## The Seattle Public Library Foundation

## 2020 Report to Donors



# With a community like ours, we can accomplish anything.

The Foundation's 40th year taught us the meaning of resiliency. I'm proud to say that we – and the Library – rose to the occasion.

As the pandemic closed branches, we stepped up to help the Library respond to the crisis. We increased flexibility in our grants to the Library and immediately offered an additional \$250,000 to help the Library adapt to new modes of service. In total, we provided more than \$5 million in grants and program support.

The Library's agility was a sight to behold. They quickly instituted digital library cards, distributed 215 Wi-Fi hotspots to community partners throughout the city, and expanded digital materials without delay.

Though we canceled our March Discover Your Library fundraising luncheon, you – our Library family – made up for the losses with successful Library Giving Day and GiveBIG campaigns.

In the end, our community pulled through for its Library. We met our fundraising goals and supported the materials, programs, and resources that our neighbors rely on.

Inside this report, you'll find stories of the steps the Library took to persevere – to respond to evolving conditions, to restore interrupted service, and to revitalize our community with the support our neighbors need to thrive.

I hope you're as proud of your Library as I am.

With tremendous gratitude,

Pat Huper

Pat Walker Board President, 2020-21



## Respond: Books for Everyone

"It's because of the hard work of our partner organizations and Library staff that books are getting out to youth and families."

- LAUREN MAYER, CENTRAL LIBRARY CHILDREN'S SERVICES LIBRARIAN

### Ensuring every child has a home library

The branch closures necessitated by stay-home orders in the spring of 2020 cut off the primary access to books for thousands of families in Seattle – especially in summer, when students are encouraged to keep reading, yet the Library couldn't distribute free books in person at Summer of Learning events.

"We were hearing from our community partners that families wanted and needed books for their children and teens," says Lauren Mayer, a children's services librarian at Central Library.

So the Foundation supported the purchase of 42,600 books that the Library distributed to youth and families throughout Seattle. They disseminated most of the books through the donor-supported Summer of Learning program.

Librarians leveraged service agencies' continued contact with neighbors to get books in the hands of kids and teens.

"These are the kids I would have seen just walk into the Library," says Wendy Israel, a teen services librarian at Beacon Hill who helped with the effort. "I'm very happy we can get these books to them."

The focus of the book distribution was different in 2020, as well. Whereas previous efforts directed at least 50 percent of the giveaway books to prioritized audiences, this year's aim was to give

100 percent of the books to those with barriers to book access.

Books were distributed to partners such as YouthCare, Seattle Indian Health Board, Yesler Terrace affordable housing community, and Boys and Girls Clubs – more than 100 partners in all.

Librarians sought to curate books reflective of their audiences, as well, featuring characters and authors of color and representing LGBTQidentifying people.

"Having young people read about individuals, places, and situations that are similar to theirs helps them to see that they are not alone in the struggles they face," says one employee at YouthCare, which houses teens and young adults experiencing housing instability.

Mayer is thankful for the chance to continue serving kids and teens and especially grateful to the donors and librarians who helped make it happen.

"We're just so grateful to the Foundation for their support," she says. "It's because of that support, and the hard work of our community partner organizations and Library staff, that books are getting out to youth and families even in difficult times."

In 2020, 94 donors invested in our Equity & Access Fund, which supported this project. To contribute to Equity & Access programs, give online at supportspl.org.



The Seattle Public Library distributed 42,600 books to Seattle youth and families with the greatest barriers to book access.

### **Responding to community needs**

Donor support to the Foundation allowed the Library maximum flexibility in maintaining Library service under radically shifting circumstances. With your help:

- Donors helped close the digital divide for those without home internet access with the acquisition of 215
  additional Wi-Fi hotspots to distribute to patrons and community partners. Partner organizations include
  Seattle World School, Casa Latina, Solid Ground, and Washington Building Leaders of Change.
- The Library instituted "Grab & Go" bags at Curbside Services, with themed bundles of uncatalogued paperback books for patrons to take home as long as they wish, no library card needed. Genres included mystery, children's picture books, graphic novels, romance, and more.
- The Library expanded its Library Link program previously available only to middle and high school students – to all elementary students, bringing automatic digital Library access to Seattle Public Schools' 55,844 scholars.
- The Global Reading Challenge program distributed free books to 800 fourth- and fifth-graders living in Seattle Housing Authority residences and more than 8,000 books to kids across the city.





