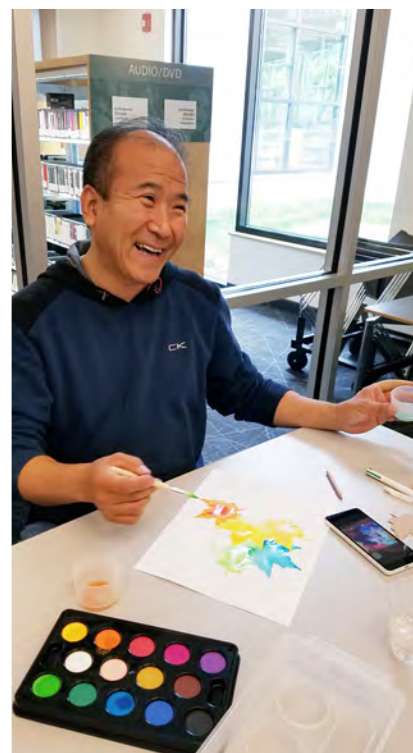




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REVIEW
& STORIES
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INTRODUCTION

For King County Library System patrons, 2017 was quite a year! It included a number of major milestones, from System-wide celebrations of KCLS' 75th Birthday to the development of a comprehensive Strategic Focus that renewed our commitment to our communities.

Close to 21 million items were checked out by our patrons in 2017, including an astounding 4.7 million downloads of digital content, making KCLS the top digital-circulating library in America. KCLS also entered the homestretch of a \$172 million Capital Bond program approved by voters in 2004 to build, expand and renovate your community libraries. The April grand opening of the new 10,000-square-foot Tukwila Library was marked with a huge community celebration. And when the new Kent Panther Lake and renovated Boulevard Park Libraries are completed in 2018, King County Library System patrons will have access to a total of 50 libraries in a county that continues to grow and whose residents expect excellence in library service.

Throughout the year, KCLS created opportunities for patrons to learn more about compelling issues that may affect them individually or collectively. The adult program series **Everyone's Talking About It**, featured classes on Northwest earthquakes and emergency preparedness; what is and isn't "fake news"; how to strike a better balance between private and public information; panel discussions with those experiencing homelessness; climate change; the "Tiny Houses" building trend; and many other newsworthy subjects.

The Library System developed a new **ideaX Makerspace**, held an **Xperience Music and Technology Festival** for patrons of all ages, and offered an **Arts and Tech Fest** for seniors. KCLS offered hundreds of programs for everyone from infants to teens; tapped local experts for talks on subjects from opera to brain science; helped people study to become citizens, and partnered with King County Elections to make voting more accessible for patrons by placing ballot boxes at libraries. Library meeting rooms were never busier, hosting scouts, writers, quilters, Little Leaguers, environmentalists, fly-fishing clubs, book clubs, inter-cultural and arts organizations, and many others.

Our **Strategic Focus** was crafted with broad public input that included local education, business and government leaders, library staff, patrons and advocates—more than 4,000 community members and organizations in all. It is a guiding light that aims to create opportunities through meaningful connections while affirming KCLS' dedication to providing patrons access to information and resources they want and need.





The Strategic Focus is an important organizational guide that is shaped by KCLS' **Mission** to inspire people through ideas, interaction and information, and the Library System's **Vision** to create a world where knowledge allows diverse communities to prosper and grow. It is in step with the **Values** that KCLS aspires to each and every day—knowledge; diversity, equity and inclusion; and intellectual freedom to support the Library System's efforts to bring people together in ways that strengthen communities and create a sense of belonging.

We hope you enjoy reading the Year in Review and Stories of 2017, and reflecting on the many ways KCLS has endeavored to help our patrons live their best lives.



Lisa G. Rosenblum

Lisa G Rosenblum

Library Director

IN THE MIDST OF KNOWLEDGE



This past year, learning and growth opportunities abounded, with something for every age and interest. Kids learned math while playing games of probability; high school students and their parents received advice from college counselors; people of all ages heard experts discuss how to prepare for the next big earthquake; and combat “fake news.”

KCLS’ newest initiative, **ideaX**, connected patrons of all ages to hands-on learning and “maker” experiences emphasizing emerging technology, digital arts and STEAM concepts (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math). In all, more than 351 ideaX programs were offered at 30 libraries in 2017.

KCLS’ year-long, system-wide adult education series, **Everyone’s Talking About It**, invited patrons to discuss timely topics and to promote respectful conversations within communities on issues such as politics, race relations, immigration, the opioid epidemic, Internet privacy, homelessness and the environment. The series also made sure patrons had fun, incorporating classes on how to dance; drum; garden; paint; beat burnout and stress; and re-connect with nature. In all, 5,399 patrons attended 282 Everyone’s Talking About It programs, which also included a year-long **Know Your History** series that offered classes on musical history (the Beatles); state history (Washington at War); local history (Seattle waterways, Ballard Locks and Lake Washington) as well as antiques, genealogy and what valuables to keep when downsizing. A total of 88 Know Your History programs were attended by 1,469 patrons.

Many newcomers to the area need help learning English, and KCLS is there with Adult Education Programs providing literacy and life skills, citizenship preparation, social connections and a sense of inclusion. In 2017, volunteers with **Talk Time**, an English conversation class, served 2,211 individuals at 25 libraries. Volunteers also provided Citizenship instruction at 14 libraries, serving another 675 individuals. KCLS also offered 40 English as a Second Language classes, in partnership with local colleges, organizations and local instructors. A total 255 sessions were held, drawing 4,302 participants.



Native-language literacy is an important step in pursuing further academic and career success. KCLS chose the centrally located Bellevue Library to host **Plaza Comunitaria**, an education completion class for Spanish-speaking adults. The three-year-old program, in partnership with the Mexican Consulate in Seattle, serves adults who want to complete their primary and secondary educations. A total 468 students attended the program in 2017. Fourteen adults graduated from elementary and middle school in 2017.

Another program to help students earn a high-school diploma, **High School 21+**, was offered in Spanish. Administered by Renton Technical College with funding and support services from Seattle Goodwill, the program helps close student achievement gaps by providing a comprehensive educational path towards graduation. In 2017, nine students graduated in the first trimester.

KCLS' **Robotics, Coding and Tech** series offered smaller, hands-on workshops to 539 older elementary, middle school and high school ages. From radical robots to 3-D printing, to launching virtual rockets, students had the opportunity to work with the latest science and technology.

KCLS provides curriculum support to schools by providing programs ranging from a Book-It performance of the children's book *El Deafo*, to Living Voices historical performances related to the civil rights movement, to Poetry Alive!, a touring group that acts out poems with the help of audience members. A total of 12,170 elementary, middle and high school students benefited from these programs.

Teen Service Librarians in local libraries arranged over 100 programs that served 2,573 tweens and teens with programs ranging from writing classes, Maker programs, ukulele music sessions and art and science workshops.

KCLS offered 38 State Training and Registry System (**STARS**) workshops. A total 759 childcare providers and early childhood professionals benefited from these free, continuing education trainings.

A DEEP LOVE OF BOOKS AND READING



While libraries offer a welcoming community presence and responsive programs and services, our diverse collection of books and other information resources are at the heart of what we do. This is mirrored by our librarian's passion to connect patrons with great reads, who are truly thrilled when they find just the right book for each individual's tastes.

Services such as **BookMatch** connect readers with subjects of interest. In 2017, KCLS launched **10 to Try** to challenge readers to delve into 10 different genres they may never have tried before. 10 to Try drew praise, with patrons reporting increased reading, the joy of discovering new books, a heightened appreciation of library services and a sense of community connection. In addition, **KCLS Reads**, a monthly eNewsletter with staff-created content, had 1,682 subscribers by the end of the year—a 45 percent increase over 2016.

For the 18th consecutive year, KCLS held the **Global Reading Challenge**, a competition that encourages reading and teamwork. Teams of fourth- and fifth-graders read six books selected by KCLS Children's Librarians, working together to answer questions based on the books. In 2017, a total 6,888 students participated, forming 238 teams from 54 schools.

KCLS **Book Clubs** are increasingly being formed by patrons themselves around various titles, topics, interests and age groups. Book clubs, in fact, are growing more popular at every library, whether focused on classic literature or the latest bestseller, political topics or hobbies like knitting.

And more than 20,000 items flew off **Quick Read Shelves** placed in 45 community locations; with King County residents taking home materials donated from various sources. The books and magazines are free, and do not need to be checked out or even returned. Children's materials, including those in Spanish, are in high demand, comprising about 45 percent of donated materials.

In 2017, KCLS also ramped up its popular **Author Visits**, bringing in a wide range of writers to discuss their works and their craft. The year-long series drew 3,930 people to 194 presentations.

Patrons also took advantage of **Lucky Day** collections at Covington, Fairwood, Federal Way, Kingsgate and Sammamish Libraries. KCLS added three more collections at Burien, Mercer Island and Shoreline Libraries in 2017. Copies of high-demand titles that typically have long holds are made available on library shelves, giving lucky patrons early dibs on popular titles. Patrons checked out Lucky Day books nearly six times more often than the average book in the KCLS collection.



Is this your Lucky Day?

DISCOVERING THE UNEXPECTED



Many patrons are on a mission when they head to a library. They may aim to do research or study for school; use the computers and databases; attend community meetings; check out books; or attend classes. But KCLS also loves to surprise people with innovative programs that patrons may not have considered, raising the bar on entertainment, engagement and learning.

An **Instrument Petting Zoo** offered in partnership with KING-FM radio and Music Center of the Northwest, allowed musical beginners to literally blow their horns. More than 520 children and parents attended this very popular program at six libraries and enjoyed trying out violins, clarinets, flutes, cellos and even a tuba!

In 2017, a pilot initiative to connect with new patrons led to the installation of two **OverDrive Media Stations (OMS)** at Sea-Tac Airport, which sees more than 42 million travelers pass through its gates each year. The OMS featured a large, attractive touch screen interface displaying KCLS' catalog of eBooks and eAudio that passengers could download to their personal device using the free OverDrive app. Travelers requested more than 31,000 downloads during the year.

KCLS understands that when many people in King County were growing up, high-tech meant rotary phones, typewriters and carbon copies. So the Library System addressed this generational “digital divide” by holding an **Arts and Technology Fest** in October for older adults. Nearly 700 people tried out new technology apps and devices, or experimented with new art forms during fests that were held seven different days at five south King County libraries. Among the findings from 153 surveys: 56 percent of those attending the fests had never been to a library program before; and 97 percent reported an increased sense of comfort with both arts and technology. Patrons also said that in addition to building personal skills, they realized they weren’t alone, gaining a stronger sense of community thanks to the program.



Wisdom Cafés gave older adults opportunities to converse with others about the positive aspects of aging. The year-long series included classes on overcoming limitations, the importance of gratitude and socializing and how to reduce stress. KCLS collected more than 300 surveys, with 99 percent of patrons reporting a stronger sense of community and 97 percent claiming an increased sense of value for their own life stories and experiences.

KCLS held its second annual **Assistive Technology Fair** at the Auburn Library, featuring a dozen organizations from throughout the region that provided resources and assistance to people with hearing, vision and/or mobility challenges. One of the year’s shining moments came from a **Dementia-Friendly Arts Program** for dementia-sufferers and/or their caregivers. Bothell, Burien and Auburn Libraries hosted classes on watercolor, dance, poetry and storytelling.

Better You, Better World took place in the Southeast region of King County, with 19 different programs to serve 550 people. The program featured partnerships with a number of food banks and organizations, including 4-H of King County; Regional Animal Services of King County in Kent; Lake Wilderness Arboretum; Master Gardeners; and a wildlife shelter. The majority of participants (98 percent) said they learned something new about library services and area resources, and 30 percent were first-time attendees of library programs.

And while you can find thousands of books and other materials at libraries, in 2017 a first-ever **Seed Library** at the Woodmont Library gave residents an opportunity to borrow something they could eat and not have to return. Carrots, tomatoes, peas, zucchini and even flower seeds were offered. More than 1,200 people checked out seed packets and a handful even returned their own harvested seeds to keep the seed packets well stocked.

CONNECTING WITH PATRONS



When people think about connecting with information or others, they may think about the Internet. KCLS offers many ways of providing online connections and digital resources, including an increasingly used KCLS website and growing popularity of staff-curated social-media and eNewsletters. But KCLS is also well aware of the importance of interpersonal communication, working hard to ensure this remains a robust part of library service.

In 2017, KCLS completed the implementation of the **Student Library eCard Program** in every school district in KCLS' service area. After successfully piloting the program in the Bellevue School District in late 2015, KCLS continued to expand electronic library access to K-12 students. Student library eCard accounts are the same as each student's school ID number, so it's easy for them to remember. In total, more than 221,000 public school students have easy access to an array of services via the KCLS website, including eBooks and audiobooks, homework help from online tutors, digital magazines and newspapers, online videos and databases. Usage of eBooks, databases and KCLS' online tutoring service during the 2017-2018 school year is on track to easily surpass the previous year. In 2017, KCLS also expanded the eCard program to teachers; 25,000 staff in nine of the 18 public school districts served by KCLS.

