

2021 Annual Report on Donor Impact



Equitable access to the Library supports education, enrichment, and economic opportunity.

As the Library navigated a challenging year, the Foundation was proud to provide more than \$4.5 million in grants to keep books, materials, and programs available for all.

Library staff worked heroically throughout last year to transition back toward partially reopened branches and gradually expanded hours—while continuing to embrace a hybrid model of Library services.

And you, our Library community, stepped up to help. We met our fundraising goals thanks to strong support on Library Giving Day, GiveBIG, and across our campaigns and virtual events.

Thanks to your support, many Library programs were able to reach more patrons with virtual tools that helped overcome barriers to access. In the process, valuable lessons were learned that will improve the Library's reach into communities moving forward.

In this report, you'll read inspiring stories about how programs built cross-cultural communities for immigrants, kept families connected through multilingual storytelling, brought diverse perspectives to public events, and more.

Grounded in equity, these critical programs help educate, enrich, and provide more economic opportunity for our neighbors in a time of great need. We're so proud of what our Library means to our city.

With tremendous gratitude,



Pat Walker
Board President, 2020-21

Education: World Language Story Time

“Immigrant communities need to feel belonging. When people are feeling connected, they give back too.”

- TANIA HINO, WORLD LANGUAGE
STORY TIME STORYTELLER



Tania Hino at the Greenwood Branch, where she led in-person Spanish Story Time programs. (Photo by Will Livesley-O'Neill)

Keeping the Library a key part of children's lives

“The Library is my happy place,” said Tania Hino, sitting in the Greenwood Branch. She was enjoying the return to full open hours and, soon, the chance for programs like her Spanish Story Time to return in-person.

For the past 16 years, Hino has been an instructor for the donor-supported World Language Story Time, a core part of the Library's equity-based youth programming. For the past two years, she's had to make creative adjustments to continue providing a program that so many families have come to rely on for community connection.

“It's well-loved,” Hino said of her Story Time. Many of the same families have attended for years and built close relationships with Hino. After the COVID-19 shutdown, “my patrons were asking, can we do it outside? At a park? Can we figure out some way to do it?” Hino remembered.

The Library quickly provided instructions and support so Hino and other storytellers could restart programs virtually, through live Zoom calls and recorded videos posted to YouTube. “Families missed being able to convene in

person,” said CiKeithia Pugh, early learning program manager for the Library's Youth and Family Learning Services. “It was nice to see familiar faces online — storytellers were missed.”

Making sure the Library remains a key part of children's lives is deeply personal for Hino. She came from Mexico to Texas with her family as a child, where she fell in love with reading thanks to free access to books and summer programs. When they moved to Seattle they experienced housing insecurity, and would spend whole days reading at the Central Library before finding a shelter. “I'm a product of the Library being open, having programs, and being welcoming,” Hino said. “And now I'm giving back because of that experience.”

It was important to Hino to find ways to make kids feel involved in a virtual Story Time. “I'm very interactive,” Hino said. “I like to involve everybody and make them feel welcome, and I think that was the hardest part.”

Running this program virtually for two years provided some important lessons, according to Pugh. In 2021, early learning content on the Library's youth YouTube channel was viewed more than 5,000 times. “Families desire multiple ways to access early learning programming,” Pugh said. “And they learn information from events from trusted community people and other organizations they are connected to.”

Hino hopes the future of World Language Story Time includes more programs and books in more languages and formats. “Immigrant communities need to feel belonging,” she said. “When people are feeling connected, they give back, too. I'm a perfect example of that.”

Support for World Language Story Time helped the Library provide more than 8,000 books, 6,000 animal and alphabet cards, and 16,000 Early Learning at Home booklets in nine languages.

Education for all

From getting every child ready to read, to K-12 student success, to lifelong continued learning, we support education programs that serve all ages, from birth to older adults. In 2021, with your help:

- The Library's K-5 Community Program Partnerships engaged more than 630 youth and families and provided more than 900 books, art supplies, and other materials for virtual lessons, storytelling sessions, author talks, and more.
- Seattle Team Read connected 381 teen coaches from 31 middle and high schools with 767 young readers from 24 elementary schools in paid tutoring opportunities. 89% of elementary students participating in virtual sessions were students of color, and 74% of coaches were young adults of color.
- Nearly 1,100 children aged 18 months to 5 years participated in the Raising A Reader program, receiving 12 weeks of content to reinforce early reading concepts including bilingual family guides, six multicultural books, art supplies, and more.



