



OUR YEAR • OUR FUTURE • OUR SUPPORTERS



THE LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

1980 ~ 40 YEARS ~ 2020

ANNUAL REPORT
FY2020



Our Story - The First 40 Chapters

Our story began in February of 1980 when the Library Foundation was established “for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, supporting, encouraging, and enhancing the programs and services of the Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL).” Since that time, the Foundation has raised over **40 million dollars** to enrich the books, materials, and programs of LFPL. Though public dollars from state and local government cover LFPL’s operational expenses, it takes the generosity of community members like you to add a margin of excellence that Louisville wants and needs in a library system.

Thank you for your many years of support!

When we began writing the latest chapter of our story our expectation was celebration. During our 40th anniversary year we would take stock and celebrate with pride the success of our work. The opening of the Northeast Regional Library in 2019 – the final of the three regional libraries, including Southwest and South Central, called for in the Master Plan - was a testament to the success of the public/private/philanthropic partnerships of the past 40 years. Little did we know of the immense challenges we were about to face.

Amidst the backdrop of a global pandemic, a national reckoning with significant local impact on race and inequity, and the closure of all LFPL branch locations, including the furlough of 90% of library staff, our focus changed. The Foundation needed to adapt to a new way of operating, fundraising, and advocating, and we needed to adapt quickly. Would LFPL be able to provide services to the community? Would our donors still support us? Would the Foundation be able to provide LFPL with the support it needed?

The answer to all of these questions is a resounding YES!

Yes, LFPL leadership and staff have worked tirelessly on behalf of the community to provide a wealth of free virtual services, curbside pick-ups, free children’s book giveaways, an entirely virtual Summer Reading Program, and much more, all while continuing to set the standard for education and culture in our community.

Yes, the Foundation adapted quickly and the Library Foundation board and seasoned donors have remained loyal, remained supportive, and have dug deep to continue to give in support of the Library they love. And new donors, partners, and volunteers stepped in as well and gave of their time and treasure when we needed it most.

Yes, the Library Foundation is positioned to continue to provide LFPL with much needed resources in the coming year. But we do not do it alone. It is your continued commitment that makes our library stronger. A commitment to engage with all of LFPL’s fun and essential services, to advocate on LFPL’s behalf, and to generously give your philanthropic dollars in support of the Louisville Free Public Library. We thank you for the past 40 years and we look forward to the next 40—and then 40 more after that! As we look toward the future, the Foundation is here to support LFPL and LFPL is here to support Louisville.

Stronger Library - Stronger Louisville!



Bill Dunbar

BILL DUNBAR
Chair



Chandra Gordon

CHANDRA GORDON
Executive Director

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Rebekah Farley, Director of Development
Susan Nicholson, Controller
Danah Zimmerlee, Development Associate

CONTACT INFO

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301 York Street, Louisville, KY 40203 • (502) 574-1654

LouisvilleLibraryFoundation @LFPL_Foundation

"Be strategic and resilient in the pursuit of your dreams... Resilience is one hell of a quality to master and not many have the skin for it."

—Tiffany D. Jackson, Author & NAACP Image Award Winner - Outstanding Literary Work Nominee

Branch Out!

This year has certainly taught us resiliency in the pursuit of the things that really matter.

Going into 2020, the Library Foundation committed to implementing a new program to inspire our community – both current supporters and future advocates – to engage with the paradigm-shifting vision of the Louisville Free Public Library. The program design included the launch of Branch Out!, a series of intimate, one-hour events at LFPL branch locations throughout the year, culminating in a grand fundraising event featuring *Palaces for the People* author Eric Klinenberg. This would have marked the Foundation's first ever fundraising event and it was going to be epic!

We quickly realized the need to adjust our big dreams for the year as the pandemic closed physical doors on our libraries. Inspired by the resilience of our community, the Library Foundation team began a strategic pivot to design a virtual Branch Out! series. The live sessions will be just as engaging as in-person events, albeit a bit shorter. And while we were not able to host our fundraising event in 2020, we are staying flexible and hope to bring you an exciting event in spring 2021.