(Photo credit: Lake City Collective)

## Restore: Tutor.com

"I'm so grateful that we were able to pivot to Tutor.com. It was really important to the community."

- NANCY GARRETT, LAKE CITY TEEN SERVICES LIBRARIAN

### Bringing homework help home

The Lake City Branch was one of the busiest Homework Help sites in the city. So when branches closed at the onset of the pandemic, the students who relied on it felt its absence.

"I can't tell you how many requests I got for Homework Help from students missing it," says Nancy Garrett, teen services librarian at the Lake City Branch.

After a search for online alternatives, the Library contracted with Tutor.com, which provides one-on-one academic coaching via the internet.

Library staff said they picked Tutor.com over other possibilities because it offered help in multiple languages and provided a voice option in addition to text-based chat.

"It gives options to connect in a way that (users) feel most comfortable with," says Emely Perez, a teen and adult services librarian at the South Park Branch.

After activating the service in October, with options for Vietnamese and Spanish language tutoring, the next important task was to promote it to those it could help.

Perez has plugged Tutor.com on Spanish-speaking radio station El Rey, 1360 AM, and contacted community partners who could help spread the word, such as local schools, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, Consejo Counseling and Referral Service, and Villa Comunitaria. Ayan Adem, interim K-5 program manager, appeared in a segment on a Somali-speaking radio station. Garrett has promoted the service to Northeast Seattle organizations – such as the Lake City Collective, Literacy Source, Seattle Housing Authority, and the North Seattle Family Center – and even to adults who may want to use Tutor.com's adult option to study for a citizenship test or get job search help.

The goal is to communicate the availability of Tutor.com to prioritized communities throughout the city where children and families are experiencing increased barriers to education due to the pandemic. Youth and families need the Library's support more than ever, says Josie Watanabe, public service programs manager.

Tutor.com provided more than 2,700 tutoring sessions through the Library between October and December 2020, according to statistics provided by Tutor.com – mostly serving secondary grade students.

In-person Homework Help will resume eventually; students and volunteers alike miss the essential in-person connection they used to share, Watanabe says. But Tutor.com fills a vital role during the era of physical distancing.

"I'm so grateful that we were able to pivot to Tutor.com," Garrett says. "It was really important to the community."

If you or someone you know could use the help of a tutor, visit www.spl.org/Homework.



The Library contracted with Tutor.com to bring homework tutoring and academic coaching to kids at home while after-school in-person tutoring is on hold.

### **Restoring Library service**

Dozens of Foundation-supported programs pivoted from in-person to online service to restore access to the beloved educational experiences that enrich thousands of lives in Seattle. With your help:

- Story Time moved to YouTube and also included interactive "Early Learning from Home" activities. The program also responded to community need by distributing 6,800 giveaway books to partner organizations serving kids in prioritized neighborhoods.
- English Circle moved to Zoom, allowing English language learners to connect with peers during a time of isolation and continue to develop their conversational skills. Attendance grew to match in-person numbers. Participants from 45 different countries spoke 34 native languages.
- Older Adults Programming went digital, with virtual art classes, seminars on Medicare, healthy aging resources, and programs designed for people experiencing memory loss. More than 2,800 people attended 139 programs.
- 38 online Summer of Learning videos featured artists, nature activities, magic, and music, attracting 3,315 views and bringing summer activities to children at home.



Donor support allowed the Library to hire teen interns to host "Black Joy and Mindful Movements Story Time" in the fall of 2020.

## Revitalize: Your Next Job

"I was able to give myself encouragement to get out looking again." - dorothy darrow, your NEXT JOB USER

### Better together with Your Next Job

Dorothy Darrow worked as a part-time freelance production designer, laying out catalogs and ads for businesses.