Many patrons know they can call **Ask KCLS**, where they can directly contact a librarian for answers to their questions. Ask KCLS, a long-time patron support service, drew 51,854 calls and 8,280 emails in 2017. Some frequent queries included definitions of various words; instructions for eBooks; the availability of certain books, magazines and movies, and even weather forecasts.

One-on-one assistance is also part of **Study Zones** offered at 39 libraries. More than 320 volunteer tutors, including retired teachers, provide positive and consistent work environments for students needing assistance with homework and developing effective study and reading comprehension skills. In all, volunteers provided 12,000 hours of free tutoring, supporting 10,434 students.

KCLS also offered **Online Tutoring** services through Tutor.com and Brainfuse, which focus on science and math at high-school and pre-college levels. Patron satisfaction ratings were 98 percent for both online tutoring services. In 2017, there were 69,780 total uses.

Tech Tutor, a computer education program, offers patrons a way to develop technology skills as well as certification opportunities. An introductory program includes volunteer-led individualized and group tutoring for computing concepts and software. Lynda.com offers detailed online training for more advanced students and technology professionals as well as software certification testing. In 2017, more than 2,000 patrons attended one-on-one tutoring sessions and group classes; 34 percent of surveyed attendees said they were using the services for the first time. The program also administered 516 software certification exams; 270 of those (52 percent) earned passing scores.

Mobile Outreach Services extend the reach of library services and programs to people who, for various reasons, cannot make it to a library themselves. Mobile Services programs are critical, reaching thousands of people each year. In 2017, Mobile Outreach Services reached a total 84,774 youth, families and caregivers. **ABC Express**, a bookmobile service, serviced 45,466 people at various venues, making 600 visits to childcare facilities and to families at large apartment communities. Another mobile service, **Library2Go!**, served a total 39,308 people at smaller childcare facilities, home childcares and other neighborhood visits.



SUMMER READING: LEARNING AND GROWING



For decades, KCLS has focused its activities, programs and services to ensure that summer is a time for everyone to enjoy, and for children and teens to keep on reading and learning in the months when school is out. Engaging programs and activities, based on the latest education research, aim to make learning fun while preventing students from falling behind academically—referred to as the “summer slide.” In 2017 KCLS added adults to its summer reading agenda.

Children’s Summer Reading had a 31 percent increase over 2016, with a total 43,903 children registering, and a 21 percent increase in the number of kids who finished the program. In total, children who registered for Summer Reading read 21.6 million minutes! KCLS also hosted 37 community events drawing 4,965 kids and families, and libraries held a total 564 Summer Reading programs from June to August, with a grand total of 21,348 attending.

Teen Summer Reading was also a big success. Teens turned in 11,613 reading logs—a 34.5 percent increase—and 2,899 teens participated in 148 programs across KCLS libraries.

Adult Summer Reading drew 1,771 patrons to 64 programs. Adults were particularly fond of summer **Reading in the Park** at 13 different locations across the county. In total, more than 600 patrons enthusiastically grabbed lounge chairs, beach blankets, picnics and their favorite books to make the most of summer afternoons.

Another important aspect of learning during the summer is providing **Summer Meals** to children, tweens and teens who qualify for free or reduced-priced lunches during the school year. Kids took advantage of this important program at 13 library locations and a total of 8,464 meals were served. Along with receiving a nutritious meal, kids took home 2,072 books that were provided by the KCLS Foundation.

Summer Outreach programs help ensure that even kids who can't make it to libraries still have access to reading and learning. KCLS served a total 23,656 kids in grades K-12, including 16,917 during 478 individual visits and 6,739 at Summer Y Camps. KCLS also gave away 16,700 books at these visits.



Another summer outreach program funded by the KCLS Foundation, **Teen Voices**, offered opportunities for teens to create their own programs and to engage with their peers. The program aimed to instill valuable and translatable skills for future success, including project management, collaboration and leadership skills. Teen Advisory Boards across four different regions worked together to plan a Teen Voices Summit. Redmond teens discussed immigration, mental health and "breaking the gender binary;" Tukwila teens tackled racial equity in schools; Renton teens took on anti-bullying; and Maple Valley focused on "life hacks." A total 145 students earned community-service credit for participating, yet most told KCLS that it was the opportunity to express their concerns in a safe, non-judgmental group environment that was especially valuable.

Summer was also a big time for **Kaleidoscope Play & Learn** groups which help families prepare their children (newborn to age 5) for school. This program, based on scientific evidence, reaches families in their neighborhoods and in their native languages at weekly, facilitated play groups and helps extend KCLS services to diverse populations. A total 23,679 people attended 656 weekly sessions at 13 libraries during the year, including classes in Spanish/English at six locations, Chinese/English at five locations and English-only classes at two locations. During the summer months alone, 159 Kaleidoscope Play & Learn sessions drew 6,228 patrons.

Fiestas Early Literacy Parties in Spanish has proven a successful year-long initiative in addressing gaps in educational equity by preparing Latino children for kindergarten. Early literacy skills were delivered to 268 individuals, including children and family members, at eight participating libraries. Thanks to the KCLS Foundation, 450 bilingual children's books were distributed to participants.

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING



Libraries open their arms and doors to everyone, offering people of all ages and backgrounds a sense of belonging and community. The year 2017 saw KCLS and its patrons come together in many meaningful ways, from parties celebrating the Library System's 75th Birthday, to festivities heralding a total eclipse of the sun, to film festivals and discussions on race and immigration, to various community gatherings exploring and honoring the diversity of cultures throughout King County.

During **Welcoming Week** in September, KCLS partnered with other groups to host Journey to Peace: A Community Feast & Sharing Event at the Kent Senior Activity Center. The evening event brought together hundreds of immigrants, refugees and native-born residents to raise awareness of the benefits of welcoming everyone. Attendees shared a meal and personal stories exploring different cultural and religious experiences. The event, which included facilitated dialogue, followed a Northwest Coast First People's tradition and was co-sponsored by Project Feast, Interfaith Community Sanctuary, City of Kent Cultural Communities Board and Kent Cultural Diversity Initiative Group.

KCLS also offered **Know Your Rights** workshops to address the need to disseminate current and accurate information about the legal and civil rights shared by all, including documented and undocumented immigrants. Workshops were held in seven community libraries, informing 150 immigrants of their legal rights, developing a family safety plan and ways to support someone who is detained by immigration officials. The workshops were a partnership with Colectiva Legal del Pueblo and Eastside Legal Assistance Program.

A core group of 12 students representing 11 schools composed the newly created **Rainbow Teen Advisory Board** in 2017. They planned and promoted events that brought LGBTQ youth together to build an inclusive community. Eighty teens showed up June 17 for the first event, Summer Pride Dance & Game Night at the Old Firehouse Teen Center in Redmond. A second event on October 28, the Red Carpet Drag & Cosplay Show, drew sixty teens to the Kirkland Teen Union Building.

The final event of the year, Spectrum Identities: Art Exhibit and Open Mic on December 1 at the Bellevue Arts Museum, featured an exhibit of teen art representing a spectrum of gender and sexual identities. Sixty teens came to the exhibit, which included crafts, spoken word poetry and a live music performance.

Several libraries (Bellevue, Renton and Kirkland) hosted discussions on “color blindness,” “micro-aggression” and “institutional racism.” The talks, which drew a total 177 attendees, were part of *The Seattle Times’* project called **Under Our Skin: What Do We Mean When We Talk about Race?** The program aimed to challenge assumptions, inspire critical thought and build common ground. It was a collaborative effort with community partners, including the City of Bellevue, City of Renton and the Renton Historical Museum.

Another popular, long-standing fall program series called **Many Voices, One Land** celebrates the Northwest’s diversity, with concerts, puppet shows and storytellers transporting children to Japan, Russia, Africa, Australia, China and other countries around the world. Artists also taught Maker workshops featuring embroidery, printmaking and painting. Total attendance for the two-month program was 9,046. Another series in the spring, **Playing with Words and Music**, attracted 5,349 patrons of all ages and offered a diverse range of programs featuring storytellers, poets, musicians and authors.

For KCLS’ 75th birthday, libraries held parties with balloons, games and cupcakes, and the System also collaborated with HistoryLink.org to make the extraordinary history of all libraries available to everyone. Long-time staff recalled days, seemingly not so long ago, when patrons checked out books using card catalogs and nobody knew what a barcode was, let alone the Internet. From its origins as tiny roadside “libraries” with book shelves sharing spaces



with schools and city halls, to the grand openings of new libraries, and its current status as one of the most remarkable library systems in the country, KCLS has come a long way with the support of its passionate patrons.

MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD LIFE GOALS



KCLS is dedicated to forging meaningful connections with patrons in as many ways as possible. Inspiring people to succeed through ideas and information is part of the Library System's mission, and staff work hard to identify and deliver the services and programs that help people meet their personal, professional and financial goals, and participate fully in a democratic society.

In 2017, patrons took advantage of **classes and information** on job readiness, resume preparation, financial planning, tax help and how to launch a small business. They learned computer and literacy skills, attended Citizenship Classes, and found resources and assistance for housing, parenting, energy conservation, emergency preparedness, childcare, legal and other issues. Other programs ranged from how to stay healthy (exercise, nutrition, recreation and positive aging to name a few) to how to do one's part for the environment. Nor did KCLS shy away from tough subjects, partnering with the King County Heroin and Opiate Addiction Task Force to host forums for community members on the nation-wide opioid crisis, offering information on treatments and paths to recovery.

A total **5,399** people attended **282** adult programs, offering a broad spectrum of educational interests, topics and skill-building.

KCLS continued its partnership with **King County Elections** to increase voter accessibility across the county. Ballot drop boxes were originally placed at 16 libraries in 2016, but due to demand for more locations, the program was expanded in 2017. KCLS also hosted an Accessible Voting Center at the Bellevue Library during elections. Accessible Voting Centers are available to voters who need assistance completing their ballot. Ballot drop boxes are permanently installed at 16 KCLS libraries: Auburn, Bellevue; Covington; Enumclaw; Fall City; Kingsgate; Algona-Pacific; Fairwood; Valley View; Boulevard Park; Skyway; White Center; Shoreline; Snoqualmie; Vashon; and Woodinville. In 2017, King County Elections reported that more than 50% of ballots were returned to these accessible drop boxes.



When the doors open at a library, patrons make a beeline for computers or plug in their own devices to take advantage of KCLS' wireless access. In 2009, there were 1,700 computer workstations at KCLS libraries. By the end of 2017, that number had almost doubled—to 3,000—due to increased demand and the completion of new libraries. **Public computer access** is especially important since an estimated 20 percent of King County residents do not have computers at home. KCLS continues to make improvements in computers, wireless systems and other technology to ensure patrons have reliable online access to meet their needs.

During an average month, patrons logged **204,156** computer sessions using their KCLS library cards for a total **129,253 hours**.

BUILDING SPACES FOR ALL



In 2017, the new 10,000 square-foot Tukwila Library opened to wide acclaim and brought the Library System's total square footage to 769,707. The light and airy building also brought KCLS closer to delivering on its promise to voters to build, expand and/or renovate libraries across the county. With only two projects remaining—a new Kent Panther Lake Library and a renovated Boulevard Park Library—KCLS is proud of this multi-year effort resulting in spectacular libraries that will serve many generations to come.

Since the \$172 million **Capital Bond Measure** was passed by voters in 2004, KCLS has built 16 new libraries, expanded 11, renovated 14 and expanded two parking lots. While bond funds build libraries, operating funds maintain them. This is especially important considering how heavily used they are; nearly a million people walk through the doors of KCLS libraries each month. In 2017, Facilities completed roof repairs at the Bellevue and Bothell Libraries, and fixed heating, ventilation or air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Upkeep and repair of carpeting, furniture and other items that are heavily used or damaged, is an ongoing and important task for KCLS.

In 2017, two additional renovations were completed. Using operating revenue, the Library Connection @ Southcenter was expanded by 1,763 feet and now stands at 5,085 square feet. The Des Moines Library entry and meeting room was also remodeled thanks to a generous bequest from a long-time Des Moines Library patron.

The Capital Bond also made possible the installation of **new artwork** at several libraries, including John Fleming's 30-foot-high sculpture, *Multiplicity*, outside the new Tukwila Library, and a large untitled mural by Kelly Staton in the children's section. A photograph by Christopher Boffoli, *Octopus Survey Team* can be found at the White Center Library.

From the beginning stages of planning and site-design, KCLS has adhered to **Green building practices** for each of its new or renovated libraries. LEED-certified architects are hired, and contractors are encouraged to use recycled materials to help conserve natural resources, and designs emphasize natural lighting. Chemical-laden materials such as paint, sealants and carpeting are avoided to improve indoor air quality, and low-flow fixtures for toilets and sinks conserve water. Seven libraries feature rain gardens, which help reduce pollution, flooding and provide wildlife habitat.



AND THE AWARD GOES TO

Throughout the year, KCLS has received a wide range of awards for its efforts, including design awards for its facilities; a coveted grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; national awards for various programming; and national and local honors for its promotions and communications. While it is always rewarding to be recognized, KCLS patrons are the ultimate winners.

