

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION



INSIDE: HOW YOU ARE IMPACTING LIVES AND LEARNING



Olin Anton
Board Chair

From the Board Chair and Executive Director

We're stronger together.

Libraries have always been about sharing, collaboration and community. In difficult times, libraries offer safety, comfort, inspiration – and often, solutions. Libraries lift us up, enabling us to reach our fullest potential, as individuals and together.

Vancouver needed its library more than ever in 2020. With the support of library lovers, VPL was able to adapt quickly to the dramatic changes thrust on our community by COVID-19. As the pandemic closed branches, donor support allowed VPL to quickly expand its offerings of eBooks, streaming services and other online resources to meet a surge in digital library use.

Beloved programs rapidly went virtual, offering families opportunities to connect and support their children's learning even when they had to stay at home, providing teens with a safe social outlet during lockdowns, and sparking dialogue among people from every walk of life through online author events and virtual programs that explored themes of equity, inclusion, truth, and reconciliation. When branches reopened, donors to VPLF provided funds needed to build safe, fun spaces for children to learn and play in – welcoming young families to gather once again.

In 2020, for the first time ever, VPL reached out to cardholders for help responding to the unprecedented challenges our community faced. The response was overwhelming. We were moved by the generosity of library users, many of whom were facing difficulties of their own, and by the words of gratitude and the stories that many shared.

This is VPLF's first annual report, created from a sense of deep appreciation for all who believe in and support libraries. It has been so uplifting to see library users come together to show their support for one another, for our city, and for the values that we share as Canadians by giving back to VPL. We hope this report shows the positive impact you've made by supporting your library, and reminds you that you belong to a community that believes, and that demonstrates with its actions, that we are stronger together.

With tremendous gratitude,

Olin Anton
Board Chair

Jenny Marsh
Executive Director

The gift of discovery, creativity and connection

Lydia's hands eagerly stretch out to the giant light board – grasping at the vibrantly coloured pegs as she rolls them in her hands and grins up at her mom. The new Early Literacy Playground is their favourite place in their neighbourhood to come and play together.

This interactive space at VPL's Renfrew branch gives babies like Lydia a chance to learn through play. This corner of the library is now anything but quiet. Different stations encourage early pre-literacy skills like reading, writing, playing, singing, and talking. These tools will set kids like Lydia up for success in kindergarten and with communication skills they will use for the rest of their lives.

YOU HAVE GIVEN FAMILIES IN VANCOUVER A SAFE PLACE TO CUDDLE UP TOGETHER AND READ, TO CREATE COLOURFUL PATTERNS OUT OF BRIGHT LIGHTS, TO STACK AND BUILD SOFT BLOCK TOWERS—TO LEARN, PLAY, AND GROW TOGETHER. THANK YOU!



Lydia explores VPL's first Early Literacy Playground at Renfrew branch.

Many young children and their caregivers have been isolated because of COVID, and the Early Literacy Playground has become a place where families can leave their homes and escape into a world of discovery; where they can play together, and make new friends.

The playground invites parents in and sets them up to support their child's learning. It serves as a space where parents can feel safe, engaged, and connected with their children and other caregivers. Where they can share in play that builds positive feelings about imagination, curiosity, and persistence.

Children excitedly toddle over to their favourite playground feature and parents have made it a routine to visit every week—the Literacy Playground has been so well received. VPL is now preparing to build Literacy Playgrounds at more branches, making play accessible to more families across Vancouver.

To bring Literacy Playgrounds to more branches visit vplf.ca/playground

A place for everyone

Why Daniela donates to her library

DANIELA KNOWS BETTER THAN ANYONE THE DIFFERENCE THAT YOUR GIFTS MAKE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE ACROSS OUR CITY.

She has been working for Vancouver Public Library since 1979, and held the role of Branch Head for neighbourhood libraries across the system. Daniela has witnessed first-hand the impact the library has on our community members: *“You get to know your regulars. It is a given... The library is their link. They may not have anywhere else to come.”*

LIBRARIANS GET CREATIVE IN ORDER TO HELP PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO ACCESS THE INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND CULTURE THEY NEED TO THRIVE.



Daniela Esparó, proud planned gift donor, monthly supporter & librarian

Daniela distinctly recalls a patron who came to the library every single day in Kitsilano branch. He spent his nights at a local shelter, so he did not feel comfortable taking his library books out at the end of the day. Staff used the holds section to ensure he never lost his place, and could enjoy the escapism of his daily routine to cozy up in “his” corner of the branch with a good book.