In the meantime, we hope to see you at one of our Branch Out! events in the near future. To stay up-to-date with the Library Foundation, please join us on social media and head over to lfplfoundation.org to sign up for our eNewsletter.

Introducing Rebekah Farley - Director of Development

Rebekah joins the Library Foundation as Director of Development with over 13 years of strategic development, capacity building, and mission-centered leadership in the nonprofit sector. She served most recently as Senior Development & Communications Officer at Boys & Girls Haven, and has also worked with the American Red Cross, Americana Community Center, and a variety of other nonprofit organizations in Louisville.

"At this crucial moment in American history, our community needs open access to education, knowledge, and technology as much as we ever have before. I believe the Louisville Free Public Library is uniquely positioned at the intersectional crossroads of education, poverty, and racial/geographical inequity in Jefferson County. It is both a thrill and a privilege to support these programs and services through the Library Foundation." - Rebekah Farley

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FISCAL YEAR 2020

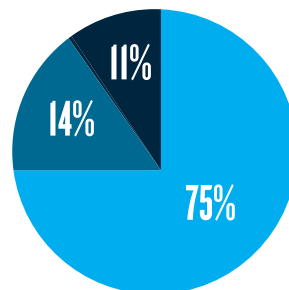
SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$1,528,955
Interest & Dividends	\$252,629
Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	\$45,020
TOTAL	\$1,826,604

GRANTS & EXPENSES*

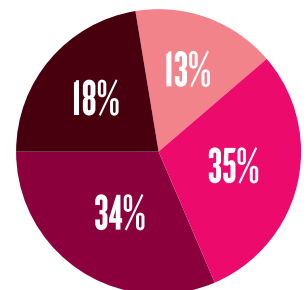
Program Expenses & Grants to the Library	\$1,407,782
Fundraising Expenses	\$272,964
Administration	\$199,464
TOTAL	\$1,880,210

*Grants to the Library were funded by contributions raised during the current fiscal year as well as funds raised in previous years.



FOUNDATION EXPENSES

75% Program Expenses & Grants to the Library
14% Fundraising Expenses
11% Administration



FOUNDATION GRANTS TO THE LIBRARY

35% Books, eMagazines, & Downloadables
34% Capital Projects & Technology
13% Children's & Teen's Programs
18% Other Library Support

Our Future

A global pandemic. Civil unrest. Boarded up buildings. Closed Libraries. Furloughed staff.

These are not the circumstances we had planned to encounter when we began the last year. We expected there would be ongoing budget challenges, and we had plans to work hand in hand with our supporters across the City to deal with those. But none of us could have expected that we would be dealing with chronic issues like too few dollars, too few staff, too few books, and too few libraries, alongside other challenges like too few bleach wipes, too few face masks, and too much COVID-19.

When the fiscal year started we were grappling with the disappointment of a closed Fern Creek Library and a temporarily closed Middletown Library. We had 68 open positions to fill which had been left vacant in anticipation of a reduction in operating hours. Thanks to the commitment and hard work of our supporters, the budget turned out better than we had hoped, while still not what we would have liked. We reopened Middletown, and with the tailwinds created by the reopened and expanded St. Matthews Library, and the newly completed Northeast Regional, we quickly gained momentum. By the end of December we had filled 40 of the vacancies and our total circulation for 2019 was up by 8.2% over 2018. Northeast had jumpstarted us, setting an all-time monthly circulation record in July 2019 with total checkouts of 81,777.

Our momentum continued to increase. By the end of February, circulation was now up over 10.5% and door counts showed an increase of 5.6% over February 2019. LFPL was on track to possibly end with the highest fiscal year total number of items checked out on record.