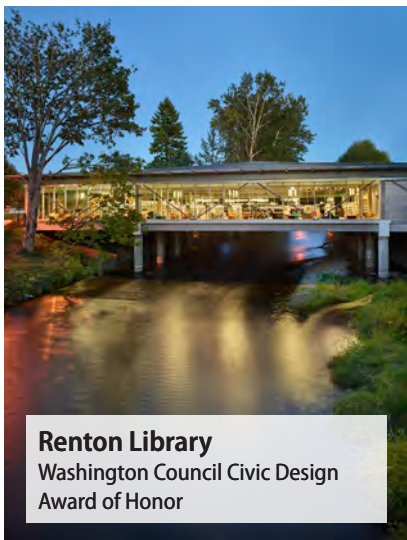
HONORS RECEIVED IN 2017



Kingsgate Library
National IES Illumination Award of Merit



Skyway Library
Seattle Section Illumination Award for Interior Lighting



Renton Library
Washington Council Civic Design
Award of Honor



KCLS' unique book-restoration **Mendery** and its master craftsman Donald Vass were featured in a 12-minute documentary film that won a 2017 Gold Telly Award, a World Fest Gold Remi Award, and an IndieFest Merit Award. It was also featured at four international Film Festivals: Port Townsend, Seattle, Sedona (Arizona) and Tacoma.

In October 2017, KCLS' **Rainbow Teen Advisory Board (RTAB)** was recognized nationally by the Urban Libraries Council with an Honorable Mention Top Innovator Award in the category "Positioning the Library." Founded by Teen Librarian Stephanie Zero, R.TAB provides East King County LGBTQ youth a safe place to socialize and gain valuable leadership skills.

GRATEFUL FOR OUR SUPPORTERS



Thanks to King County taxpayers who have approved such measures as the 2004 Capital Bond and multiple Levy Lid Lifts (most recently in 2010), KCLS today is one of the finest Library Systems in North America, with one of the most extensive all-around collections and most remarkable buildings throughout a still-growing county. Amazingly, the generosity of residents does not stop there. Private donations to the KCLS Foundation, a separate 501c(3) organization, have made larger library spaces possible at the Tukwila Library and Library Connection @ Southcenter; supplemented innovative programming; and have enhanced services to extend KCLS' reach to more people in every community. And thanks to the support and loyalty of enthusiastic advocates—Friends, Library Advisory Boards and community volunteers—libraries are able to deliver services and programs specifically tailored to local community needs and interests, augmenting an already robust slate of System-wide programming for all ages. KCLS is grateful for all the public, private and volunteer support, which strengthens the connections between libraries and patrons, individuals and learning opportunities, and between residents themselves.

KCLS FOUNDATION

In 2017, thanks to the generosity of nearly 2,000 donors, the **KCLS Foundation** was able to fund more than \$940,000 in grants to support new and expanding programs. This support is vital to realizing the KCLS vision of creating a world where knowledge allows diverse communities to prosper and grow. Foundation grants fund pilot programs like OverDrive Media Stations at Sea-Tac, and Raising a Reader, aimed at underserved populations, such as those experiencing homelessness or struggling with reading. In 2017, the Foundation was instrumental in realizing the dream of a new Tukwila Library, raising \$1 million to ensure a community-centric location and more square footage than originally planned. The Foundation also sponsored 13 author events, featuring cookbook authors, local writers, Pulitzer-Prize winners and others, drawing a total 579 attendees.



KCLS FRIENDS, GUILDS AND ASSOCIATIONS

KCLS Friends, Guilds and Associations are dedicated citizens who strengthen KCLS through fundraising, volunteer and program support, and advocacy. In 2017, KCLS' 44 Friends groups provided approximately \$307,545 in support to libraries, including paying for special programs tailored to their communities and local interests.



HIGHLIGHTS

The Tukwila Friends were revitalized this year by the opening of the new Tukwila Library on April 29, where core members set up a table to recruit new members, who have not only swelled the ranks of the Friends but who have also brought renewed energy to the group.

This summer, the Newport Way Library served boxed lunches three days a week to a target group of families who would not have access to lunches while school was not in session. More than 750 meals were given out to youth ages 18 and younger. The Foundation supplied meals and giveaway books, while the Newport Way Library Association provided granola bars for adults and staffed the meal distribution. Teen volunteers read books with families that attended. At least once a week librarians came in to talk to kids and their parents about books, the Summer Reading Program and other library resources.

The Woodinville Friends celebrated their 30th Anniversary and hosted an Alice in Wonderland-themed celebration entitled "Alice in Libraryland" in conjunction with KCLS' 75th Birthday. They also sponsored a Maker Madness series. Programs included What are You Reading?, Book Brunch, Kid Flix movie serie, and the popular Blind Date with a Book.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARDS

KCLS values the opportunity to work with local **Library Advisory Boards** in many of the cities that are part of KCLS' service area. Members of these community boards are appointed by city officials and serve in an advisory capacity on matters regarding library services. Advisory Board members act as liaisons between their local library and city officials for their community.

In 2017, KCLS hosted several training and discussion forums for Library Advisory Board members. Thirteen cities—Bellevue, Bothell, Duvall, Enumclaw, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, Redmond, Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila—have active Library Advisory Boards.



Advisory Board members engaged in KCLS' Strategic Planning process at winter forums held at Woodmont and Redmond Libraries. Participants were presented with three strategic scenarios to present to their respective city councils for comment and their feedback was incorporated into KCLS' Strategic Focus.

Fall forums held in Maple Valley and Kenmore enabled Advisory Boards to review such topics as the expansion of the KCLS Board of Trustees from five to seven members; next steps for KCLS' Strategic Focus; an update on the KCLS Library Director hiring process; and planning suggestions for a spring 2018 event.

CIRCULATION

LIBRARY	CHECKOUTS	LIBRARY	CHECKOUTS	LIBRARY	CHECKOUTS
FALL CITY	93,956	LAKE FOREST PARK	214,547	FEDERAL WAY	496,817
ISSAQUAH	609,321	RICHMOND BEACH	182,332	FEDERAL WAY 320th	227,939
NORTH BEND	188,714	SHORELINE	740,441	VASHON	265,132
SAMMAMISH	881,910	NORTHWEST REGION TOTAL	1,137,320	SOUTHWEST REGION TOTAL	989,888
SNOQUALMIE	158,579	BOTHELL	914,447	ALGONA-PACIFIC	149,042
EAST REGION TOTAL	1,932,480	KENMORE	295,637	AUBURN	307,334
BOULEVARD PARK	57,671	KINGSGATE	363,824	MUCKLESHOOT	25,630
BURIEN	350,729	KIRKLAND	647,916	SOUTH REGION TOTAL	482,006
GREENBRIDGE	40,153	NORTH REGION TOTAL	2,221,824	ALL LIBRARY REGIONS	15,808,892
TUKWILA	90,014	CARNATION	82,365	MOBILE SERVICES	181,497
VALLEY VIEW	89,991	DUVALL	176,405	YOUTH SERVICE CENTER	23,643
WHITE CENTER	130,586	REDMOND	1,236,047	SPECIAL SERVICES	205,140
WEST REGION TOTAL	759,144	REDMOND RIDGE	93,592	ASK KCLS	14,625
FAIRWOOD	531,101	SKYKOMISH	11,802	DOWNLOADS <small>Includes streaming</small>	4,716,707
RENTON	222,805	WOODINVILLE	462,246	INTERLIBRARY LOAN	16,112
RENTON HIGHLANDS	314,490	NORTHEAST REGION TOTAL	2,062,457	PROFESSIONAL	37,797
SKYWAY	126,649	BELLEVUE	1,116,659	CENTRAL/SPECIAL SERVICES	4,990,381
SOUTHCENTER	67,154	CROSSROADS	413,661	SYSTEM TOTAL	20,799,273
CENTRAL REGION TOTAL	1,262,199	LAKE HILLS	339,638		
DES MOINES	219,438	BELLEVUE REGION TOTAL	1,869,958		
KENT	392,140	MERCER ISLAND	361,839		
WOODMONT	165,828	NEWCASTLE	365,427		
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION TOTAL	777,406	NEWPORT WAY	494,417		
BLACK DIAMOND	65,586	NORTHCENTRAL REGION TOTAL	1,221,683		
COVINGTON	477,290				
ENUMCLAW	168,935				
MAPLE VALLEY	380,716				
SOUTHEAST REGION TOTAL	1,092,527				

693,039 physical titles | **3,984,773** copies in physical collection | **51** electronic databases

155,868 titles and **548,719** copies in **Overdrive** digital book and audiobook collection

Freegal online streaming music & videos **10,401,977** songs & **30,716** music videos

RBDigital online audiobook and digital magazines | **7,236** audiobooks & **231** magazines

hoopla digital online movies, television, music | **11,056** comics; **20,112** television episodes

GOVERNANCE

KCLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The King County Library System is governed by a **Board of Trustees** in accordance with RCW 27.12. Trustees are appointed by the King County Executive and approved by the King County Council. Trustees serve as at-large members for no more than two consecutive five-year terms. In 2017, a bill passed by the Washington State Legislature expanded the KCLS Board from five to seven members to strengthen governance and improve county-wide representation.



2017 Trustees

Jim Wigfall, President



Robert Spitzer



Robin McClelland



Angélica Alvarez



Lalita Uppala



Pamela Grad



KCLS Director

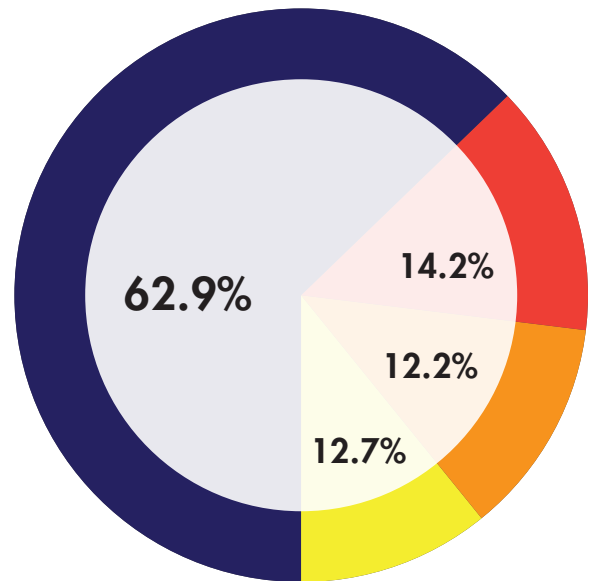
Stephen A. Smith, Interim

FINANCIAL REPORT

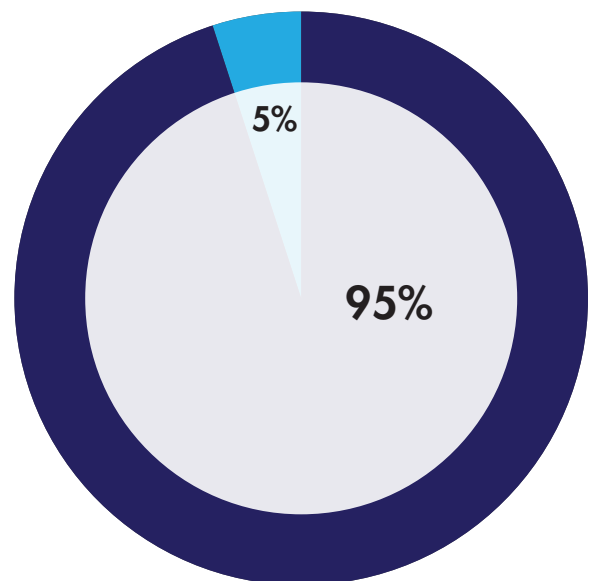
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In 2017, revenue increased 2.8 percent over the prior year primarily due to growth in housing values and new construction. Prudent **financial management** held spending to 97 percent of budget and allowed KCLS to maintain a strong financial position while continuing to invest in the services and resources that have the greatest impact on our communities. KCLS continued to budget expenditures with a long-range financial forecast in mind and an objective to defer the next levy lid lift beyond the original 2018 target date.

EXPENDITURES \$115,151,436



REVENUES \$120,700,638



*In 2017, Friends groups contributed an additional \$307,545 to support library programming.

STEWARDSHIP

As required by state law, the King County Library System is audited each year by the Washington State Auditor, whose office conducts both an Accountability Audit and a Financial Statements Audit as part of its work to promote accountability, integrity and transparency in government.

The Accountability Audit evaluates the Library District's internal controls to determine if they are adequate to safeguard public funds, comply with state laws and regulations, and conform to KCLS' own internal policies and procedures.

The Financial Statements Audit uses guidelines established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) to evaluate whether KCLS' financial statements are free of material misstatements, and comply with laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on the accuracy of KCLS' financial position.

KCLS has a strong track record of compliance with laws, regulations and the accepted procedures required by the Washington State Auditor, reflecting prudent **financial stewardship** and governance of public resources.



STORIES OF 2017

The King County Library System works hard to provide enriching programs and services to connect people of all ages and backgrounds to ideas, information, and knowledge. We are passionate about engaging the people of King County in meaningful ways, helping individuals and communities grow and prosper.



Stories of 2017 recognizes and highlights some of the great work being done and how it benefits county residents.