This is at the heart of what makes Daniela most proud to be a VPL staff member and library donor:

“Absolutely anyone can come into any branch of VPL— it doesn’t matter how you look, your socioeconomic status, nothing like that— and you can come in, sit down, and ask questions. All for free!”

Every day, Daniela saw how the library was lifting up the people in her community. It was especially powerful for her to see the difference that donor support had when she was head of Mount Pleasant branch. The branch was surrounded by elementary schools with children who needed additional resources and support to succeed.

Many even lacked simple things like pens and paper to get their homework done. Through the VPL Foundation, people in the community funded an afterschool program for these kids – ensuring that they had the supplies and help they needed to realize their potential.

DANIELA WAS INSPIRED BY WHAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO CARE COULD DO TO CHANGE LIVES THROUGH THE LIBRARY. IT WAS PART OF WHAT MOTIVATED HER TO BECOME A SUPPORTER HERSELF.

She is all too aware of the gaps between what the communities need from their libraries and what the city would be able to provide without donor support.

Daniela started out making gifts honouring colleagues who had passed, then was excited to “tie herself” to the exciting transformation of Central Library’s Storeys That Transform capital campaign as a monthly supporter. Recently, Daniela made the decision to make a gift that will help to ensure the library remains a place for everyone, no matter what the future brings, with a gift in her Will.



Giving in this way means a lot to Daniela, and she says that her gift is **“a final gesture expressing my love for Vancouver Public Library and what it stands for: access to high quality information for all and a welcoming place for everyone.”**



How you're lifting up your neighbours



MY KIDS AND I USE THE LIBRARY SO MUCH. I AM BEYOND GRATEFUL THAT WE HAVE SUCH A WONDERFUL RESOURCE IN MY COMMUNITY. ALL OF MY KIDS ARE ALWAYS SO HAPPY TO GO TO THE LIBRARY AND THEY ALWAYS BRING HOME THEIR WEIGHT IN BOOKS!

—WINNIE & KIDS, USE RENFREW BRANCH



THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT A PUBLIC LIBRARY THAT MAKES YOU FEEL PART OF A COMMUNITY...ESPECIALLY DURING A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY, IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR NEIGHBOURS AND OUR FRIENDS AND OUR COLLEAGUES HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

—NATASHA, USES CENTRAL BRANCH



I AM AN EDUCATOR, A WRITER AND AN AVID READER. I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE THROUGH EDUCATION— AND THAT IS WHAT THE LIBRARY DOES! VPL GIVES A VOICE TO PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT DIVERSE POINTS OF VIEW THROUGH WORKSHOPS AND PUBLIC READINGS. I ALSO BORROW DOZENS OF BOOKS IN FRENCH AND IN ENGLISH EVERY YEAR. I AM CONVINCED LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES FOR THE BETTER. —LYNE, USES CENTRAL BRANCH



Board of Directors



EUGENE LEE

"I volunteer for VPLF so I can support an organization that helps build vibrant and inclusive communities."



JAMIE BROADHURST

"I volunteer for VPLF because a great city must have a great library system that is accessible for everyone."



AVA VORWALLER

"I want my neighbors to know about the jewel that exists in their backyard. The architecture, indoor layout of the building, and programs offered, are simply unique."



OLIN ANTON

"I benefitted from a robust library system when I was growing up, and now have the honour of contributing to the health of today's library system for the benefit of all Vancouverites."



GREG OYHENART

"I volunteer for VPLF because we provide the support that helps people from every walk of life to reach their fullest potential."



JOHN SCHAUB

"I volunteer with the VPL Foundation to help ensure there remains a free and open place to exchange ideas and information in Vancouver."



JENNIFER CLARKE

"I volunteer for the VPL Foundation as it helps to provide a universally accessible portal to information for everyone in our community, no matter what their age, background or interests."



PRISCILLA LAM

"I feel passionately about VPL because it offers everyone a safe place at this challenging moment in time. From early literacy programs, to new immigrant support to book delivery for those who need it, the library enriches each one of our lives."



KURT HEINRICH

"I support the Vancouver Public Library Foundation because their fundraising plays a crucial role in supporting programs that foster learning and creativity, and in building engaging shared spaces that are open, inclusive and accessible for everyone."

