather than information alone. The Prem Public Library will promote a newer, more expansive vision of learning and comprehensive community flourishing – offering open, public spaces for pragmatic in-person collaborations and deepening community relationships among those already seeking to grow and learn.