BRAIN RULES FOR AGING WELL DRAWS A FULL HOUSE



When it comes to aging well, John Medina had good news for the 170 audience members who packed Redmond Library's meeting room to hear the brain-development expert discuss his latest book.

"It's not all about your helix," said the author of *Brain Rules for Aging Well*. "About 20 percent of your ability to navigate the aging process is related to your DNA, or how well you choose your parents. The other 80 percent is about you and your lifestyle."

Medina, who also authored the best-selling *Brain Rules* and *Brain Rules for Baby*, is a developmental molecular biologist long fascinated with the way the mind reacts to and organizes information. An affiliate professor of bioengineering at the University of Washington's School of Medicine, Medina was invited to speak as part of KCLS' adult programming series, **Everyone's Talking About It**.

One message—that the human brain reaches its peak performance at age 24—elicited groans and chuckles from the audience.

"While that's mostly depressing," Medina said, "there's plenty of good news for you, too."

He focused on several principles for staying vital, happy, and sharp, including relationships, gratitude, mindfulness, the importance of reminiscing, and life-long learning. He urged attendees to "invest in age-friendly behaviors," or what he described as one's "cognitive 401K."

Medina explained how brain chemistry changes and functionality improves through social interaction, and how something as simple as hugging can positively impact one's health and the health of others.

"I came to this class for me," said K. Anderson, a preschool teacher who uses *Brain Rules for Baby* in her classroom. "But now I understand that reminiscing with my 78-year-old mom is important for her emotional health."

"I was somewhat surprised to hear John's emphatic advice to mend family relationships that are estranged or dysfunctional," L. Geller wrote in an email to KCLS. "I actually have been diligently working on improving my relationship with my parents. As uncomfortable as that process is at times, now I know that I need to finish it, and not be tempted to take shortcuts."

Medina made a strong case for changing the way health care is delivered to seniors, particularly those with dementia and Alzheimer's, citing research that shows how increased socialization and memory-triggering environments improve brain function.

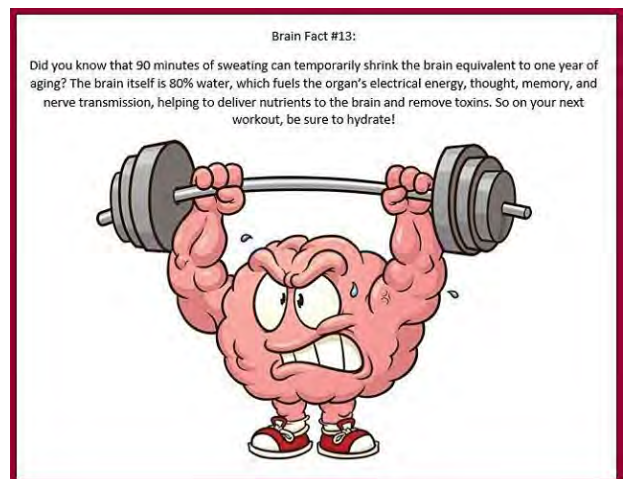
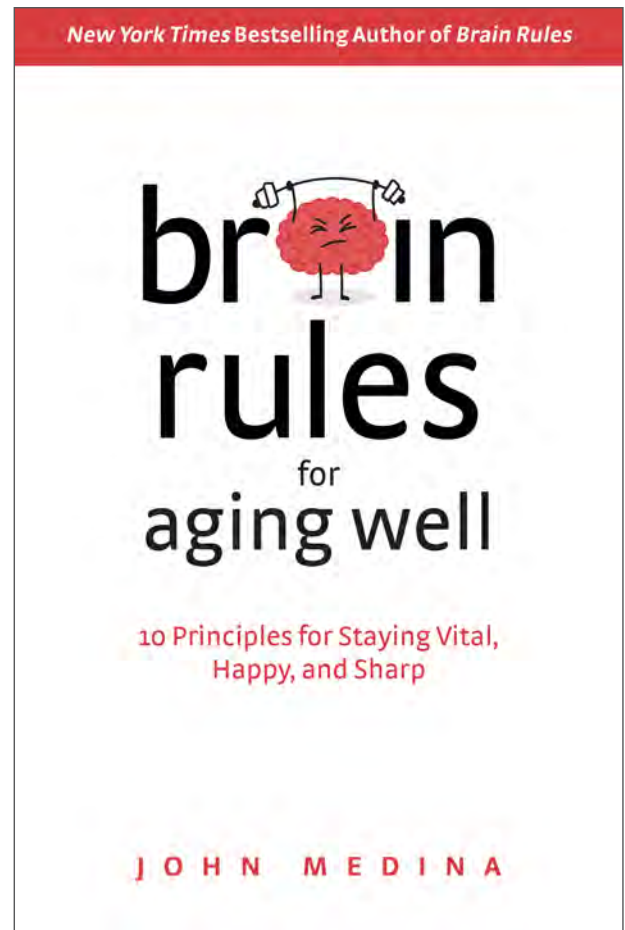
"This explains why my father, who is 99, wants to watch Lawrence Welk all the time," said N. Jorgensen. "Now I know how important hugging and physical contact is for seniors, and why I should buy oldies for him to listen to instead of Pavarotti."

"I had not heard about the value of being nostalgic," added L. Bouten. "I had designed a 'nostalgia' plan in my head for my 80-year-old parents before I got home!"

L. Geller praised KCLS.

"Please have more events like this! I like to attend KCLS events and I am very grateful that KCLS invests in our community by offering these opportunities to learn and grow."

G. Llanos enthusiastically agreed. "It was fantastic to hear from a well-known UW professor; he gave great tips on the brain and aging that were supported by anecdotes and life stories. These talks truly enrich our lives."



COMBATTING FAKE NEWS IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA



How do private citizens concerned with getting accurate information in the online world distinguish between real and “fake news?”

Kate Starbird, Assistant Professor at the University of Washington’s Department of Human-Centered Design and Engineering, tackled this timely topic during a presentation at the Redmond Library as part of KCLS’ **Everyone’s Talking About It** adult program series.

In a Crisis: Online Rumors, Conspiracy Theories and “Fake News” drew on Starbird’s extensive research analyzing data from Facebook, Twitter and other social media to trace the origins of misinformation and how it is propagated.

The former Stanford University and professional basketball star has studied social media behavior as it pertains to issues ranging from politics to conspiracies to societal crises, such as shootings and terrorism. She told the audience that deciding what is true—and what is not—has become increasingly difficult because online

content spreads quickly, gets disconnected from its original source, and loses context.

She described “echo chambers,” a phenomenon that occurs when people forward emails, re-tweet, or “like” items that reinforce their own opinions. “People tend to self-select into homogenous groups,” she said. “How many of you unfollowed friends and family members after the last election?”

Hands went up. One woman said she unfriended eight.

Starbird said that social media amplifies the tendency to “hear only those people who think like us” and ignore those who challenge our assumptions and beliefs.

Patrons said one of the biggest eye-openers was a discussion about Facebook.

“Do you know that Facebook curates information using an algorithm that identifies your preferences based on your past online behavior?” Starbird asked. “If you’re opposed to certain candidates,

for example, Facebook will keep feeding you accordingly.” She said that social-media platforms are designed to give people what they want so that they’ll keep using the sites—and respond to the ads that pop up on them.

Starbird said social media’s revenue-generating model undermines trust and threatens democracy by diverting advertising money away from other sources that are filtered and vetted, such as long-established newspapers or broadcast news, which “are having the economic rug pulled out from under them.”

“Social media is a misnomer; it’s really an advertising delivery and information-harvesting system,” she said.

Another concern is online trolls, cynical pranksters with names like “Comfortably Smug,” who spread misinformation either for fun (“people should know better”) or money (they generate thousands of “likes”). Others create Internet bots—automated, hyper-clicking software that tweets and re-tweets information at a much higher rate than would be possible by a human alone.

“Propaganda works by repeating things until they become familiar, affecting people’s perceptions and emotional responses,” she said. “We now know that spreading misinformation is a geopolitical tactic. The purpose of misinformation is not to convince, but to confuse and muddle, so that people lose trust. A society that can’t think clearly can be more easily controlled and manipulated.”

Starbird hopes that people will question what they read online and support more reliable sources of information. She also emphasized that computer engineers must realize “they are human first, coders second” and believes they should be required to take liberal arts and ethics courses.

“More technology is not the answer,” she said.

Starbird’s presentation checked all the boxes for the 50 patrons who attended, many of whom stayed until the library closed to continue to ask questions.



“I wanted to know more about this interesting topic,” said L. Hajmiragha. “Fake news is a concern, and this helped me learn how to dissect and discern what’s real.”

B. Fornwalt said she came to the class because some in her family are negative toward social media. “I thought it was important to have more information under my belt. Tons of stuff she (Starbird) said really clicked, like how many of these social media sites are linked to each other.”

Patron and author Kirk Packwood said he had “a bit of a connection” to the topic, having written a 2004 book about social media memes called *Memetic Magic*, which was used by a political group in ways he never intended. The experience made him want to learn even more about social media and misinformation.

Packwood said he particularly appreciated Starbird’s research and discussion of political disinformation practices.

“We need a program to spread knowledge of (the existence of) fake news so that the public can spot it when it occurs.”

CONFLUENCE TUKWILA WELCOMES DIVERSITY THROUGH IMMIGRANT STORIES



You are welcome here. We want to learn more about—and from—you.

That was the resounding message of **Confluence Tukwila: Arrivals**, an event held at the Tukwila Library to promote inclusivity in the diverse “Gateway City” north of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

The event drew 65 people and was part of Welcoming Week (September 15–24), a nationwide initiative bringing together immigrants and local residents in cities across America.

J. Encke of Action Tukwila kicked off the library discussion. “I think we’d all agree that we’ve become pretty awful at listening to each other, which results in tribalism in society.”

“We just need to listen; that’s the purpose of this event,” Encke said. “You don’t have to agree with other people’s stories. We want to start this conversation in Tukwila, to help reach greater understanding between all cultures and all generations.”

Speakers recalled hardships and obstacles to overcome, but they also expressed gratitude for the support and generosity from their local community. Their stories were different, but all had a common thread: they were thankful to be in the United States.

Nine-year-old M. Martin told of her great-grandparents, who had lived in Seattle’s Green Lake neighborhood before moving to the Tukwila area. Her family grew flowers at their Duwamish greenhouse, creating a thriving

business until the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941. In 1942, federal agents forcibly moved family members of Japanese descent to California.

“The greenhouse was gone, but our dreams to thrive were not,” she said, looking up at her parents and grandmother in the audience. The girl said a local man, whose father was a German immigrant and horticulturist, helped the family rebuild the greenhouse.

“It’s easy to create conditions for flowers to grow,” she said. “It is harder to create conditions for people. . . Tukwilans understand the importance of nourishing communities.”

Many attendees were visibly moved when A. Papyan, age 28, told of his American odyssey. Born in Armenia, he lived in Renton until immigration problems forced his family back to Armenia. Knowing that he would have more opportunities in the U.S., he was determined to return, which he did at age 13. But he spoke no English and got bad grades at first.

"I realized other students were struggling like I was, not knowing English," he said. "As teachers recognized how hard I was working, they'd help me. Friends would help me. I felt like I was becoming part of the community." He ended up joining the tennis team, clubs and volunteered for the high-school leadership team.

He beamed as the audience applauded him enthusiastically.

C. Hnin, a Burmese-American married to a husband of German descent, spoke of recently buying a home in Tukwila lovingly built by Finnish immigrants. When she asked the audience how long they had lived in their homes, a number of people raised their hands to indicate 20 or more years.

"This was such a cool event," said H. Watters. "My husband and I have traveled all over the world and we love Tukwila's diversity. Tonight reminded me that other people's stories are a form of travel, too."

M. Parrish, a former teacher, also had praise for the event.

"I love the interactions we had. It reinforced why this community has become a part of me."

A woman whose social-service career ended when she became ill, said she came to the event after "being a recluse" for many years.

"Something clicked, and I decided to come," said K. Wright. "Listening to all these stories has been inspiring. I've decided I want to come back and get involved."

While nobody could predict the future, many said the event felt hopeful and promising for bridging cultures.

Mayor Allan Ekberg, who attended the event, put it best.

"Life stories are something everyone should share, and this event helps open the doors of understanding. These activities enliven the library, and brings the community together."



GRANT SEEKERS FIND SUCCESS AT THE KCLS NONPROFIT AND PHILANTHROPY RESOURCE CENTER



Money is hard to come by, especially for nonprofits. But for the last 18 years, KCLS has provided a fund-raising path for worthwhile projects through its Nonprofit and Philanthropy Resource Center (NPRC) at Redmond Library.

In 2000, KCLS Librarian Jeannette Privat was asked by then-Library Director Bill Ptacek to develop and head a resource center to help patrons navigate the complex, often intimidating world of grant funding. Since then, countless organizations have been helped by Privat's passion for connecting them with the information they need to succeed.

Privat has helped people save park land, preserve open spaces, support caregivers, bolster low-income and senior housing and add youth soccer fields. Patrons have obtained grants that support theater and chamber music, indigenous peoples, food banks, public health, historical preservation, multicultural families, social justice, youth activities, community development, museums and the Special Olympics.