VPL at a Glance – 2020

Meeting our community's needs in changing times

In a typical year, VPL welcomes millions of patrons. In 2020, due to the pandemic, the library had to temporarily close facilities and find new ways to deliver services.

Focusing first on mitigating the effects of COVID on children, isolated adults, and marginalized community members, VPL rapidly transitioned to digital programming. To help isolated seniors feel more comfortable interacting with the library and to stay connected with their loved ones, VPL created digital literacy programs. Recognizing that many in our community do not have access to the internet at home, VPL prioritized reinstating public computer access so that those without their own devices and connection could communicate with family, friends, and vital government services. Throughout this, your library maintained its commitment to Truth and Reconciliation; ensuring access to online programs and collections that reflect and celebrate Indigenous cultures and communities.

To meet changing needs, VPL increased digital collections, and offered take-out access to physical collections, gradually welcoming patrons back into library spaces starting in July.

The experiences we shared through 2020 have shown that libraries are essential – no matter what's happening in the world around us.



OVER **6.4** MILLION DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL ITEMS BORROWED

6.1 MILLION DIGITAL VISITS

PATRONS BORROWED **52%** MORE EBOOKS AND E-AUDIOBOOKS THAN IN 2019

OVER **100,000** PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN A DIGITAL PROGRAM

LIBRARY RANKED **FIRST** FOR SATISFACTION WITH CITY SERVICES BY RESIDENTS*

Financials

TOTAL RAISED 2020 FY*
\$1.689 M

GIFTS BY DESIGNATION
by Percent



- Branches 6%
- Digital Library 7%
- Area of Greatest Need 21%
- Library Spaces 60%
- Other 6%

REVENUE BY SOURCE
by Percent



- Direct Appeals 26%
- Major Gifts 11%
- Capital Campaign 53%
- Estates 9%
- Investment Income 1%

EXPENSES

SALARIES AND BENEFITS	\$343,268
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$76,652
CANADIAN EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY**	(\$172,285)
TOTAL	\$247,635

* Year ended on June 30, 2021

** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian government introduced the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy ("CEWS") to assist eligible organizations who had lost a certain percentage of their qualifying revenue.

To see full audited financial statements please visit <https://vplf.ca/financial-responsibility>

Thank You.

Vancouver Public Library and the Vancouver Public Library Foundation thank all those who generously gave their support in 2020.

\$500,000 +

Dilawri Group of Companies; Caesar & Martha Gell; The Nicola Family Foundation

\$100,000-\$499,999

BMO Financial Group; The Christopher Foundation; Connor, Clark & Lunn Financial Group; Richard & Sandra Durrans; Darrell & Robin Oswald; The Peterson Group Foundation; Sun Life Financial

\$10,000-\$99,999

Anonymous; Kevin De Sousa & Krista Scott; Jennifer & Doug Clarke; Diamond Foundation; Friends of the Vancouver Public Library; Debra Hewson, Dana Prince & Family; John Hodgins; The Kermani Family; Maureen & Larry Lunn; David Morrow; Postmedia Raise-a-Reader, Decoda Literacy Solutions Society and the Province of British Columbia; The Reidler Foundation; Graeme Robertson; Damon & Stevi Williams

\$1,000-\$9,999

Anonymous; Air Code Design, Lydia Cerrano Albert Child Care Support Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation; Joanie Anderson; Frank Anfield & Beth Locke; Olin & Suzanne Anton; Mary Lynn Baum & Steve F. Savitt; Charlotte Baynes; Will Beattie; Beech Foundation;

Paul Bennett & Catherine Olsen; Tracy Bond; Robert S. Bovaird; Juliana & Robert Boyd; BRITISH; Alan Burns & Wen-Lin Sun; CEBE Lee Family Fund held at Vancouver Foundation; Jennifer Chan; Tung and Shirley Chan “Ji Shen” Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation; Isobel Cole; Elm Foundation; David Fairhall; Pamela Francis; Martin Glynn; Andrew & Joan Grant; Helping Hands of Worksafe BC; Donna Hossack; Robert & Dagmar Hungerford; Jane Hutton; Erfan Kazemi; The Kingfisher Foundation; Priscilla Lam & Francis Law; Hoong Lim (林轰); Nizar & Nurjehan Mawani; Deborah Meredith; Cynthia Miles & Paul Balfour; Sandra & Norman Miller; John & Dana Montalbano; John Murphy & Leslie Lee; Prospera Credit Union; David & Leah Rowntree; Terry & Chris Salman; Laurelle Shalagan; Ron & Janet Stern; Greg & Ava Vorwallner; Brian Wells; Wesbild Holdings Ltd; Paul & Joan Whitney; Faye Wightman; Yosef Wosk Family Foundation