Interactive story sessions kept kids engaged virtually. (Photo courtesy of Tania Hino)

Enrichment: Guest Curators

“There are opportunities for stories to live outside the walls of the Library and go into the communities themselves.”

- D.A. NAVOTI, INAUGURAL
GUEST CURATOR

Bringing new perspectives to Library programming

“People are still telling stories around the campfire,” said D.A. Navoti. “It’s just on Zoom now.”

At a time when stories — and the connections they create — were urgently needed, the Library launched a new donor-supported Guest Curator program. Navoti, a multidisciplinary writer and storyteller, and Olaiya Land, a pleasure and empowerment coach, were the inaugural curators. They each developed a series of five virtual discussions with writers and community members throughout 2021, centering voices from historically excluded communities.

The program was designed to introduce new and diverse perspectives on Library programming, said Stesha Brandon, literature and humanities program manager for the Library’s Community Engagement Services.

“These curators are folks who have been doing amazing work around town for years, and the program gives the Library an opportunity to feature their voices and celebrate the topics they are interested in,” Brandon said.

Curators had complete control over their series and were compensated for their work. Land appreciated the leeway to tackle challenging issues like sexuality and race. After the past several years, she observed, such conversations are sorely needed.

“People are ready to talk about more real topics, and explore them and find meaning,” Land said. Her series was about radical self-acceptance as a form of activism, building on a theme she noticed in her own life and societally during the

pandemic. Every part of her series focused on welcoming women, people of color, LGBTQIA+ people, those with neurodivergence or different body types, and others often excluded from traditional programming.

Both Land and Navoti wanted everyone involved to be able to bring their own lived experiences to the virtual campfire. Navoti sought a theme to unite people across generations and cultures. His subject, the trials of growing up, was both weighty and light-hearted. “Humility or embarrassment is a great mix for bringing people together,” he noted.

More than 300 people viewed the Guest Curator events live. Navoti and Land both heard positive feedback from the writers, activists, and attendees who appreciated the chances to share vulnerable feelings, have unfiltered conversations, and join spaces that felt intentional, welcoming, and safe.

Many attendees joined from communities that don’t usually access the Library, and hundreds more people have viewed the event videos on YouTube. Land has also used the audio from her series in her *Lionesse* podcast.

The experience will help future Guest Curators and other Library programs reach overlooked audiences, Navoti said. “There are opportunities for stories to live outside the walls of the Library and go into the communities themselves.”

The full Guest Curator series are available to watch at bit.ly/3PG17D0.



Land (top left) devoted one part of her series to *Voices of Color in Food*. Navoti (bottom right) partnered with *Writers in the Schools* for his first discussion on childhood. (Photos courtesy of SPL YouTube channel)