C. Gould, who works for Arts Impact, an arts-education organization, recalls how she and colleague B. Buehler were "a little down-hearted" prior to a meeting with Privat.

"Jeannette is wise, patient, funny and tech-savvy. Her approach and coaching filled us with confidence," Gould said. "After an hour, we were up and running. We hope to meet with her again to benefit from her expertise."

Although 80 percent of those using the Center are nonprofits, Privat says she will connect anyone with needed resources.

"After all, I'm a librarian," she said. "We've had people obtain corporate sponsorships for concerts. A grocery store provided water for a Walk-a-Thon, and the Northwest Chamber Orchestra at one time had its rent paid for by a bank. Tell me that's not useful!"

Privat added that the demand for grants is increasing to fill gaps left by cuts in federal and local funding.

“Nonprofits do amazingly wonderful work, but they struggle financially. There is an art to grant-writing and many people don’t know how to proceed.”

Grant-winners say the Center’s databases are exceptional, but it’s Privat’s perspective, experience and insights about fundraising and matching grants that makes all the difference. She provides strategic focus and helps them avoid pitfalls.

L. Lindgren, former president of the Friends of Heybrook Ridge, credits Privat and the NPRC for helping their group save a 100-acre site from clear-cutting, making way for it to be turned instead into a park with hiking trails and viewpoints.

“We were trying desperately to raise \$1.2 million dollars to purchase the land, but we were babes in the woods,” said Lindgren, “Jeannette’s skill was extraordinary at communicating how to get one’s ideas across to funders, as well as sharing with us the most likely grant resources. She patiently led us through the grant research

and writing process, resulting in our ability to acquire a major grant from Snohomish County’s Conservation Futures Fund.”

Privat, who was credited with helping the group raise \$600,000 plus a matching grant, was invited to speak at the October ribbon-cutting ceremony for the park.

J. Bamberger, a volunteer at the Seattle World School (SWS), lauded Privat for her role in helping SWS obtain a \$10,000 grant from the Norcliffe Foundation. SWS is a 501(c)(3) organization that enrolls recent immigrants; the grant helped teachers purchase iPads and Kindles for an English classroom, and a charging cart for the school library.

“Jeannette diligently and kindly showed me how to use the grant-resource library,” she said. “This is SWS’s first grant, and it will help students who come from 34 countries and speak 36 languages.”

“My goal in life is to make people aware of nonprofits and all they do,” Privat said. “They really are amazing—in every field. It’s important to connect people with resources, especially when they’re trying to make a difference.”



KIDS GO CRAZY FOR INVENTIVE MATH PROGRAM AT KCLS LIBRARIES



Patrons were enjoying a sunny spring afternoon at the Bothell Library, reading books, working on computers, and doing homework when sounds from the meeting room caught their attention.

Did they just hear a bunch of kids yelling “BINGO?” Yes, they did.

On this particular day in April, 10 kids in grades three through five were engaged in a game dubbed “Bouncy Dice Explosion,” learning about statistical probability by rolling dice to determine which team would win at Bingo.

Staff at the King County Library System are always on the lookout for meaningful ways to engage and educate kids, and they found it with a national program called Crazy8s Club. The fun-filled after-school math class offered at the Bothell and Covington Libraries, follows

a curriculum developed by an organization called Bedtime Math. It’s aim? To teach kids about numbers and other mathematical concepts through kid-friendly activities, such as “Glow-in-the-Dark Geometry,” “Flying Marshmallows,” and “Toilet Paper Olympics.”

Bothell librarian Mie-Mie Wu introduced the class to some dice basics, then progressed to using the dice to teach probability, or as she put it, “how often we think something might happen.”

“What shape is it?” Kids played with their dice. “A cube,” they responded.

“Now look at your dice,” Wu said. “What are the numbers on each opposite side?”

One and six; four and three; five and two.

“What do they have in common?” Hands shot up. “They all add up to seven.”

Finally, it came time for the “explosions.” The kids took turns throwing dice into the air and scrambling after them once they landed. They counted how many rolled the number “one;” how many rolled the number “two” and so on.

Parents applauded KCLS for offering a program that teaches kids math on their own playful terms. Not only were students tackling a subject that is often difficult to grasp, they were having fun and developing social skills as well. Most parents agreed that programs such as the Crazy 8s Club would better position their children for future success.

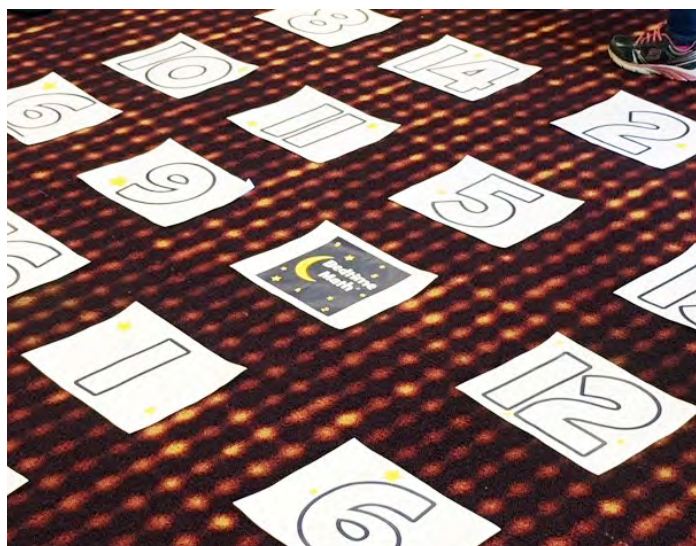
“I’ve seen a difference in their enthusiasm toward math,” said M. Harriman of his two sons, ages 10 and eight. “They’ve had fun.”

R. Holt agreed. She said her 10-year-old son, who has autism, attended the Crazy8s Club at the Covington Library. Not only did the boy love the class, he now asks to go to the library even though the classes are over.

“The staff was very patient with our son and he is checking out science books, comic books and science videos, too. These afterschool programs have had a positive influence on him,” she said.

Picking up her kids after the Bothell Library class, M. Juritz said both her nine-year-old daughter and seven-year-old son love the program. When her son had not finished his homework, Juritz firmly told him he would have to miss the class.

“It’s never happened again,” she said, chuckling. “They both look forward to coming. For them, the class is a reward.”



Juritz said that classes like Crazy8s help inspire life-long learning and personal growth for kids, and hopes there is a high probability that more classes will be offered.

“I’d love to see more science and math classes for kids at the libraries, even older kids. And definitely more of this program; it is great!”

LOCAL AUTHOR DISCUSSES THE NEXT BIG ONE



Should anyone ask, “What’s shakin’?” local author Sandi Doughton has a scientific answer: potentially the West Coast.

Doughton is a *Seattle Times* science reporter and author of *Full-Rip 9.0: The Next Big Earthquake in the Pacific Northwest*. She visited seven libraries for KCLS’ adult program series, **Everyone’s Talking About It**, presenting the latest research on earthquakes and tsunamis, and how to prepare for a potential mega-quake.

Many audience members at the Shoreline Library recalled the 2001 Nisqually earthquake, which registered 6.8 on the Richter scale. It caused several billion dollars in property damage and resulted in expensive decisions to replace Seattle’s Alaskan Way Viaduct and Evergreen Point Bridge.

It’s difficult to pinpoint when the next “big one” will hit. In the 1980s, when the detection of offshore fault lines prompted concerns about a proposal to build nuclear power plants near the Washington coast, scientists began focusing more intently on mega-quake probability along the West Coast and Puget Sound region. Although the power plants were never built, scientists learned about plate tectonics, tsunamis and potential mega-quakes, using carbon-dating, analysis of coastal-estuary formations, satellite images and increasingly sophisticated computer modeling.

Doughton discussed how two tectonic plates—the Juan de Fuca and North American plates—are currently “locked up” where they converge, an area known as the Cascadia Subduction Zone. When the two plates unlock or “slip,” it will cause the kind of mega-quake the region hasn’t seen for 150 years—and which scientists consider overdue.

“The bigger the fault, the bigger the quake,” Doughton said, noting that the Cascadia Subduction Zone stretches 700 miles from Northern Vancouver Island to Northern California. She added that a 1960 tsunami in the Indian Ocean followed a magnitude 9.5 earthquake in a subduction zone “very much like ours.”

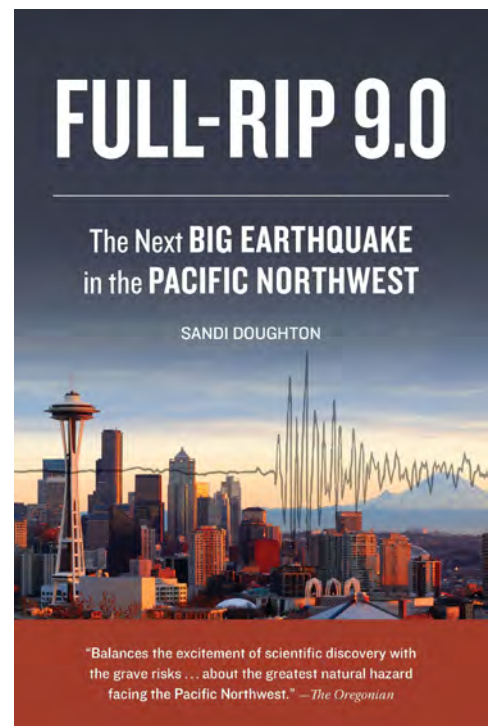
Many were surprised to learn of the probability of a much larger earthquake.

“It’s interesting and a little scary,” said M. Roberts. “It’s good to know that scientists are getting a better sense for how big the next earthquake could be and what is being done to make things safer. I remember the 1965 quake mostly just knocked stuff off shelves. A mega-quake would be different.”

“I wanted to know the probability of a quake and the nature of the threat, so the information did surprise me,” said R. Klanke. “I guess we’ll focus on preparing, getting supplies. I still can’t picture moving.”

Doughton and KCLS received high marks for presenting comprehensive information about an important subject.

“I had no idea,” said one woman. “We don’t think about earthquakes every day; this is a wake-up call.”



MUSIC-LOVING KIDS TAKE NOTE AT AN INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO



The Sammamish Library's meeting room was intentionally noisy one April morning, packed with kids trying to create good vibrations on oboes and violins, trumpets and tubas.

Even the most off-key squeaks gave way to delighted smiles on the faces of children, their parents and caregivers equally proud of their child's success in producing even the slightest note.

When it comes to creating the sounds of music, you must start at the very beginning, which is the whole point of the "Instrument Petting Zoo." The event, which is the result of a partnership between KCLS and Classical KING FM 98.1, aims to introduce children to various string, woodwind

and brass instruments. The "Petting Zoo" drew 152 people, including 90 kids who had the chance to draw bows across child-size violins, pluck cellos, finger clarinets and blow into saxophones.

Professional musicians, volunteering their time through the Music Center of the Northwest, patiently worked with each child, teaching basic techniques for whatever instrument they wanted to "play."

"The whole thing vibrates, doesn't it? Can you feel it?" said cellist Dennis Aaron Nation to a brown-eyed girl with a purple bow in her hair, who had waited in line for her chance to hold and play a half-sized cello.

"We have a piano and guitar at home, and my husband used to play the trumpet; she's always been interested in music," said C. Turnbaugh, describing her four-year-old daughter.

"I liked the violin best," the girl said. "It was my size."

Across the room, a three-year-old boy eagerly took his turn with the tuba.

"This is an awesome event; he is loving it," said the boy's mom, J. Cornish. "We checked out a Mister Rogers music DVD from the library and ever since then, he's been all about instruments. He pretends everything is an instrument; he even makes us play wooden spoons."

Cornish said her son is interested not only in instruments, he is specifically interested in classical music.

"We've taken him to Seattle Symphony (concerts for kids) and when we're driving in the car, he asks me to change the station to classical." Cornish said. "I want to encourage it; it is so good for the brain. I don't know if he'll become a classical musician or not, but we made sure to come to this event today."

While the professional musicians played scales or various tunes, demonstrating for the children what their instruments could do, parents and caregivers praised KCLS for holding the event, appreciative that their kids had the opportunity to hold, touch and hear the same instruments that are played in “real” orchestras. While few ventured to guess whether Carnegie Hall was in their child’s future, attendees said they placed a high value on musical education—especially classical music—and bemoaned cuts to music and other arts programs at many schools.

M. Mesh said her six-year-old daughter and four-year-old son both love music and wanted to try every instrument.

“Our family loves different kinds of music, but definitely classical,” Mesh said. “I want them to learn piano as a base, but my husband plays the cello, piano and guitar, so we’ll encourage other instruments, too.”

As melodies drifted through the room, kids and adults stopped, watched and listened.

“This is just great; I love the library system. It’s wonderful,” said J. Nanglia, as her son, age 4, reached the head of the clarinet line.

Above the cacophony, musician Justin Henderlight told the boy, “Let me hear you say ‘ooooh.’ Now say ‘ooooh’ and try to blow.”

Holding the clarinet, the youngster puckered his lips and puffed into the mouthpiece. Finally, he blew it—which was a good thing.

“There you go!” Henderlight told the beaming boy.

