

Kansas Reads...*The Learning Tree*: Interview with an Underwriter

by Roy Bird, Director, Kansas Center for the Book



***The Learning Tree* by Gordon Parks**

Promotion of Kansas Reads...The Learning

Tree by Gordon Parks by the Kansas Center for the Book at the State Library of Kansas concluded on April 30. In an interview conducted on Monday, May 21, one of the principal underwriters of the inaugural One Book, One State project shared important insights about sponsoring such projects.

David Livingood of GLPM Architects, Inc. in Lawrence was asked about the firm's support of the recent One Book project.



KCFB: What prompted GLPM Architects to be a sponsor?

DL: Personally, in Lawrence, I have attended several Read Across Lawrence one-book programs with my kids. They were a lot of fun and we enjoyed what they did for us and for the community. A number of our firm's clients are libraries and this was a way to return some of the benefits from those libraries.

KCFB: What does GLPM Architects think of libraries and reading?

DL: GLPM feels reading is very important from several different aspects. 1) It is important to know what is going on in *the* world beyond what is going on in *our* world. 2) It is important to rounding out people so they know more about the world and themselves. And 3) as a firm, we encourage our employees to share outside interests and activities in the community.

KCFB: Was there a benefit to GLPM sponsoring this project?

DL: I'm not sure there was a direct benefit but it was a joy for us to do it—seeing the people participating, learning about Gordon Parks from his son David during the kickoff, and learning about all the things that Gordon Parks had done.

KCFB: Do you have any advice for other potential underwriters?



***Professor Clark Killion Discussing
The Learning Tree at Dodge City
Public Library in March 2007***

DL: I would encourage other underwriters to think about the people they will be touching, how the program they are underwriting touches those people. They should also think about underwriting across the state, outside their normal area of exposure in their communities.

The Kansas Center for the Book appreciates all sponsors of projects and wants to thank Mr. Livingood for his time and for sharing these thoughts.

If your library participated in Kansas Reads...The Learning Tree, please take a moment to fill out the survey on the website at http://www.qgerman9.com/kcfb/2007_learningtree_survey.htm .

Watch for 2008 Kansas Reads...In Cold Blood by Truman Capote!