Enriching our community

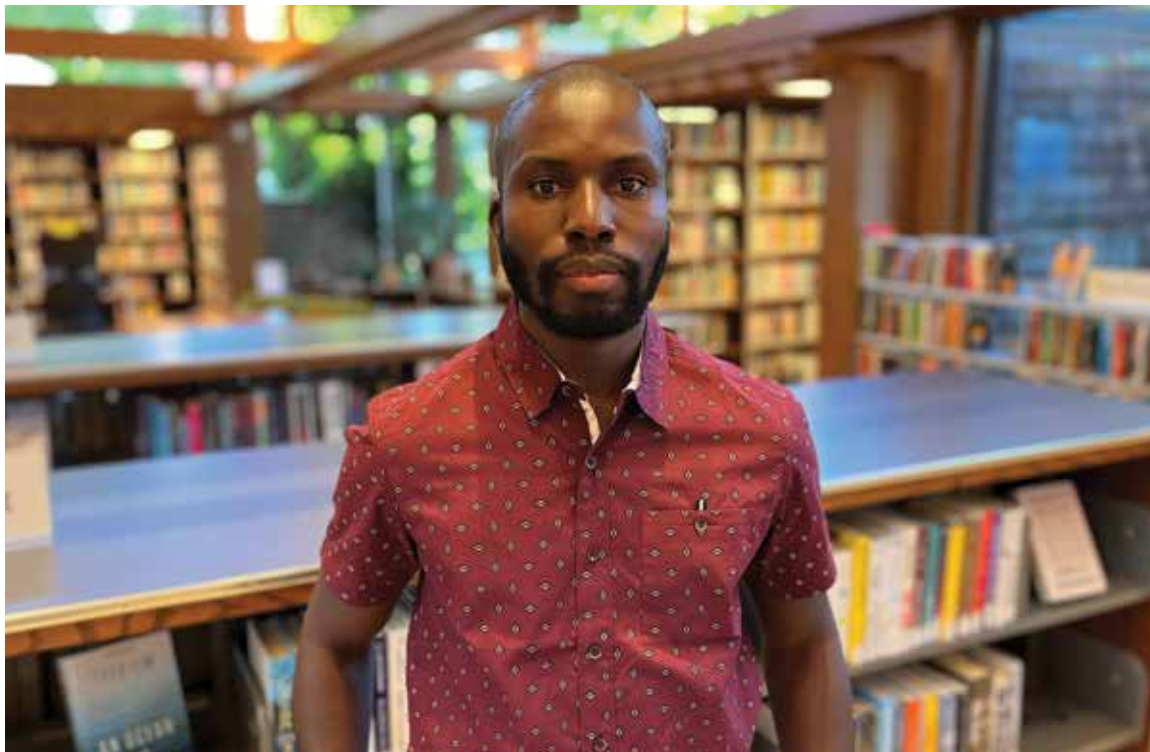
By supporting the purchase of about 100,000 books and materials, plus funding for cultural events and programs, we enrich the community with inspiration, entertainment, and social connections. In 2021, with your help:

- The Library’s Public Engagement programs reached an audience of more than 6,200 community members. This included an art-centered public health series around COVID vaccination led by and directed toward the communities of color most harmed by the pandemic, an Art Club for youth of color in collaboration with local artists and Solid Ground Housing, and online film screenings centered on the African diaspora.
- Mobile Services provided safe access to Library materials for older adults, individuals with disabilities, preschoolers from families with lower incomes, and others with barriers to access. Total circulation in 2021 was more than 62,000. Regular visits or deliveries went to 18 preschools, 65 adult facilities, and 12 homeless encampments. Twenty-four new tablets and 30 internet hotspots allowed patrons with technology barriers to connect.
- More than 8,000 people participated in the Seattle Reads program by reading and/or attending events centered on the novel “The Vanishing Half” by Brit Bennett. The Library distributed 750 free copies in partnership with LANGSTON, African-American Writers’ Alliance, and Wa Na Wari, and more than 7,600 copies circulated through the system, mostly through digital checkouts.

Economic Opportunity: English Conversation Circle

“It’s amazing to see students continually coming back, and sharing more, and sharing deeper.”

- **CARISSA HASTINGS, LITERACY SOURCE INSTRUCTOR**



Wallace at the Magnolia Branch. He learned about the English Conversation Circle program after visiting the Library when he arrived in Seattle. (Photo by Will Livesley-O’Neill)

Forging an international community through conversation

As demand for social connections surged among immigrant and refugee communities during the pandemic, the Library turned to a trusted partner organization, Literacy Source.

The donor-supported English Conversation Circle program helps non-native English speakers increase language skills and develop cultural competencies. It aims to build abilities that can help participants accomplish their goals, whether in job searches or other aspects of American life.

“There’s definitely a big appetite for conversation,” said Carissa Hastings, an instructor at Literacy Source, “especially in communities that were already isolated and have only become more isolated.”

The Conversation Circle format gathers small groups of people to discuss a topic, ranging from travel and food to more serious issues like racial discrimination or cultural identity. Hastings said that the comfortable environment created by the students, staff, and volunteer

instructors keeps people engaged. “The students are asking for these deeper topics because they feel safe,” she said. “It’s amazing to see them continually coming back, and sharing more, and sharing deeper.”

The program has proven more popular than ever. Despite taking place virtually, attendance increased every quarter last year, reaching an average of 21 people per session. One evening slot drew twice as many virtual participants compared to the same in-person program before the pandemic.

The flexibility of hosting on Zoom allowed more students to access the program, Hastings said. Traditional participation barriers like transportation and childcare are eliminated. And people from all over the world can participate. Students invite family members from Colombia, Somalia, South Korea, and beyond. “They don’t mind the time difference, they jump on anyway,” Hastings said.