“He loves music; he told me he wants to be a rock star,” Nanglia said. “So we came just for this event. He loved the trombone, too; he made a sound.”

Meanwhile a six-year-old girl wearing a pink-striped dress tried the flute, but was not happy with her kazoo-like debut. She opted for the cello instead.

One six-year old tried every instrument—and a few more than once.



“We recently read the book, *Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White,” said her mother, B. Lee. “We saw a real swan the other day, and now we’re seeing the trumpet. She’s pretty excited!”

As Turnbaugh put it, “This is great. I really like that KCLS is doing this; it gives kids an idea of what interests them. It’s all about exposure.”

NASA GRANT BRINGS SPACE EDUCATION DOWN TO EARTH AT SNOQUALMIE LIBRARY



The seven-year-old boy was concerned.

"Do I get to see my favorite constellation?" he asked, unsure whether the night sky would be dark enough in an inflatable planetarium.

But thanks to a national grant awarded to the Snoqualmie Library, the huge portable "bubble" yielded telescopic views not only of millions of stars-including Draco the Dragon as the boy had hoped - but the moon, planets, and the Milky Way.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is bringing outer space to kids and families through a unique initiative that funds and supports Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs in libraries.

The Snoqualmie Library was one of 75 public libraries out of more than 500 applicants nationwide selected to receive a NASA grant, and parents could not have been more enthusiastic about the educational experience it provided for their kids.

An estimated 125 people attended **International Observe the Moon Night...Day** on October 28.

The event included activities such as crater-making, and taking selfies on the moon. Parents with special-needs kids were particularly appreciative of a session scheduled just for them.

"We're all studying astronomy so this was perfect," said M. Johnson, a homeschooling mother. "It was so nice to have quieter time for the (special-needs) kids." Her seven-year-old daughter, checking out space books, added, "I'm not scared of the dark and I know the difference between a waxing and waning moon."

The Pacific Science Center provided the inflatable planetarium. Library staff and Science Center volunteers guided kids and their parents through various activities using kits provided by NASA.

“Sam, our tour guide, is going to be taking us through the cosmos today,” announced one of the volunteers as 12 “voyagers” entered the bubble. Once inside, Sam used a special computer program to zoom in on the moon and its craters, identifying constellations and bright stars like Sirius and Betelgeuse, and planets like Mars.

“In our lifetime, we’ll be sending humans to Mars,” Sam said, drawing a collective “whoa!!” from the kids.

Outside the planetarium, families huddled around stations displaying the Solar System, Andromeda Galaxy, Northern Lights, and the International Space Station. Thought-provoking questions challenged kids to think about the relative distances of objects.

One mom pointed to photos of a soaring eagle, an airplane, the constellation Orion, the moon, and Saturn, as her son arranged them in order of closest to farthest from earth.

“He’s really into this,” she said. “This is such a great way for children to learn about space and science.”

K. Sleight said she was thrilled that the library had a space program, since “space is the number-one interest” of her four-year-old son. “He has already memorized the moons of other planets.”

“Jupiter is my favorite thing in space,” her son added.

The child spent a long time at the crater-making table, exploring the moon’s surface by dropping different sized rocks from various heights into a pan of flour. He giggled at the clouds of flour dust he created and was wide-eyed as his mom helped him measure each crater’s depth and width.

“He just loves all these activities,” Sleight said. “It’s nice that the library has something so educational and age-appropriate.”



NEW TUKWILA LIBRARY OPENS ITS DOORS TO ENTHUSIASTIC PATRONS



The Tukwila community turned out in droves—an estimated 1,000 strong—to celebrate the long-awaited opening of its new 10,000-square-foot library on Saturday, April 29. And locals agreed, it was well worth the wait.

The spacious, airy building drew raves from patrons eagerly entering the library after a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event featured speeches from local dignitaries and citizens whose efforts helped ensure that the library's design reflected the aspirations of one of the most diverse communities in the country.

Nearly double the size of the former 5,250-square-foot Foster Library it replaces,

the new Tukwila Library will be a focal point of Tukwila Village, a mixed-use development that includes a community center and public plaza, a neighborhood police resource center, café, senior housing and other amenities.

"Oh my gosh! The difference between the two libraries is incredible!" said C. Bierce of Tukwila, a member of the Friends of the Foster Library group.

"This is so open, so airy, with such brightness even on a gray day—you can see everything!" she enthused, as her husband sat across a table, immersed in a history book.

Above the music of the Bollywood group, **Rhythms of India**, A. Alaheedi smiled as he browsed the newly stocked shelves. He said he frequently visited the Foster Library to study for a lab-technician job, and that the new library will be a pleasure.

"I'm amazed! This library is really great," he said. "I'm impressed by the big windows, the decorations, and the size. I've been waiting for it to open."

Patrons admired the mural by artist Kelly Staton and the delicate spherical chandeliers in the children's area. Others praised the library's "user-friendly" design, huge selection of books and magazines, and outdoor sculptures by local artist John Fleming.

The Tukwila Library was made possible by a capital bond approved by voters in 2004. The Capital Improvement Plan called for an 8,000-square-foot library, but many in this rapidly growing community hoped for even more space. Thanks to a strong local effort in partnership with the King County Library System Foundation, an additional \$1 million was raised to construct a facility 2,000 square feet larger than initially proposed.

“Tukwila has a rich history as a diverse and welcoming community,” said Louise Strander, a Tukwila Planning Commissioner and fundraising leader along with her brothers John and George Strander. The library’s meeting room was named in honor of their parents, John B. and Louise M. Strander.

“This was truly a community effort,” Strander said, commending local fundraising efforts that included 300 donors as well as the Tukwila Library’s Teen Advisory Board.

Architects from Perkins + Will worked with the community to design a library that symbolized the “gateway” status of this multicultural city just north of SeaTac International Airport.

Two abstract, pegboard-styled maps—one of the world and one of northwest Washington—hang on opposite walls of the library, a visual reminder of Tukwila as a cultural crossroads.

“Perkins + Will created a beautiful, spacious design reflecting Tukwila’s diverse culture and community—and we’re thrilled that it serves as a welcoming destination and community space to access a world of information and ideas,” said KLCS Interim Director Stephen Smith.

The building features large windows to maximize natural light, and finish materials include charcoal terra cotta, zinc cladding, aluminum sun shades and red- and purple-toned glass. The library was built with sustainable features, such as the use of regionally-sourced wood throughout the interior, and native plants for landscaping, including a row of hazelnut trees along the southwest corner, symbolizing the site’s connection with the local Duwamish Tribe. “Tukwila” is the Tribe’s word for “hazelnut.”

Other eco-friendly features include a “green” roof with heat- and drought-tolerant native plants, helping to regulate interior temperatures and to reduce storm water runoff by an estimated 60 percent. According to the architects, the use of cross-laminated timber, an engineered wood product with many environmental advantages, decreases the

building’s carbon footprint by as much as 477 tons—an amount emitted by 91 cars annually.

Flexible open spaces were created to allow a variety of uses, including tutoring, classes, lectures, music and art performances, author readings, Story Times and studying.

“This building is a ‘wow’ for our community,” said Nancy Coogan, Tukwila School District Superintendent. She also thanked KCLS for its partnership with the school district, whose students rely on library resources and services.

“I love the architecture. I can’t stop looking around,” said visitor B. Terry. “It’s a beautiful place.”

And one for the ages, said State Senator Bob Hasegawa.

“This library is an investment in the future of our community but also in future generations,” he told the audience. “Libraries are how we gain and preserve knowledge, and this library is a symbol of that knowledge.”



PARTNERSHIP WITH COUNTY FEATURES OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON OPIOID DISORDERS

ADDRESSING THE OPIATE EPIDEMIC

When
everyone's
talking about it we can make a
difference.

Their raw honesty took courage, but silence was not an option.

Four people who braved tragedy participated in a King County Library System panel discussion entitled **Sharing Stories, Healing Communities: Personal Stories of Those Impacted by Opioid Use Disorder**. The four willingly revisited painful memories to counter misperceptions about opiate addiction and to educate the public on a growing public health issue.

The event, held April 8 at the Kent Library, was one of six programs made possible by a partnership between KCLS and the King County Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force. Other sessions included discussions on treatment and recovery; risk reduction; task force recommendations, and what communities can do to address “an epidemic that has no boundaries.”

“The most powerful tool in the fight against opioid use disorder is getting rid of the stigma and shame that surrounds it,” said Brad Finegood, Task Force Co-Chair and Assistant Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery, a division of the King County Department of Community and Human Services. The 39-member Task Force includes healthcare and law enforcement professionals; educators, first responders, policy makers and those whose family members have experienced addictions to prescription and other opioids.

“Opioid addiction is a beast; it is a disease and a disorder. Until we stop stigmatizing people, they won’t ask for help—or come forward to help others,” Finegood said.

Statistics bear out the problem. According to King County and University of Washington researchers, in 2014 there were 156 heroin-related deaths in

King County alone. In 2015, treatment for heroin addiction surpassed alcohol for the first time. And though heroin is most commonly mentioned in calls to the county's helpline, addiction to prescription painkillers is also on the rise.

Audience members hung on the panelists' words, nodding their heads in mutual understanding, having experienced opioid disorders personally or in their families. Many shared their own stories, such as the "erratic" sister with drug and gambling debts who pesters her elderly father for money, or the drug-affected young woman whose "flower child" mom smoked opium when she was pregnant.

"This was a great panel," said a female patron. "I was clean and sober for thirteen years, then I had an injury, and the doctor said it was okay for me to use morphine after surgery. It wasn't okay."

Panelist and former local television reporter Penny LeGate spoke of her daughter Marah Williams, who died from an accidental heroin overdose at age 19. LeGate emphasized the importance of busting Skid Road stereotypes of opioid-disorder sufferers. Her daughter, she said, was a beautiful and sensitive girl; a high

school graduate, "a prankster" with a great sense of humor, and an accomplished dancer.

"Opioids change your brain," LeGate said.

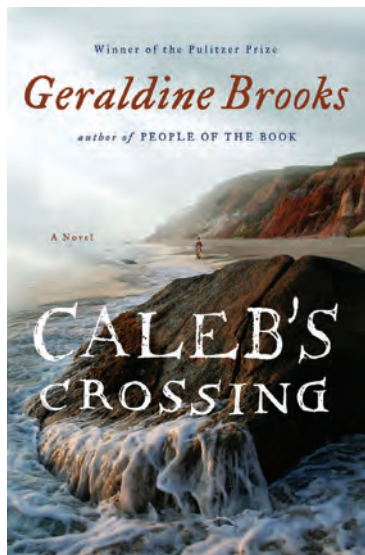
"We're not talking about bad people, junkies or creeps. No one is immune."

"I learned a lot today," said one woman. "I want to say thank you to the panelists for sharing stories and helping to make people realize they shouldn't be afraid of users; this is a disease. It is a behavioral and mental health issue, and it's only through stories that we're going to progress."

D. Blakeslee said she attended all six programs to educate herself about opioid disorders. As someone who "never touched the stuff and got sick taking painkillers" after a surgery, she said she doesn't understand addiction. But she said she hopes to help a family member, and educate others in her community.

"I want to know the signs of opioid abuse and what to do if someone overdoses," Blakeslee said. "This was fabulous information. It's great that KCLS did this. I wish it had all been recorded! It's really important to get these stories out there to the public."

PATRONS DELIGHTED TO MEET AND HEAR AUTHOR GERALDINE BROOKS



Crossing. Her talk, entitled Hearing the Unheard, followed a private fundraising Author Salon at the same venue with Brooks discussing her work with moderator, journalist and author Terry Tazioli.

Brooks said she “had an epiphany one day” while watching an Oprah Winfrey segment about a woman who was impaled by a marlin while fishing, but saved by her silicone breast implants.

“You could not make that up,” Brooks told the chuckling

crowd. “And I realized, I must write a story that’s true; a story that wouldn’t be interesting if it weren’t true. Mark Twain once said, ‘Fiction must be plausible, nonfiction need not be.’”

Brooks deploys historical research and draws from her extensive experience as a foreign correspondent. “What I’m look for is the implausible truth,” she said.

Although *Caleb’s Crossing* “is a work of the imagination,” Brooks said the character of Caleb was inspired by the life of Caleb Cheeshahteaumauk, a member of the Wopanaak (or Wampanoag) tribe of Martha’s Vineyard, where Brooks lives with her husband Tony Horwitz, also a journalist and author. Caleb was born around 1646 and became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College. The story, relevant today, is an exploration of religion and cultural clashes.

She wanted to give voice to “salvages,” (cq.) the term used by many English settlers for Native Americans, as well as to the frustrations of another main character, Bethia. The intelligent, faith-filled girl yearns for knowledge, but like

Pulitzer-prize winning author Geraldine Brooks kicked off King County Library System’s **Summer Author Program Series** with high spirits and well-read insights, as she discussed the importance of history, voice, “getting the language right”—and libraries.