Then on March 15, 2020 all LFPL locations closed due to the pandemic. With deep concerns over the budgetary impacts from COVID-19, nearly 90% of library staff were furloughed for three months, effective May 3, 2020. While we ended June 2020 with an approved budget that would allow us to continue to operate all locations at normal hours with full staffing, as of June 30 we still had the majority of staff on furlough and all locations were closed to the public with only limited curbside pick-up and online services being offered.

As of this writing, some things have improved. Our staff is back. We continue to see growth in the use of digital resources and services, but we are also offering curbside pick-up at all locations and all of our libraries are open for computer use by appointment.

Through all the chaos, I am grateful for two things that have remained constant. In spite of the challenges, our staff is as dedicated as ever to providing library services to our community. And our supporters have also been unwavering in their commitment to assisting the library—most notably, donating money to buy 50,000 books which were given away to the community during our revamped Summer Reading program. Thanks to those two assets, I am filled with hope and optimism for the future of our library and our city. All of the challenges are temporary. All of our assets are permanent. The boards will come off the windows. We will solve the social conflicts and the unrest will wane. COVID-19 will eventually become a thing of the past. The Library will remain. Thank you for making that possible.



LEE BURCHFIELD
Library Director

Page Turners THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

The Library Foundation monthly giving program is one for the books! Started in 2019 by Leadership Louisville Ignite Team Lou City 7, the program began with eight members and has grown to 49 current members in FY20. We would love to double our number and reach 100 members in FY21. Please consider joining us by becoming a Page Turner. Visit the Library Foundation online at lfplfoundation.org and click Donate Now on any page.

Currently, Library Foundation Page Turners contribute \$678 per month to support LFPL and the Foundation.

Anonymous (2)	Alice M. Moore
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Helen Adams	Jennifer Mulvihill*
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Robert Boden	Bethany Planton
Shannon Burch	Molly Pollock
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**Leadership Louisville Ignite
Team Lou City 7
Page Turners Founders*

Next Chapter

In FY2020 the Library Foundation recruited a dynamic group of young professional outreach ambassadors for LFPL and the Foundation to help support and enhance LFPL's award-winning programs and to support the Library Foundation through volunteer efforts, program attendance, and fundraising assistance. For more information on how to become a member of the Next Chapter, contact Rebekah Farley at rebekah.farley@lfpl.org or (502) 574-1769.

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Karen Wunderlin

TRIBUTES

The Library Foundation is thankful to receive gifts to honor or memorialize family, friends, and loved ones. Gifts were made in honor of or in memory of the individuals listed here in bold type.

HONORARIA

All of the Teachers & Librarians in My Life

Paul Burns

Debra A. Anderson

Nancy J. Rankin & Walter W. Stokes

Mary E. Anderson

Mr. & Mrs. Turney P. Berry

Mary Alice Bidwell

John Bidwell & Cody Cobb

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Glenda Ford Dangremond &

Robert K. Dangremond

Elisabeth Foshee

Stephen C. Gault

Jane Goldstein

Frankye & Harold Gordon

The Library Foundation and the Louisville Free Public Library join the Louisville community in remembering the life and legacy of Betty Lee Ashbury Jones & David Jones Sr. The Joneses were true Library champions and education advocates whose generous spirit and civic-minded leadership are greatly missed. They believed in the power of the Library to make lifelong learning available to the whole community, a belief they demonstrated through their philanthropic support of the Library's mission. On behalf of the entire LFPL family, we wish to thank all those that made tribute gifts to LFPL and the Library Foundation in memory of Betty Lee Ashbury Jones and David Jones Sr.