More than 200 people participated in Conversation Circles last year, representing 40 countries and at least 28 languages. “My favorite part was the opportunity to discuss different topics with people from all over the planet,” said Wallace, a former Conversation Circle student

from Brazil. “Those people provided me with a desire to visit, explore, and learn more about every single culture I’ve had contact with.”

The experience was so meaningful for Wallace that he chose to volunteer soon after he developed English fluency. “I decided to volunteer because of my fear of communicating,” he said. “The program team has guided me through roads that I haven’t explored before, and because of them, I decided to do the same for others.”

Volunteers like Wallace help run breakout rooms so students can get to know each other. Former students also help develop the programs and create activities and lessons that are engaging to foreign-born students. Wallace created several murder mystery games for his classes.

“On my day as a facilitator, I could see how the program really touches souls. No matter where you are from and your age, we are always open to learning through experiences,” Wallace said. “I will remember that until my heart stops beating.”

In 2021, 149 donors gave to the Foundation’s Equity & Access Fund, raising more than \$400,000 specifically to expand equitable programming. Add your name by contributing at supportspl.org.

Creating economic opportunity

Libraries strengthen our economy by helping people develop job skills, find employment, and serve as information hubs for entrepreneurs and small businesses. In 2021, with your help:

- The Library offered 71 virtual Job and Life Skills classes to more than 1,300 participants. Trainings also took place at Seattle Housing Authority sites and through a partnership with Casa Latina, with materials translated into Spanish.
- Teens from the Rainier Vista and NewHolly neighborhoods gained workforce development skills during paid summer internships, producing a video on financial literacy to share with their community. The Seattle Housing Authority and Delridge Neighborhood Development Association were partners on the project.
- The Beginning Leadership for Organizing and Orchard Management (BLOOM) program provided a college-level introduction course to young adults of color. Fellows learned about baking and garden planning, studied soil remediation and urban farming, and took part in discussions on food justice and food sovereignty.

2021 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 public servants who made up our Board in 2021:

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Pat Walker, President Tyler Mickey, Treasurer
Justo González, Vice President Catherine Irby Arnold, Secretary

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Ross Baker	Grace Nordhoff
Gene J. Chang	Andrés Paguaga
Morgan Collins	Susan Potts
Lauren Dudley	Anne Repass
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Sibyl Frankenburg	Haeryung Shin
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Ellen Look	Hewan Teshome
Mary Mara	Michele Turner
Ruth Massinga	Vivian Vassall
Courtney McKlveen	Irene Yamamoto
Nick Momyer	Julie Zunker

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

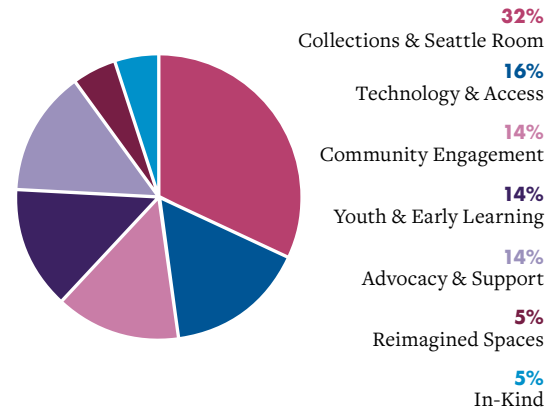
THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tom Fay, Chief Librarian (Interim)
Marcellus Turner, Chief Librarian (until March 2021)

2021 Impact Information

Year ending December 31, 2021

SUPPORT TO THE LIBRARY



Collections & Seattle Room	\$1,571,628
Youth & Early Learning	\$704,492
Community Engagement	\$708,803
Technology & Access	\$799,172
Advocacy & Support	\$693,227
Reimagined Spaces	\$249,754
In-Kind Support to the Library	\$223,165
Total Support	\$4,950,242
Foundation Operation Costs	\$1,081,039
Total	\$6,031,281

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Unrestricted Contributions	\$3,174,115
Endowment & Quasi Endowment Payouts	\$2,205,742
Purpose Restricted Contributions	\$515,554
In-Kind Contributions	\$231,769
Total	\$6,127,180



The Seattle Public Library Foundation has earned a platinum seal of transparency from GuideStar, the highest honor of financial transparency from a leading independent charity evaluator.