An estimated 175 people attended her talk on a sunny June evening at the Kirkland Performance Center. Brooks was the first of 12 authors featured in the summer-long series, which included Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie (*America’s First Daughter*); Gregg Hurwitz (*Nowhere Man*); Natalie Baszile (*Queen Sugar*); Bree Loewen (*Found: A Life in Mountain Rescue*); Bonnie Rochman (*The Gene Machine*); Nick Licata (*Becoming a Citizen Activist*); Amy Pennington (*Salad Days*); James H. Osborne (*Will Your Way Back: How One Man Overcame Tragedy with a Winning Mindset*); and Ann Hedreen (*Her Beautiful Brain*).

The Australian-born Brooks held her audience in rapt attention as she discussed her own life, background and writing process, with a particular focus on her 2011 bestseller *Caleb’s*

other females, is discouraged or condemned for dreaming beyond the hearth.

“Getting the voice right, getting the language right, is very important,” Brooks said. “Bethia, for example, isn’t going to use the word, ‘fetus.’ She would use the word, ‘shapeling.’”

Her research of language was helped by books and frequent visits to libraries, which she has valued since childhood.

“What would we do without libraries?” she asked, drawing enthusiastic applause.

Those who attended the program were delighted, not only with Brooks’ wit and humor, but how she generously shared personal anecdotes and opinions.

“She’s awesome,” said F. Bryant, who came with two sisters who were also fans of Brooks.

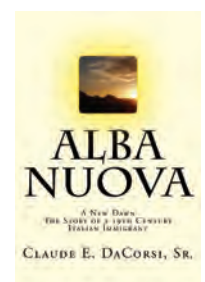
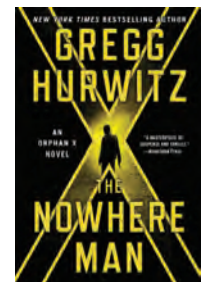
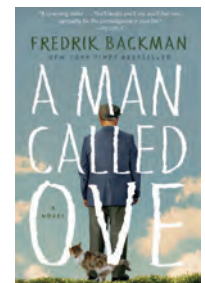
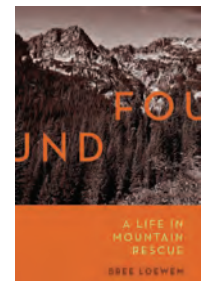
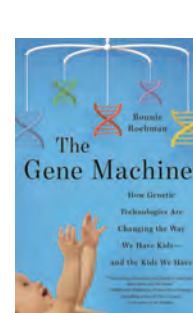
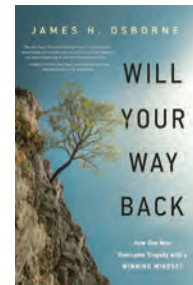
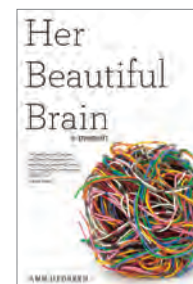
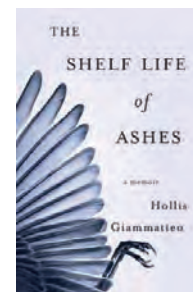
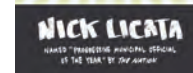
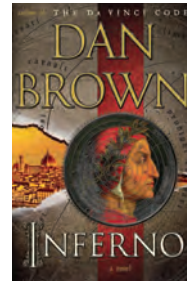
P. Dix had high praise for Brooks, and KCLS for making it possible to see her.

“I just find her so articulate, providing a window on how she works with such humor,” Dix said. “We absolutely value this opportunity, and we like this venue. None of the libraries would be large enough for this crowd!”

Another attendee, M. Morgan, said she appreciated getting an inside look at how a Pulitzer Prize-winning author weaves together facts and imagination.

“(Author Salons) provide a vehicle to understanding the author and the ‘why’ of their books,” said Morgan, who has attended other salons and events. “It was fun to find out that judicial records were used to find a voice for her narrator. I hope the Salons as well as these free public appearances continue.”

“What a wonderful event!” wrote Rebecca Talbot-Bluechel on the KCLS Foundation’s Facebook page. “It was such a pleasure meeting not only Geraldine Brooks, but all the other patrons... Such a treat to spend time chatting with other book lovers, and to hear the behind-the-scenes stories.”



READING IN THE PARK IS A RELAXING SUCCESS FOR LIBRARY PATRONS



On a warm summer evening at Mercer Island's Luther Burbank Park, many families brought picnic lunches and beverages; others bought food on site. They sat on lawn chairs, benches and blankets, delving into books and enjoying background music provided by local DJs. Parents rocked sleeping infants while reading to their toddlers. Kids, teens and adults occasionally gazed up from their books, smiling at fellow readers.

It was the second year for the popular summer **Reading in the Park** program, and what a year it was. Despite air quality alerts due to numerous wildfires in the Northwest, a total 615 people attended reading events hosted by 13 different libraries throughout the county.

KCLS began this program not only to connect patrons with books and literature, but with nature and each other. Summer Reading in the Park reflects a body of research that shows spending time in a natural environment improves mental health, helps reduce stress and lifts moods for people of all ages.

Research also shows that reading outdoors can help center and focus children by offsetting the effects of digital overstimulation. And kids react positively to reading in a setting different from their classrooms.

"I love the idea of reading in the park, and I love

Luther Burbank Park," said S. Misra. She and her husband had brought a picnic dinner and spent nearly two hours relaxing on a large blanket, enjoying a peaceful evening reading books with fellow bibliophiles.

"This is great," said one man. "You can sit, read, relax, and be around others who love books. What's not to like?"

Library2Go! staff was on hand to help people register for a library card or check out materials. One couple with a dog could not contain their enthusiasm as they walked by the bright red bookmobile.

“Alright!” they exclaimed.
“Libraries rock!”

Misra was among those who applauded KCLS both for the Reading in the Park program as well as the Library System’s entire collection.

“We are big library users—power users,” she laughed. “In India, there is no such thing as a free library; you have to pay for books and there aren’t as many choices. When I wanted to read a book by PG Wodehouse, I had to go to the British Consul in Mumbai to get it.”

One happy patron publicly praised Summer Reading in the Park with a Rave Review submitted to The Seattle Times.

“RAVE to King County Library Services (KCLS) for hosting a reading-while-listening-to-soothing-music event at (Newcastle’s) Lake Boren Park, another example of KCLS reaching out to the community.”



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE PROGRAM MAKES ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING FUN



On a sunny July day, a group of kids ages 8 to 12 sat in the Duvall Library meeting room, intently watching a PowerPoint presentation on how to improve the environment.

“Do you all know what waste is?” asked teacher Rosy Singh. “It’s anything we don’t use or need anymore. But did you know that many things can be used again or recycled?”

Heads nodded knowingly. She described how milk cartons, paper, cardboard, soda cans, plastic bottles and other items can be recycled. “And what if you don’t recycle?”

“The waste goes to landfills,” answered a 12-year-old boy. “Waste really harms the environment. It pollutes the water and kills animals.”

“Very good!” Singh said. “But if we become more responsible, use things over and over or find new ways to use or donate them, we will create less trash.”

Kids attending a Summer Reading program called **Reduce. Reuse. Recycle** learned how trash and yard waste is collected, and how composting and other efforts can make a difference. The class was one of many KCLS summer enrichment programs combining STEAM principles (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Design and Mathematics) with kid-friendly activities.

Singh is a teacher with Bricks 4 Kidz, a nation-wide educational organization. She handed out LEGO® kits that the children used to build garbage trucks and solar panels.

Learning, building and playing proved a winning combination for both

kids and their parents, particularly during the summer “recess” from school. The sound of LEGO® bricks snapping into place could be heard over the friendly banter in the room as kids built motorized vehicles from the ground up.

“My masterpiece is done!” smiled an 8-year-old boy as he placed a small motor into his garbage truck. He kneeled on the floor a next to another boy who had come up with an entirely different design. Soon they were racing each other.

Twelve-year-old A. Franco said the class was great and wished his friends had come too. He said he and four other boys recently worked odd jobs to raise \$500 to buy a 4,000-piece LEGO Death Star set.

Some tweens came to the class “because it sounded like fun” and was the first program they’d ever attended at the library. Others were frequent fans.

“My kids and I have enjoyed KCLS summer programs for years,” said one mom. “The topics and hands-on learning thoroughly engage young audiences - whether it’s constructing a mini-motorized garbage truck, crafting a puppet, or learning the history of kites.

“We’re fortunate that the library continues to offer such quality programming so close to home!”

D. Franco said her son loved the event.

“He enjoys hands-on activities and freedom to explore,” she said.

“I really value these programs.”



SNOQUALMIE LIBRARY CELEBRATES ITS 10TH BIRTHDAY IN STYLE



On August 1, 2007, a new 6,000 square-foot library opened atop Snoqualmie Ridge, with stunning views of Mount Si, and offering more books and materials than what the previous 2,100 square-foot building could hold.

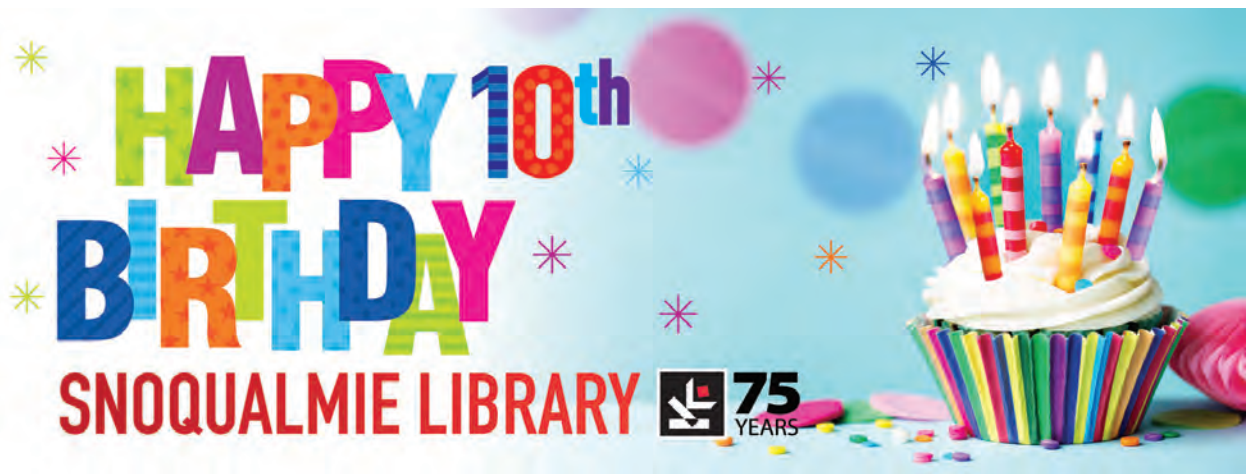
As the first facility to be completed with funding from the \$172 million capital bond measure approved by King County voters in 2004, the Snoqualmie Library is also the first to celebrate its 10-year anniversary.

On August 7, 2017, an estimated 530 patrons of all ages flocked to the library for a birthday bash that included a Dance Party Story Time beneath strobe lights; cupcake decorating; 3D printing demonstrations; and ukulele lessons. The day's festivities were capped off with a show by The Smilin' Scandinavians Polka Band.

"Ten years. It's hard to believe!" said Facilities Director Greg Smith. As he and KCLS Interim Director Stephen Smith (no relation) greeted staff and talked to patrons, the library's meeting room filled with kids and parents eager for their turn to decorate cupcakes made by Chef Laurie Pfalzer.

R. Dominy smiled as her boys, ages seven and nine, squeezed pastry bags filled with different color frostings to create their masterpieces. She praised the library for the celebration and the variety of activities.

"We just moved from Arizona; this is the first library program we've been to, and I'm so impressed," Dominy said. "The boys love to build things, but they also love to eat! This is just wonderful!"



Another mom juggling cupcakes and piles of books gathered her four kids, including a one-year old, at the back of the room.

“The older ones love books, but I got some for the little ones, too,” she said. “I’m pretty consumed with getting the bigger kids to read. When I saw cupcakes on the schedule, I figured we’d just eat a late lunch!”

Dominy echoed sentiments expressed by other patrons. “I value libraries so much. The first place I looked for when we moved was the local library, to find out about where we live and to learn about programs, which is especially helpful when kids are out of school. It’s a chance for me to meet other moms, for my kids to meet other kids, and for all of us to feel a part of the community.”

J. Holub brought her children to the festivities and expressed gratitude to KCLS for having a birthday party that held fun activities for all age groups, observing that grandparents attending



the festivities were enjoying their grandkids as much as she was enjoying the day with her own kids. Holub laughed as her gleeful three-year-old daughter ate the frosting off her cupcake—much of it landing on her nose and around her mouth.

“It is great that KCLS offers kids and families chances to celebrate, play, and for kids to just be kids,” she said. “We love our local library—and all that it has to offer.”

STUDENTS GAIN TOOLS AND INSIGHTS FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE

JOB AND CAREER PREP

LEARN ABOUT COLLEGE
ADMISSIONS, HOW TO
INTERVIEW, HOW TO CREATE
A RESUME AND MORE AT
YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY.

Trying to figure out your college prospects as a high school senior can be stressful—for students as well as their parents.

Life After High School: Prepare for Your Future, a library program series, offered guidance to anxious teens and adults with an aim toward maximizing opportunities and minimizing angst during the college application process.