But when the pandemic-induced economic crisis hit, "everything pretty much dried up" in terms of work, she says. She plans to retire in a few years and needs income until that time.

She learned about Your Next Job in The Seattle Times and turned to the Library for help.

Your Next Job started as The Seattle Public Library's response to economic conditions and grew into a joint effort with Sno-Isle Libraries and the King County Library System to help job seekers throughout the region.

While various organizations in the area help people with different aspects of employment challenges, the Library saw the need for a "one-stop shop" – and one that would help people in need of technological support in several different languages.

"Getting people resources and information is what libraries are about," says Marion Scichilone, assistant managing librarian at Central Library. "It just seemed like a very appropriate thing to do."

So they trained Library staff and contracted multilingual navigators to listen to job-seekers' needs and either refer them to the appropriate Library services or link them with partner organizations that can offer more specialized To make an appointment with Your Next Job, visit www.spl.org/YourNextJob or call 206-386-4636.

assistance, such as Seattle Jobs Initiative or Puget Sound Welcome Back Center.

"Any resource that a patron doesn't have access to, we can be that bridge to get them connected to what they need," says Meira Jough, program manager for adult basic education and workforce development.

Another powerful partnership is the one with Building Our Bridge, a group of Seattle Housing Authority residents who contract with organizations to provide multilingual technology training. They're uniquely positioned to help immigrants and refugees who call in with the digital skills often required in job-seeking.

They provide service in Vietnamese, Oromo, Somali, Amharic, Korean, Arabic, and Tigrinya. Library staff cover English, Russian, Spanish, and Chinese.

Between June and December, 265 patrons received Your Next Job services.

As for Darrow, she's still looking for steady work, but Your Next Job connected her with contacts who could advise her on job training – and it boosted her morale as she secured job interviews.

"I was able to give myself encouragement to get out looking again," she says.

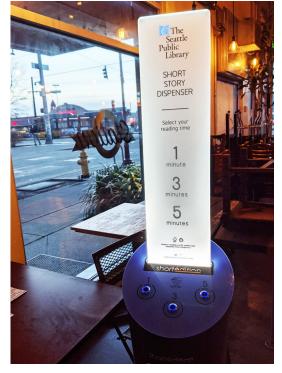


North Seattle resident Dorothy Darrow credits the Library's Your Next Job program with rejuvenating her job search as she seeks employment until she retires. (Photo credit: Lynsi Burton)

### **Revitalizing our community**

The Foundation sought to support efforts that didn't just fill pandemic-era gaps in service, but proactively aimed to revitalize our community and help our neighbors thrive. With your help:

- A touchless Short Story Dispenser was installed at The Station coffee shop on Beacon Hill in December, pumping out more than 600 stories for customers in its first month. The Short Story Dispenser will travel throughout the community and a second machine will be installed in a public location later this year.
- The Library co-hosted the online civic series, "Love in the Time of COVID," which addressed equity-focused social issues such as abolition, mutual aid, and immigrant rights.
- As part of its investment in arts programs, the Foundation supported BLOOM, an effort among a coalition of social justice organizations that trained young adults in community gardening and urban farming as an answer to food insecurity.
- The Library renewed annual subscriptions to five databases that support genealogy research and purchased the Seattle Post-Intelligencer digital archive to enhance the public's research capabilities from home



The Short Story Dispenser debuted in December at The Station coffee shop on Beacon Hill. (Photo credit: Lynsi Burton)

## 2020 Board of Directors

Our Board is composed of dedicated volunteers who oversee our budget, review grants to the Library, spearhead our equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts, and much more. We extend our sincere gratitude to the volunteers who made up our Board in 2020:

#### OFFICERS

Patricia Walker, President Tyler Preston Mickey, Treasurer Ellen Look, Vice President Catherine Irby Arnold, Secretary