\$500-\$999

Anonymous; AK; Hannah Alpert & Brian Freidin; David Benson; Michele Delesalle; Barbara Dempsey; Keith Edwards; Shelagh Flaherty; Shalini Gupta; The Hamilton Family; Craig T. Hathaway; Nancy Hill; Lenora Ho; Dr. Phyllis Johnson & Dr. Peter Suedfeld; Alexia Jones; Scott Jones; Hugh Lindsay; Susanne Lloyd; Heather Long; Elizabeth MacLeod; Mark Morgan; Jay Munsie; Christopher Pollard & Ann Ramsay; Joanne Rankin; Kurt Ritcey; Danielle & David Sharp-Bell; Moira Stilwell; Tommy Tao, retired lawyer; Anuja & Praveen Varshney

\$200-\$499

Anonymous; Baoshi Gao Family; Doug Burns & Dorothy Sollosy; Melody Burton; Jennifer Chan & Matt Murdoch; Shelby Gregg; James Harcott; Jim Henderson & Jocelyn Godolphin; Lucas Herrenbrueck; Jackson-Harrop Family; John Hooge; Yu-Lin Lu & Ariel Liu; James Lucas; John & Sidney Madden; Shea Miles; Jane Murdoch; Steven Ruuth; Peter Selnar & Cynthia Turley; Dr. Samuel & Allison Tam; Tom Vadney; Doug Williamson; Donna Wyman

\$100-\$199

Anonymous; Jen Anthony; Christine & Oliver Applegarth; Scott Baldwin; Kim Barry & Simon Jacobs; Nick & Marnie Blom; Priscilla Boucher; Bree Family; Bryan & Liz; Jill Charkow; Donna Chu; Clodigoose Family; Judith Coffin; Brian Coleman; Lynn Copeland; Sharon Dagenais; Sheila Delany; Amanda & Alexander Demner; Donna Ellis; Allan English; Sean & Dallas Fahy; Linda Farrell; Jan Faulkner & Stephen Parker; Juliette Garreau; Carole Gerson; Frederick Glick & Paige Axelrood; Tom Hackney; Rick & Linda Hanson; Penelope B M Hedges; Josie Heisig; Barbara Heller; Peter Herd & Terry Viczko; Dawna Holas; Holdstock/Varga Family; Robert Hornal; Brenda Hudson; Linda M. Johnston; Francis Jones; Howard & Rosalind Karby; Ken Klonsky & Mary Ellen Belfiore; Dianne Lapierre; Rob Larson; Leinburd Family; Vanesse Ling; Shari & Trevor Martin; Glenys McDonald; Sheila McFadzean; S. Miles; Mike Mychajlyszyn; Guy Neill; Nguyen Family; June Noble; Quinones Family; Christine Rondeau; May Shi; Nicole Snowball;

Sudhir Mahadeo Gokhale Family; Andrew Szeri & Callen Sor; Sequoia Thom; Anona Thorne; Uta Vaneijnsbergen; Lindsay Vermeulen; Jonathan Waller; Daniel Whithers; Elaine & Joseph Wong; Julio Wong; KS Wong Family; Katherine Jiayin Zheng

\$99 and under

Anonymous; Linda Arato; Gary & Catherine Barr; Clare Beck; Birkheuer-Diesel Family; Carole Birks; Marie Boyer; Laurel Brinton; Brossard-Fortin Family; Cicely Bryce; Robert Campbell; Karla-Christina Carreras; Brenda Carson; Christine Cheng; Natasha Chetty; Athena & Lincoln Chow; Judy Chrastina; Jacquie Clark; Steven Coventry; Liang Ding; Marek & Mel Dutkiewicz; Elaine; Ellis Family; Steve Ellis & Madeleine Butschler; Gavin Esdale; Dianne Farlinger; Farrell Family; Maureen Fauman; Kylee Fittipaldi; Carol Flynn; Chelsea Gardner; Frances Gillis; Robert & Gail Gordon; Amanda Grenier; Hibbitts Family; Dr. Ian Hill & Katie Beall; Ron Holton; Felix Huang & Patty Tan; Martha Hutchinson; Adam Ikari; Roger Kao; Jean L. Kares; Lindsay Kerr; Lindsay Kilpatrick; Jackie & Gerry Krystal; Dr Akbar Lalani & Ms Shamin Lalani; Rick & Mary Lam; Benson Li; Pete Malleson; Blayne Martin; Ivo Martinich; Melody Mason; Gail Mattuck; Maria-Teresa McCullough; Christin McOuat & Everlee McOuat; Jeff Meerman; Ahlia Moussa; Daisy Mozzy; Mr. Lucio Muñoz; Tamar Nadiradze; Judith Neamtan; Ng Family; Melissa Ng; Kathleen Oliver; Francois Peloquin; Debbie Penner; Abdul Pirbhai; Daria Polansky; Tara Pratt; Monique Radlein; Cathy Rayment;