A total 1,038 students and parents attended the 57 programs offered by KCLS on topics ranging from how to write an essay and choose the right college to finding scholarships and financial aid. College counselors, administrators and other education professionals weighed in on the hurdles of college admissions, offered tips, strategies, tutoring and job-preparation skills, and pointed to the library for resources and assistance. Some classes were offered in Spanish and Mandarin.

A class at Mercer Island Library included a screening and panel discussion of the film *Ivory Tower: Is College Worth the Cost?* Of the forty parents and students who attended the event, many said the film offered thought-provoking insights into the history of “free” higher education in America and the current crisis of student-loan debt.

“This is an alarmist movie,” panelist Jonathan Brown warned the audience. “Don’t watch it and get all depressed.”

Brown, Associate Dean of the Center for Leadership and Service at Highline College, emphasized that each student is an individual.

“There is no best college,” he said. “What you’re looking for is a college that is the best match for your child.”

College-planner Peg Keough agreed. “We have amazing schools in this country. There is a place for everyone. It should be an exciting time for students, not the total stress-fest that it has become.”

Mercer Island parent Tammy Federman advised the group to know their kid, stay away from rankings, and be mindful of other parents. “They can really stress you out. Look for people who will keep you sane.”

“It will all be okay if you let it be okay,” said panelist Tom Barry of Collegewise, an admissions counseling service. “This is not a referendum on the first 18 years of your kid’s life—or you as a parent.”

While parents expressed concern about rising tuition for their college-bound children, they appreciated the information and reassuring messages, and thanked staff for providing the free public program.

One grateful student told KCLS, “When I was stuck, my tutor didn’t just give me the answer, she led me to come up with the answer on my own, which I appreciated because I feel like it helps me to be able to do it on my own in the future.”

While parents expressed concern about rising tuition for their college-bound children, they appreciated the information and reassuring messages, and thanked staff for providing the free public program. One mom said, “Amazing service! Thank you KCLS!”

L. Hughes, whose twins are both applying to college, summed up the program best.

“It was a very good panel, each speaker was concise; I was fully engaged and found value in coming. I’m really glad the library held this because the anxiety for kids right now is overwhelming; school, social media, tests—and the anxiety affects everybody.”



SUMMER READING PROGRAM TEACHES FAIRY TALES— WITH A STEM TWIST



As part of KCLS' Summer Reading, the **Fairy Tale STEM Challenge** class commenced with children's librarian Paula Burton seated on a tiny stool, reading the story of *The Three Little Pigs*.

"There was once a mother pig who had three little pigs. She was a poor widow and at last had to say to her sons, 'You must go into the world and seek your fortunes.'

The first little pig went away and soon met a man with a bundle of straw. The little pig said, 'Oh please, kind man, give me some straw so I can build myself a house...'"

Burton changed her voice with each character that she imitated, keeping her audience of kids ages three to 11 in rapt attention. When the story was finished, she picked up a hair dryer decorated with "horrible" white teeth, gray ears and bulging eyes.

"So how many of you think YOU can build a house that won't get blown down? Because this *big bad wolf* is very strong," she said smiling, as she flipped the switch on the dryer and let hot air blow.

"Whooooaaaaaaa!" kids exclaimed.

The kids were invited to "decide what you want your house to look like" and were up for the challenge, but there were some rules. Fairy Tale STEM Challenges teach

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math skills. For the math lesson, each participant received play money to buy building materials. The "store" included a number of different items: construction paper (\$5); duct tape (\$4); pipe cleaners (\$4); flexible straws (\$2); and plastic bags (\$1), among other things. Each student had to figure out how to budget for the supplies they needed, and count their own change after each purchase.

The unique program offered a range of learning experiences, opportunities for socialization and a chance for parents and caregivers to interact with their children. Adults enthused about the class as they watched creativity flourish, marveling how each youngster produced something different.

M. Natarajan's sons, ages 10 and seven, have attended several Fairy Tale STEM Challenges and wanted to come to this one, too.

"This class is great. It provides enrichment over the summer beyond what I can provide," she said. "I love the idea that they are building, creating, working with a budget and withstanding a challenge. And I love classes where instruction is followed by a hands-on activity."

Students practiced science, engineering and physics concepts (what goes up doesn't necessarily have to come down) as they constructed rectangular homes, cone-shaped edifices and tubular structures held together by glue, Play Dough™ or layers of foil. One junior engineer added a "flag pole" atop his teepee—a straw reinforced with pipe cleaner threaded through it.

All were determined to stymie the 'Big Bad Wolf.'

S. Sulser said her grandson, age nine, "is a real reader" who loves coming to libraries, and asked to attend the class because he loves building things.

"This is more hands-on than some other summer activities," she said. "I appreciate these classes because it's sometimes hard to find things for this age group—the 'tweens.'"

Fairy Tale STEM Challenges were held during the summer at several libraries, and included tasks based on such classics as *Humpty Dumpty* ("build an egg drop that will keep Humpty Dumpty whole") and *Three Billy Goat's Gruff* ("erect a troll-proof bridge").

"This was so cool," said A. Bellersen Lee, holding her three-year-old daughter's hand. "Let's go home and show dad what you built! He'll be sorry he missed this!"

K. Boyd ("almost six") had worked hard on his tent-shaped house. He bit his lip as he placed his structure on a chair. The "wolf" huffed and puffed but could not blow his house down.

"I created a masterpiece!" he shouted jubilantly, as his mom grinned. "Thank you, Miss Paula. This was fun!"



THOUSANDS XPERIENCE FIRST-EVER MUSIC AND TECHNOLOGY FESTIVAL

Patrons' first clue that something unique was happening at Bellevue Library started in the parking garage. Was that music? From a band? At a library?

Guided by their ears, visitors happily discovered live musicians performing on a stage set up on the library's south lawn—and a world of exploration waiting inside.

The **Xperience Music and Technology Festival**, a first-of-its-kind educational event hosted by the King County Library System, offered festival-goers of all ages the opportunity to explore innovations in music, art, video games and virtual reality with various artists and experts from the music and technology industries.

Library spaces were filled with fun, mentally-stimulating activities for the estimated 6,500 people who attended the two-day event. Kids learned how to compose music and turn their creations into recorded songs; they produced geometric designs with digipens (3D pencils) and were mesmerized by 3D printers that made their ideas come to life. Kids and adults alike battled fanciful virtual-reality villains, and

enjoyed having “emoji” photos taken, too.

J. Garland, age 13, who loves rap, rock and hip-hop, was drawn to the professional digital recording equipment set up in the “Ableton Jam” room. Selecting saxophone and drums as his instruments, he put on headphones and sat in front of a panel of 64 buttons, lit up in multiple colors representing different notes, chords, beats and instruments. Using Ableton Live software, he pushed various buttons to extend notes and layer soundtracks—and blew his teacher away.

“Beautiful! You’ve got it, dude!” said Lawrence Grey, an Ableton-certified instructor with Young Producers Group, a Los Angeles-based company that works with kids to inspire their interest in music.

“Our program is designed with the modern musician in mind,” Lawrence said. “We started the company to give kids from all different socioeconomic backgrounds a chance to learn how to make music the way professionals do. We love working with KCLS; it has been a great partnership.”

Garland was an excited participant.



“Music has always interested me, so when I found out about the festival, I thought I’d check it out,” he said. “I liked it so much, I came back (several times). I’ve used other recording equipment, but it’s more limited. This has lots of different sound effects, so you can mess around with everything; there are infinite possibilities of what you can create.”

In another part of the library, patrons lined up to play virtual reality games,

drawing giggles from onlookers who watched on a screen what the participants were seeing through their goggles.

One man turned into a champion “Fruit Ninja,” slicing the air with moves that would have seemed quite mad except for the bananas, pineapples and watermelons that were flying around on screen. People cheered as his score rose with every whacked kiwi and downed apricot.

“I was just waving my arms,” said M. Jain. His eight-year-old son’s raised eyebrows suggested otherwise.

“This is great fun for kids and for adults, and great for the library to do this,” said M. Jain. “The nice thing is it takes your mind completely off work and other things,” he added, laughing. “You can just focus on fruit.”

At another session, a teacher played familiar tunes and urged children and their parents to hammer xylophones and shake castanets to help them learn about rhythm and musical notes. They composed their own “scores” using words from favorite books, including a cha-cha-cha version of *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans: “In an old house in Paris/that was covered with vines/lived 12 little girls/in two straight lines.”

“I was curious how music was made, so this was great!” said S. Arora, whose five-year-old daughter was enthralled. “I’m going to try singing books to my daughter at night now. I knew math and music are related, but who knew there were so many ways to sing *Itsy Bitsy Spider*?”

The festival reflects KCLS’ continuing commitment to finding new ways to engage patrons. Many, like S. Chung, had come to the library for books, but eagerly plugged into the event’s many activities.

“We know all about Story Times, and came today to check out more books,” Chung said, holding seven books and urging her shy four-year-old daughter to show her green and orange digi-pen “flower.”

“She likes creating, and this was all new stuff for her,” Chung said, echoing the sentiments of many parents and caregivers. “I think it’s wonderful.”



xperience
May 20-21 • 12-8pm • Bellevue Library
Music & Technology Festival

SATURDAY BANDS

NORDRA 12PM	SSNACKSS 12:45	D'VONNE LEWIS LIMITED EDITION 1:30
BLACK TONES 5:15	LITTLE CHILD MAN 5:45	J'VON 6:15
YOUNG GOHARDS 6:30	GOLDEN GARDENS 6:30	SASSYBLACK 7:15

SUNDAY BANDS

SOMESURPRISES 3:05	COREENA 3:25	NAT EVANS 3:45
MKB CAKE 3:05	"ALCHEMY!" 4:30	MIRRORGLOSS 5:30
ULTRA 3:15	SEÑOR FIN 4:30	FINE PRINCE 5:30
DONORMAAL 6:20	WILD POWWERS 7:15	

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WOODMONT'S SEED LIBRARY CULTIVATES FOOD AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Lynn Freeman respects the five-packet limit, but it isn't always easy with so many choices.

How is one supposed to decide between columbines, nasturtiums, poppies, sunflowers, rhubarb, berries, lettuce, carrots, corn, peas, squash and other garden gems?

This welcome dilemma is offered by the **Seed Library** at the Woodmont Library, the only program of its kind at KCLS. The Seed Library has allowed the inner gardener in patrons like Freeman to spring forth, along with interest in propagating the program itself.

"I'd never even grown a radish. Now I'm addicted," said Freeman, a community volunteer and library patron who boasts a lush garden of her

own. "There is nothing like the smell of fresh basil, or the taste of heirloom tomatoes. I still can't believe food and flowers grow from such tiny seeds. It's so cool what you can do."

The Seed Library has recycled a former library card catalog, giving patrons a sense of nostalgia as they open its wooden drawers and rummage through small manila envelopes filled with seeds. The envelopes are replenished with help from patrons. Although it is not required, librarians urge those who use the catalog to donate seeds from their harvested plants to help maintain a good supply and variety.

"Seeds are donated or we buy them, and teen volunteers help us sort, package and



label them,” said librarian Amy Tooley, who manages the Seed Library. “All the seeds in our catalog are open-pollinated, meaning they can be harvested and replanted.”

In just its second year, the Seed Library now has 103 different types of seeds versus 34 in 2016. Patrons took home more than 3,400 seed envelopes in 2017, compared to 1,174 last year.

Not only can patrons find seeds at the library, but also a bounty of books about how to sow, plant and harvest them. Freeman, a Summer Reading volunteer, discovered the Seed Library at Woodmont while searching for gardening books to share with local teachers and students.

Seed planting has generated a renewed interest in gardening, individually and communally.

The program, patrons say, has brought people together to grow and tend plants, and to learn and share information about nutrition and cooking.

“I think anything that brings people outdoors is a good thing, especially in the summer. It’s truly ageless to see something grow,”

Freeman said. “Planting seeds is both relaxing and exciting, and such a nice connector between old and young people.”

J. Anderson is someone who is making those connections. She has grown food in her neighborhood with seeds from the Seed Library, and shares her knowledge and passion for gardening with others in her community, particularly kids. The Seed Library is taking root. A school librarian inquired about the program in hopes of creating one at his school. Another man sent an email to Jose Garcia, Librarian Services Manager at Woodmont Library, attaching photos of a community garden filled with apples, butternut squash and sunflowers, all sprouted from seeds.

“A special thank you to the King County Library System for their seed catalog,” he wrote. “Keep up the great work serving the public in ever-expanding, creative ways.”

KCLS AT A GLANCE 2017

49 LIBRARIES

769,707 SQUARE FEET

**\$118.4 MILLION
OPERATING BUDGET**

**652,000
ACTIVE CARDHOLDERS**

**10 MILLION
LIBRARY VISITORS**

**673,551
PROGRAM ATTENDEES**

**84,774
SERVED BY MOBILE
OUTREACH VEHICLES**

**48.8 MILLION
CATALOG HITS**

**17.2 MILLION
WEBSITE HITS**

**4.5 MILLION
ITEMS IN THE
COLLECTION**

**16.1 MILLION
PHYSICAL ITEMS
CIRCULATED**

**4.7 MILLION
DIGITAL ITEMS
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