The year 2020 was unlike any other, and it presented many challenges to St. Louis Public Library (SLPL) and its Foundation. Library Staff had to be flexible, adaptable and innovative. Thanks to our ingenuity, SLPL was able to address the challenges of the year.
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In fiscal year 2020, your St. Louis Public Library Foundation raised and provided $1,333,131 in support of St. Louis Public Library.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMMING:
• Born to Read Bags for New Parents
• Early Childhood Outreach Team
• Storytimes (In-Person and Online)
• Off the Shelf (Online Early Childhood Series)
• 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
• Read It Together
• Reading Pays
• Read It Forward
• Summer Programming
• Summer Camps
• Summer Learning Kits
• School Year Camps

ADULT PROGRAMMING:
• Creative Experience Programming
• Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Programming
• Not So Quiet! Concert Series
• Veterans Writing Workshops

EXHIBITS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS:
• Great City, Great Architecture: The Steedman Library and St. Louis

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

NEW MATERIALS

ENDOWMENT

CAPITAL:
• Creative Experience Tech Installations
• Central Pollinator Garden
“A big THANK YOU shout out to you and your staff for the continued wonderful programming you provide for us...I made them a little pretend library set up last week cause they were lining all their books up in the living room and giving me a ‘storytime.’ So cute! They even made themselves name tags so I’d know they were library workers.”

Support for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten provided by Nancy E. Wight Trust and Dana Brown Charitable Trust.

90,132 served in 2020
2,327 Born to Read bags distributed
“Thanks for your work and programming. My children are growing in knowledge and their enjoyment of learning with the help of the library.”

59,500 children served

39,188 total viewers

8 shows aired on PBS Nine Network
SUMMER AT HOME CAMPS AND MORE

“Thank you SO much for doing this, it’s beyond appreciated as a parent to let my daughters have some sort of normalcy.”

“Both of my kids loved it. They were so excited to get the craft package - this was a nice surprise and we appreciated it so much!”

1,400 SLPL activity kits distributed
410 summer camp kits mailed
54 summer camps (at home and online)
CREATIVE EXPERIENCE
@ BARR LIBRARY

Construction on Creative Experience @ Barr began in late 2019 and opened to the public on March 10, 2020. Creative Experience @ Barr invites people of all ages, experiences and backgrounds learn, use and master cutting-edge equipment and software that can launch their own personal and professional endeavors.

Creative Experience @ Barr Library made possible by support from:

Bayer
Edward Jones
Susan Nagarkatti

Creative Experience Offers:
Audio/Visual Editing Software
Adobe Creative Suite
Video Game Design
Virtual Reality Station
Laser Cutter
Cricut Cutting Machines
Large Format Printers
3D Printer and much more!

24 workshops offered in 2020
KEEPING ST. LOUIS CONNECTED
DIGITAL ACCESS

The year 2020 highlighted the disparity that exists in our community. St. Louis Public Library increased its efforts to address the digital divide by providing additional WiFi Hotspots and Chromebooks available for free checkout at Library locations across the City.

3 weeks of free internet for one household
15 devices can be connected to each WiFi Hotspot at one time
200 additional WiFi Hotspots
On February 19, 2020, St. Louis Public Library Foundation welcomed Friends of the St. Louis Public Library to preview St. Louis Public Library’s new exhibit, Great City, Great Architecture: The Steedman Library and St. Louis.
IN MEMORIAM
St. Louis Public Library Foundation would like to recognize those we have lost who have significantly impacted the Library and its mission.

ERICA LEISENRING
Erica was not a native St. Louisan but became one through her wide network of friends and her dedicated work to better her community. The Library was fortunate to be among Erica’s interests, and that she understood and valued the importance of its mission: she was active, generous, and thoughtful in her support of the Library for many years. Erica combined warmth and humor with a sort of fierce dedication, intelligence, and plain hard work that made her invaluable. Her legal work on behalf of children and families brought the Library important perspective and connections. Many of us at the Library were grateful for her friendship as well as her work – Erica and Bob were a great help as we began the work of the Foundation. The St. Louis Public Library will benefit from Erica’s support and guidance for many years to come.

STEPHEN HIGGINS
Steve was appointed to the Library’s governing Board when Mayor Shoemehl recognized that St. Louis badly needed a revitalized public library and that Stephen Higgins was someone who would work to make that happen. His experience as U.S. Attorney and his remarkable background in the Army and as a newspaper reporter made Steve a great asset for the Library, and he worked hard on our behalf. Steve could be tough and demanding, but always with a goal of furthering the Library’s work, and always with his help in accomplishing what needed to be done. Steve made the transition to the Library’s Foundation Board and brought all of the same energy and enthusiasm to that role. You could always quickly find Steve at Library events because he would be in the center of a crowd of friends, laughing and enjoying his company.

NANCY E. WIGHT
Wight, who passed away in 2018, had spent much of her life volunteering and even spent time performing puppet shows for children in public schools while living in New York City. Her passion for working with children continues beyond her lifetime thanks to a planned gift to St. Louis Public Library Foundation. In 2020, St. Louis Public Library’s (SLPL) launched a new program 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten due to the generosity of Nancy E. Wight.
IN MEMORY OF:

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Thank you to those who recognized others with tribute and memorial gifts throughout 2020.
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