Meet a Fellow Donor: Lynn Frances Guthrie



Long-Term Impact: Guthrie has been working with Sarai at READ WRITE LEARN from second grade (left) through her senior year (right). (Photos courtesy of Lynn Frances Guthrie)

Lynn Frances Guthrie, a longtime donor to The Seattle Public Library Foundation, has dedicated her life to literacy. Regular visits to the public library in New York City were part of her upbringing and she remembers feeling the value of storytelling from a young age.

Today she operates READ WRITE LEARN, where for the past 15 years she has helped scores of young people in South Seattle improve their reading and writing skills. Guthrie often brings her students on field trips to The Seattle Public Library's Columbia Branch and encourages them to participate in summer reading programs.

Recently, Guthrie began searching for a wider-reaching way to promote a love of books and learning, particularly for students from communities with the least access to educational resources. When she read about the Foundation's Endowment Giving program, it planted the seed for her to consider a form of giving she'd never imagined.

"Not only did the Foundation encourage me to define and refine how I wanted my gift to be used, but it became clear that with their expertise, experience, and effort, my goals would be accomplished," Guthrie said.

She has now established the READ WRITE LEARN Endowed Fund for Children and Youth Programs. The endowment will support learning programs for children for generations to come.

Guthrie frequently hears from her students about how much they value teachers reading to them and

introducing them to new books. She sees the potential for more engagements like the donor-supported Global Reading Challenge, for which she regularly reads along with her participating students.

"The idea is that the Library isn't just something people use, it becomes a part of kids' lives," she said. "What's important is to make children and their families aware of how the Library can serve them."

Sarai, a high school senior with college on the horizon, has studied with Guthrie since second grade. She hopes the READ WRITE LEARN Endowed Fund creates more experiences like hers. Dedicated support with reading and writing helped her to build vocabulary and become a better student.

"I hope this will bring a lot more opportunities for students to become great leaders in their lives," Sarai said.

Guthrie is grateful for the chance to leave a legacy of support for young people like Sarai. Thanks to her fund, many more Seattle students will experience the wonders of the Library.

"In the words of Jorge Luis Borges, 'the Library will endure; it is the universe,'" she said. "And I am proud to be a part of ensuring its endurance."

Endowed funds are invested strategically and generate income used to support the Library's work in perpetuity. Inspired by Guthrie's story? Learn more about the Endowed Giving and Annual Gift Forever programs at supportspl.org/ways-to-give.



Leave a Library legacy

You can help ensure that The Seattle Public Library is enjoyed for generations to come through your estate plans. Including the Foundation as a beneficiary in your will, retirement asset, or life insurance, or making a gift to an endowment, leaves a generous legacy that helps provide for the long-term vitality of the Library.

Legacy Society

We honor the forward-thinking Library lovers who have partnered with us in planning estate gifts to the Foundation.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Anonymous (72) | Alyssa Dobbs | Ellen Kissman | Julie Peterson |
| Susan and Douglas Adkins | Donna Doepken | Barbara Lake Knight | Meg Pettibone |
| Alissa Allen | Terri and Rick Downey | Gary Kunis and Connie Wong | Kathi Ploeger and Don Meyers |
| Chris Altwegg and Ellen Blackstone | Ellen Duernberger | Sandy Lambert | Carl Rank |
| Sodelba Amador | Vasiliki Dwyer | Colleen Lee | Saxon Rawlings |
| Roger Anderson | Meredith Easton Brown and Matthew Brown | Irene Leonard | Anne Repass |
| Jesse Angelo | Laura Eise | Austin LeSure | Kate Riordan |
| Karen Arman de Carvalho | Lynne and Hallie Ellis | Louise Lew | Davis Risser |
| Catherine and Sky Arnold | Sara Elward and Joadey eStar | Don and Carla Lewis | Alexandra Rochester |
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| Bailey Bonaci | Deepinder Grewal | Karen McAdams | Michael Smith |
| Drs. Greg and Kim Bruce | Sharon Griggins | Eve McClure and Florence Peterschmidt | Susan Spurkland |
| Frances Bueno | Richard Groomer and Betsy Lieberman | Kara McDonald and Larry Palazzolo | Bill and Stephanie Stafford |
| Natalie Burlingame | Matthew Grover and Tom Bernard | Raymond McFarland and Julia Thompson | Susan and Alfred Starr |
| Alice Byers | Janet Guren | Fidelda McGinn | Olga Stewart |
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| Matthew Cannard | Mary Beth Hasselquist | Douglas McLean | Neal and Nan Sullins |
| Yiran Cao | Amy J. Haugerud and Noel Miller | Mary Mikkelsen | Norman Swecker |
| Elizabeth Carpenter | Kelby Hawn | Elizabeth J. Miller | Amado Tanglao |
| Kelley Chaddock | Chris Higashi | Stanley Missling | Mary Alice Theiler |
| Zena Chew | Suzanne Hittman | Joseph Montgomery | Diane Tibbott |
| Arianne Choquette | Keoni Ho | Gene Morgan and Sandy Kaplan | Adrienne Tollefsen |
| Lorrie and Peter Church | Rebecca Hoffman and Timothy Hamlin | Lynn and Steve Mowe | Louise Townsend and Benjamin Schmidt |
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| Esme Cottingham | Sarah Hutchinson | Sue and George Olson | Patricia Weenolsen |
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| Margaret Mary Davies | Grace Jacobs | Deborah Paul | Allan Wenzel |
| Gaby de Jongh | Adrienne James and Clayton Blinker | Marla Peele | Dick Weyte |
| Alvara Deal | Cindy Jennings | Sandra Lynn Perkins and Jeffrey Ochsner | Kimberly Windsor |
| Harvey and Nancy Dean | Philip Johanson and Kathryn Barron | Jan Peterson | Steve and Lynn Wolf |
| Nancy Debaste | Wendy John | | Hannah Woodworth |
| Steve Denner | James Johnson | | Rona Zevin |
| | | | Julie Zunker |