MEMORIALS

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 Sylvia Watson Jaegers
 Sarah & Richard Newell
 Ron & Charlotte Walford

Lewis & Goldye Oppen

Louis S. Helman

Anne Payne

Monday Afternoon Club

Marty Prescott

Jenny & Charles Marsh

Mary E. Quin

Patricia Tynes

Thomas Samuel Ratterman

Debra & Denny Oberhausen

Mary E. Rickey

Diane P. & Robert H. Miller

Jim Ridenour

Jerry Lindsey

Rose Rizzi

Cerelda & Harley Blankenship

Tara Rose

Joanne Young

Mabel & Phil Tomlinson

Theresa Beth Tomlinson

Lucille Sanak

Colleagues at Norton Neuroscience
 Institute
 Jeanne D. Vuturo
 Eileen Walsh & Barry Stokes

David M. Schneider

Lisa Gregoire
 Brandon Levitt

Stu Schuster

Victoria H. Strange

Horace Hansborough "Doc" Seay

Melissa Barnes
 Ceci & Dale Boden
 Pat & Penn Broecker
 Betty Dabney Brown
 George A. Bush Jr. Holbrook Fund
 Chapman Appraisals
 Margie & Hank Clark
 W. Stewart & Ann F. Cobb
 R J Thieneman Family Foundation
 Chenault Conway
 Elaine & John Crockett
 Linda Dabney
 Ann & John Davis
 Mary Gail Doerhoefer
 Claudia M. Fitch
 Laura & Tom Fulton
 LaMar & Joan Gaston
 Bill & Joyce Goodwin
 Carol Taylor Gray
 Louis B. & Bettie H. Haggin
 Sarah & David Hardy
 Sissy & Joe Helm
 Aubrey C. Hord
 Susan Houlihan
 Lynn & Walter Kunau
 Mary Pat Latham
 Hunter G. Lois & Blair Matthews Lois
 Barbara Matton Bushong
 Geoffrey & Veronica McAlmond
 Barbara Moore
 The Moremen Family -
 Pat, John & Anne, & the Boys
 Orson & Kathy Oliver
 Margaret Puttney
 Ed & Carrie Rankin
 Laura Ann Raymond
 Jim & Peggy Rucker
 Ellen Rudd & Carl Prohaska
 Sue & Gary Russell
 Susan & David Sawyer

Horace Hansborough "Doc" Seay cont...

Kathryn Scott
 Sally Seay
 Louise B. Seiler
 Marian & Don Smith
 Keith & Joann Spears
 Sarah & Terry Strange
 Tamplin & Company
 Brian & Sarah Thieneman
 John & Phyllis Thomas
 Glenn & Liza Lee Ulferts
 Joan T. Whittenberg
 Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLP

Janet Marie Selig

Wendy Norman

Lillian Simon

Anonymous

Nicole Scott Skinner

Anchorage Book Club

Sanford Spiegel

Selene Spiegel

Susan Weinstock Stauffer

Amy & Kevin Coultas
 Meredith Crawford
 Aline F. Blizzard
 Elisabeth Foshee
 Juliet & Laman Gray
 Ellen & Max Shapira
 Martin Silbernig

Dustin Strong

Eleemosynary by LMH, Inc
 Anonymous

Vijay Subhedar

Anonymous

Joe Ann Tems

Virginia W. Barker

Mabel & Phil Tomlinson

Theresa Beth Tomlinson

Evelyn Udell

Linda R. & Stephen L. Goodman

Betty Hawthorne Wagner

Kirk Wagner

Patrick Walsh

Julia Stewart

Lowry Watkins Sr.

Porter Watkins & George Bailey

Matt Winn Williamson

Dorothy W. Brock

Robert B. Wrege

Patricia R. Wrege

Lisa Gride Zachgo

Richard Zachgo

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. If there are omissions or errors please contact the Library Foundation so that we may correct our records. Only donors of gifts of \$250 and above made between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 are listed.

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Because of donor generosity, the 2020 LFPL Summer Reading Program, presented by the Library Foundation, was a great success! Library staff and volunteers distributed 50,748 books at 228 JCPS summer meal sites and partner sites. Children and teens received age-appropriate books that they get to keep forever!



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In the same year, the Library Foundation Board of Directors contributed nearly \$185,000 to support LFPL and the Foundation.



THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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