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Ross Baker	Nick Mo
Gene J. Chang	Brittney
Morgan Collins	Tuan Ng
Patricia Dawson, M.D.	Grace N
Sue Donaldson	Susan Pa
Lauren Dudley	Anne Re
Davis Fox	Deborah
Sibyl Frankenburg	Lori Scot
Justo Gonzalez	Claudia
Sharon Hammel	Jen Sout
Margaret Inouye	Bill Staff
Jon Jurich	Sarah St
Judy Kelley	David St
Lori Kilberg	Hewan T
Sarah Kohut	Michele
Kitti Lile	Vivian V
Mary Mara	Irene Yaı
Ruth Massinga	Julie Zun
Courtney McKlveen	

The Foundation also extends its appreciation to members of its Emeritus Board. Members can be found online at bit.ly/SPLFBoard.

#### THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Jonna Ward Chief Executive Officer

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Theresa Fujiwara Carmen Bendixen Trustees, The Seattle Public Library

Beck Hallmann President, Friends of The Seattle Public Library

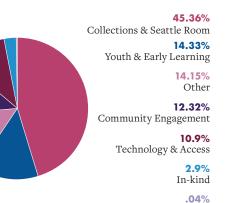
#### THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Marcellus Turner Chief Librarian and Executive Director

## **2020** Financial Information

Year Ending December 31, 2020

#### SUPPORT TO THE LIBRARY



**Reimagined Spaces** 

Total	\$6,229,499
Foundation Operation Costs	\$1,211,211
Total Support	\$5,018,288
Reimagined Spaces	\$1,767
In-kind	\$145,285
Technology & Access	\$547,126
Community Engagement	\$618,347
Other	\$710,303
Youth & Early Learning	\$719,309
Collections & Seattle Room	\$2,276,150

#### SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Total	\$6,317,330
In-Kind Donations	\$159,795
Endowment and Quasi Endowment Appropriations	\$2,297,951
Contributions (excluding new endowment gifts)	\$3,859,584

Audited financial statements are available at supportspl.org.



The Seattle Public Library Foundation has earned four stars from Charity Navigator and a platinum seal of transparency from GuideStar, the highest honors of financial health and transparency from these leading independent charity evaluators.

## **About You, Our Donors**

Your support makes so much of the Library's work possible, from funding signature programs like Story Time and Adult Tutoring to helping put about 1 of every 4 books on the Library's shelves. The Seattle Public Library is built by and for the people, and your thoughtful contributions to your community are a testament to what we can accomplish - together. Here are the highlights of the amazing support you've shown us in 2020:

## 1,223 donors supported us for the last 10 consecutive years.

donors make up our

Legacy Society and

their estate plans.

2,052

visits were paid to

20 Foundation-hosted

events, in person and online.

198

## 64% more new supporters joined

our Library family than in 2019, with 1,775 new donors!



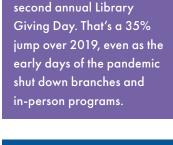
\$341,095

was raised for our



220

donors are Page Turners, giving to the Library all year long with monthly contributions.



8,099 people and organizations supported the Foundation in 2020.







### A salute to community partners

The Seattle Public Library partners with hundreds of organizations throughout the city. Only through partnerships is the Library able to elevate important voices, support learning goals, honor diverse cultures, and expand opportunities for our neighbors to achieve the success they envision. Below represents a partial list of community partners to show the depth and scope of the Library network.

### **Partners to The Seattle Public Library**

Elderwise

Entre Hermanos

Fred Lind Manor

GenPRIDE

Hilltop House

HOST - DESC

Huao House

Keiro NW

Kin On

Lanaston

LGBTQ Allyship

Literacy Source

Mercy Housing

HistoryLink

We express our gratitude to these organizations, along with hundreds of others that may not be listed, that collectively enrich our community every day.