Donald Read; Brock Rhone; Kym Rich; Matthew Richardson; Merrilee Robson; Lynn Russell; Rahul Sekhar & Liz Barraza; Karis Sengara; Krista Shatford; Milena Shimada & Nicolas Mendes; Egon Simons; Kimberly Stewart & Peter Mennie; Svensson Family; Tarr Family; Maninder Toor; Chris Tucker & Anita Seiz; Steven K. Turnbull; Rima Vasudevan; Jane Wakefield & Ken Reeder; Patricia Wejr; Niki Westman; Stephanie Wilson; WilsonDempsey Family; Jason Wroblewski; Rana Young

MONTHLY DONORS

Anonymous; Chris Balma; Brenda Bear; Mark Bodnar & Sandra Singh; Sarah Bourgeois; Kaylea Chard; Erica Commons; Christina de Castell; Cailee, Casey, & Elizabeth Dela Cruz; Kyla Epstein; Daniéla Esparo; Fachin Gouvea Family; Elizabeth Anne Farmer; Jonathan Haley; Kurt Heinrich; E.G. Hoole; Josh Inman; Tristan Klassen; Megan Lau; Rita Huizheng Liang; Kevin Lowe; Raji Mangat; Jenny Marsh; Nadya Repin; Richard & Frank; Kit & Sasha Sauder; John Schaub; The Shanken Family; Rose Terzariol; Ann True; Rachel Van Andel; Karen & Allan Zeller

GIFTS IN HONOUR

Karen Cannon, in honour of Stanley & Elsie Cha; In honour of Charlotte Hailey Goldberg-English; In honour of Aidan & Dylan Halbakken; Shirley Heafey in honour of Claire Heafey; In honour of Mary Hoey and resilient women everywhere; In honour of Houshang Moradi Kermani; Edna Aguiñaga and Pong Leung in honour of Liam and Mila Leung; Kaplan Lando Family in honour of Jane Maria Marks;

Yosef Wosk Family Foundation in honour of Alan Twigg's mother Betty Twigg; In Honour of Vancouver's wonderful librarians; In honour of the VCH Public Health SLPs; Yosef Wosk Family Foundation in honour of Paul Whitney

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Alice Bacon; Mary M. Cutbill in memory of Eileen M. Berthier; Beytin and Cherry family and friends, In loving memory of Florence Beytin; In Memory of Carmen Castillo Bravo; In Memory of Ernest and Ady Cech; In Memory of Linda Choi; In Memory of Paddy Clarke; In memory of Bob Colman; In memory of David Dashevsky; In memory of David Devine; Pansy Poon, in memory of Ho, Pui Fun; In loving memory of Stuart Hicks; In memory of Cheryl Ann Hughes; Ting Ting Jiang Memorial Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation; Lionel Johnston & Jane Heyman in memory of Derek and Diana Lukin Johnston; In memory of Barb Kaye; In memory of Christina Lau; In memory of Thomas Lukaszek; In Memory of Gerald Grattan McGeer; In Memory of Ms. Jackie Sandy; In Memory of Sarah Shipley; In memory of Smokey the cat; In memory of Emma Stanborough; In Memory of Doris and Clifton Taylor; In Memory of Bob Tharalson; In memory of Dieter and Toni Urban

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the volunteers of the Vancouver Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Vancouver Public Library for their ongoing support.

VPLF acknowledges that our work takes place on the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́ilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

vplf.ca

350 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 6B1

Email: Foundation@vpl.ca
Telephone: 604-331-4092

Charitable Registration Number:
88075 5285 RR0001