Advocacy

In addition to fundraising for the Library, a key part of the Foundation's work is advocating for the public funding essential to keeping the Library strong.

The Foundation has helped secure and restore more than \$568 million in public dollars in the past 20 years through levy support, capital campaigns, and advocacy for public funds. This means that public funding provides the core operations and private support is leveraged to greatly enhance Library services.

In 2021, the Foundation successfully advocated for critical state and local funding. We helped restore funds to reverse the previous year's City budget cuts and secure an additional investment for much-needed air conditioning/HVAC upgrades at the Northeast and Southwest Branches. The State Legislature also appropriated funding to assist with renovations at the historic Green Lake Branch.

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



Community Partnerships

The Seattle Public Library partners with more than 450 organizations to engage with community, improve equity and access, and expand opportunities for all. Below are just a few examples of the many Library programs with community partners in 2021:

- "What the World Needs Now: A Dreamathon" helped the Library engage young people of color in virtual programs about vaccines and public health. Events included a virtual dance party hosted by **The Station** coffee shop on Beacon Hill and streamed via **Converge Media** and **Wa Na Wari**, a kids clinic with **Dr. Ben Danielson**, and a community celebration in partnership with **African American Health Board**, **Pacific Islander Community Association**, and others.
- Ongoing Library programs at **Seattle Housing Authority** locations provide on-site services for residents. For example, in 2021 digital navigators offered basic computer and internet trainings at the Denny Terrace, Olympic West, and Yesler Terrace locations. At Yesler Terrace, participants were primarily women from East Africa. Students reported clear benefits for job and life skills.
- In partnership with the **Somali Family Safety Task Force**, the Library offered intergenerational virtual storytelling programs led by immigrant and refugee parents. Families engaged in culturally responsive stories, crafts, and activities, and received books and learning supplies in advance to plan virtual sessions.



The Seattle Public Library Foundation

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**ANNUAL GIFT
FOREVER**

Launched in 2021, the Foundation’s Annual Gift Forever program allows you to make a gift as enduring as your dedication to the Library. This is a way for loyal Library donors to include a gift to a Foundation endowment in their will, which becomes a gift that goes on forever. Visit supportspl.org/annual-gift-forever.

Estate Gifts

We pay tribute to the memories of those who left generous bequests realized in 2021 to enrich the community through The Seattle Public Library Foundation.

Anonymous

Estate of Susan Gayle Ash

Estate of Fam Bayless

Estate of Kay Collins Edwards

Estate of John F. Gregory

Estate of Doris A. Horn

Estate of Walter R. Jelonek

Estate of Frances J. Kwapil

Estate of Margaret H. Levis

Estate of Rosal Mangiante

Estate of Edelgard Underhill

Estate of Leon A. Uziel

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.



Foundation

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