New Beginnings

A for Apple Family Child Care AARP Alphabet Alliance of Color API Chaya Arbora Housing Ardea Coaching Asian Counseling and Referral Service Bailey Boushay Ballard Community Task Force on Homelessness & Hung Ballard Food Bank Ballard Northwest Senior Center **Bayview** Retirement Beacon Business Alliance Bellwether Housing Boys and Girls Club, Greenwood Wallingford and Ballard **Broadview Family Shelter** Building Our Bridge Bureau of Fearless Ideas Burke Gilman Place Apartments Casa Latina Central Area Senior Center Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas Chinatown-International District (CID) Coalition Chinese Information and Service Center Columbia Lutheran Home Compass Housing Authority Council House Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center Delridge Community Center Densho Digital Equity Learning Network of Seattle and King County Downtown Emergency Service Center Duwamish Tribe DVRCC/DVYC, South Park Eastlake Community Council

Elizabeth Gregory Home Norse Home Elliott Bay Book Company North Seattle Family Center North Seattle Services Coalition Experimental Education Unit, Harina Northwest African American Museum Center for Inclusive Educat Our Lady of Fatima School Foss Home and Village Parks Academy of Learning, Foundation House, Northaate McClure Middle School Providence Mount Saint Vincent Fremont Historical Society Puget Sound Welcome Back Center Friends of Little Saigon Queen Anne Helplin Rainier Beach Action Coalition Greenwood Senior Center Reach Out and Read Highland Park Improvement Club Refugee & Immigrant Family Care Safe Harbor Tiny Village Sanctuary Arts Center Home Society of Washington Sand Point Elementary Jump Start School Librarian Steering Committee Schools Out Washington SeaMar Child Development Center Seattle Aquarium King County Correctional Facility Seattle Art Museum Kline Galland Home Seattle Central College Korean Community Service Center Seattle City of Literature Labateyah Youth Home/United Indians Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Lake City Collective Seattle Housing Authority Lake City Seniors Seattle Jobs Initiative Seattle Neighborhood Group Latino Community Fund Seattle Office of Arts and Culture LIHI Tiny House Villages Seattle Parks & Recreation Seattle Public Schools Low Income Housing Institute SHAG Magnolia Book Group Silver Kite Solid Ground Somali Family Safety Task Force MoPOP Pride Book Club **Muslim Community Finance Coalition** South Park Senior Cente Neiahborhood House South Seattle College

Team Read The Vera Project Urban League Villa Comunitaria Wa Na Wari Centers Seattle Office of Economic Development YMCA Head Start

SV LIHI

Southeast Seattle Senior Center Southern Street Kids Day Care Southern Street Kids, South Park Southwest Early Learning Southwest Seattle Historical Society Southwest Youth & Family Service SPACE 101.1FM (Sand Point) Spectrum Dance Theater The Museum of Flight The Washington Bus **U-District Partnership** United Indian of All Tribes Foundation United Way of King County University District Food Bank University Heights Center University of Washington Carlson Center University of Washington iSchool University of Washington Entrepreneurial Law Clinic VA Puget Sound Health Care System Vietnamese Senior Associatio WA Small Business Development Washington Poison Center Wellspring Family Services West Seattle Senior Cente Writers in the Schools Yesler Neighborhood House Preschool YWCA of Seattle/King County Zero Waste Washington

#### Susan and Douglas Adkins Alissa Allen Chris Altwegg and Ellen Blackstone Sodelba Amador Gilbert and Mary Jane Andersor Roger Andersor Jesse Angelo Karen Arman de Carvalho Stephanie and Kalman Axelrod Hannah Baldwin Jane Ballard, Ph.D. Daisy Beach Nancy Duble Becker Marcella Benditt Patricia M. Bentz Kathy and Keith Biever Daniel Black Bailey Bonaci Drs. Greg and Kim Bruce Frances Bueno Natalie Burlingam Alice Byers Alexander Campling Yiran Cao Kelley Chaddock Arianne Choauette Lorrie and Peter Church James and Marti Ann Civarra Nancy Cleminshav Terry R. Collinas Theodore and Patricia Collins Esme Cottinaham Leah Crosby Margaret Mary Davies Gaby de Jongh Alvara Deal Nancy Debaste Steve Denner Ann W. Dittma Alyssa Dobbs

