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## **Vonnegut Library receives \$50,000 grant from Lilly Endowment**

**INDIANAPOLIS** -- The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library announced today that it has received a \$50,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The grant from the Endowment marks the first major grant received by the nonprofit Vonnegut Library, which was established to champion the literary, artistic, and cultural contributions of the late writer, artist and Indiana native Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

“I am grateful for this vote of confidence in our start-up organization, which is driven by volunteers in our community and around the world,” said Julia Whitehead, executive director and founder of the Vonnegut Library. “We are also grateful for the support of Kurt Vonnegut’s son, Mark, and his sisters Edie and Nanny. They have made significant contributions to our organization.”

“We have made strong connections with our fan base and local business partners, and we have made much progress toward developing the Vonnegut Library. It is wonderful to have our efforts appreciated by an organization as respected as Lilly Endowment,” Whitehead added. “From the beginning, we have been striving to develop programs and a library, museum, and art gallery that will be an important stop for visitors coming to our great city.”

The grant from the Endowment will be used to fund the Vonnegut Library’s strategic planning and organizational and development-capacity building. The Vonnegut Library recently announced that the law firm of Katz & Korin has donated 1,100 square feet of space in the historic Emelie Building, 340 N. Senate Ave., to serve as the library’s new home. The library is expected to open in the space in November 2010.



### **About Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library**

The Indianapolis-based Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library is a public benefit, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization championing the literary, artistic, and cultural contributions of the late writer, artist and Indiana native Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. The Library will also serve as a cultural and educational resource center, functioning as a museum, art gallery, and reading room for readers, writers, educators and students. The library is planning to open in November 2010.

The Vonnegut Library is planning programs for teachers on effective ways of teaching Vonnegut's books to their students and programs for students both on Vonnegut and on writing. The Library website can be found at [www.vonnegutlibrary.org](http://www.vonnegutlibrary.org) but the organization also has plans for a virtual reality site that will allow visitors not only to view the interior of the library but also to experience events of Vonnegut's life such as the Battle of the Bulge through virtual reality. For more information, go to [www.vonnegutlibrary.org](http://www.vonnegutlibrary.org).

### **About Lilly Endowment**

Lilly Endowment is an Indianapolis-based private foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family with gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment exists to support the causes of community development, education and religion.