Donna Doepken Terri and Rick Downey Ellen Duernberger Vasiliki Dwyer Meredith Easton Brown and Matthew Brow Laura Eise Sara Elward and Joadey eSta Steve Faust Judith and Fred Fiedle Ellen FitzGerald Lancer Forney-McMahor Joan Gelinas Dillon Gilmore Teresa Gomez lodi Green and Dr. Mike Halperin Deepinder Grewal Sharon Griggins Richard Groomer and Betsy Lieberman Matthew Grover and Tom Bernard Janet Gurer Roy Hamrick Dr. Mary Beth Hasselquist Amy J. Haugerud and Noel Mille Kelby Hawn Chris Higgshi Suzanne Hittmai Keoni Ho Rebecca Hoffman and Timothy Hamlin Mohammed Shazzad Hoshen Khan Suzanne Howard Cindy Huang Carmen Hudsor Sarah Hutchinson Ed Hutsell and Kathy Whitten Grace Jacobs Adrienne James Cindy Jennings Philip Johanson and Kathryn Barron Wendy John Ellen Kissman

These efforts proved critical in 2020, when Library advocacy helped stave off budget cuts slated to occur in the wake of the economic crisis.

Your support helps us maximize the public-private partnership that makes the Library thrive!

### **Legacy Society**

City-allocated funds.

Anonymous (69)

Advocacy

While The Seattle Public Library Foundation generates private philanthropy to support the books and signature Library programs you love, it also works behind the scenes to secure as much public funding as possible to keep our Library strong.

Though the Foundation has raised more than

\$228 million in private gifts for the Library in its

40 years of existence, its advocacy work has helped

secure \$568 million in public dollars during the

past 20 years alone. This work is achieved through

levy support, capital campaigns, and advocacy for

We honor the forward-thinking Library lovers who have partnered with us in planning estate gifts to the Foundation. This generous legacy helps provide for the long-term vitality of the Library.

> Barbara Lake Knight Gary Kunis and Connie Wong Sandy Lambert Colleen Lee Irene Leonard Austin LeSure Louise Lew Don and Carla Lewis Chelan Lippincott Jura Litchfield Andy and Jiona Hua Lu Brian Luke Daniela Luquett Anita MacGillivray Karen Maeda-Allman and Elizabeth Wales Eric Mandel John and Mary Ann Mangels Billie Manrina Karen McAdams Kara McDonald and Larry Palazzolo Raymond McFarland and Julia Thompson Fidelma McGinr Marcia McGreevy Lewis Doualas McLean Mary Mikkelsen Elizabeth J. Miller Stanley Missling Joseph Montgomery Gene Morgan and Sandy Kaplar Lynn and Steve Mowe Jeffry Myers Kristie Neises Joyce Nessif Paul Newman Glenna Olson and Conrad Wouters Mary Anne Parmeter Deborah Paul Marla Peele Sandra Lynn Perkins and Jeffrey Ochsner

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## The Seattle Public Library Foundation 1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle, Washington 98104

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## Library of the year 2020

We congratulate The Seattle Public Library for earning the Gale/Library Journal 2020 Library of the Year award. The Library won this achievement through its effort to expand equity in its services and programs and its strong partnership with the community. We are proud to support our Library!

### **Estate Gifts**

We pay tribute to the memories of those who left generous bequests realized in 2020 to enrich the community through The Seattle Public Library Foundation.

Estate of Susan Gayle Ash Estate of Fam Bayless Estate of Jeffrey M. Gerson Estate of John F. Gregory Estate of Macon Lee Howard Estate of Ernest Ronald Sparks Estate of Carol Bennett Thixton Estate of Elaine Constance Thorson Estate of Edelgard Underhill Estate of Leon Uziel Estate of Patricia M. Van Mason Estate of William C. Weeks

You can help guarantee the vitality of the Library for generations to come with a charitable bequest. For more information on our free estate planning seminars and creating a legacy at the Library, contact **foundation@supportspl.org**.



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