

2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT



INSIDE:
How your gifts inspire learning
and creativity



VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION



Olin Anton
Board Chair



Jenny Marsh
Executive Director

From the Board Chair and Executive Director

Welcome to our second Annual Report! The VPL Foundation (VPLF) Board and staff have been thrilled to welcome more than 1600 new supporters over the last year. Since the VPL Foundation may be new to many reading this, we'd like to open this report by sharing some context: who we are, what we do, and what lies ahead.

The Vancouver Public Library Foundation is entirely dedicated to raising funds in support of VPL. Donor support through VPLF supplements government funds to ensure that VPL has the resources to provide spaces, collections, services and programs to meet the growing and changing needs of our city. Some things donors have made possible through VPLF include Levels 8 & 9 of Central Library, Early Literacy Spaces at VPL's Renfrew and Britannia branches, and impactful pilot programs for babies, children, teens and aspiring storytellers of all ages.

In December 2020, many VPL cardholders learned about VPLF for the first time - and offered help when their Library needed it most. This enabled VPL to expand and diversify its collections and online programs, supporting the Library, and through it, our community, to be more adaptable, resilient, and ready to face changes and challenges as they come.

As 2021 unfolded, the Library, the city, and the world began to adjust to COVID-19. By July 1, 2021, the beginning of VPLF's new fiscal year, more than half of Canadians over 12 were fully vaccinated. The Tokyo Olympics were underway. And the trickle of traffic to Library branches, which had reopened a year earlier, had grown to a steady stream.

That stream became a flood as thousands relied on VPL branches to stay cool when an intense heat dome struck in summer 2021 - reminding many that Library spaces serve our community in myriad ways. Since then, the popularity of Levels 8 & 9 of Central Library, which opened in 2018, has surged, and the need to expand and renew more Library spaces, across many branches, has become clear.

Since last July, the VPLF team has been gearing up to raise capital funds to ensure that the Library can make the needed improvements to branches as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, we continue to direct donor support to an array of programs that promote learning, social connection and inspiration among people of every age and stage in life. Thank you so much for giving back to your community over the last year with a gift to VPLF. We hope you enjoy reading about how your generosity made a difference in our 2021/22 Annual Report.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anton".

Olin Anton, Board Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jenny Marsh".

Jenny Marsh, Executive Director

Why your fellow Library lovers give back



“Our ability to expand our world view and our potential requires an investment in lifelong learning, access to information and digital literacy skills. We all do better as a community when everyone has access to information and resources — not just those who can afford them. It’s an investment in us and in future generations.”

Erfan Kazemi

“It was a joy to visit the Britannia Early Literacy Space that I helped fund, and see all the keen little faces learning and having fun. This thoughtful, creative, and aesthetically pleasing learning center is a community gem, and I hope others will consider a gift to help make sure that more of our libraries can offer wonderful spaces such as these.”

Nicole Schouela



“The Dilawri Foundation prioritizes the needs of the children in communities across Canada. Parents and caregivers of young children gravitate to the Vancouver Public Library for learning, a sense of belonging, and community connection. Our goal is to help build a library of the future to address these needs for generations to come.”

Ajay Dilawri, Dilawri Foundation



Play, connect and belong

For some parents, attending a regular Storytime can cause feelings of isolation, anxiety, and social distress, as their children may have atypical responses to the activities taking place. That anxiety melts away once parents step into Sensory Storytime.

Sensory Storytime is a small-group program designed to create a welcoming environment for children who may not thrive in a traditional Library Storytime setting. Children with developmental disabilities, atypical sensory processing, and other conditions receive early literacy exposure, shifting focus away from the things each child can't do, and focusing instead on what they can do.

“Sensory Storytime has meant the world to our family.” said Myra through a tearful smile.



Myra first learned about the program after attending VPL's regular Storytime with her son Dylan, who is delayed in both verbal and nonverbal communication. Dylan had trouble focusing and would instead fixate over the elevators outside of the room.

This was a familiar experience for them, one they had dealt with countless times before in other programs. Myra had given up hope and informed Grace, one of VPL Children's staff, that they likely wouldn't be returning. Before letting Myra go, Grace encouraged her to bring Dylan to the next Sensory Storytime session.

Fast forward to today, and Dylan is thriving. After just 8 months of attending, his play skills, ability to retain eye contact, and focus have greatly improved. He's gone from staying still in the room for just a few minutes, to sitting through an entire program session. It wasn't long ago that Dylan showed no interest in books and would tear them apart instead. Now, he loves having stories read to him, and even has a collection of favourite books at home.



Sarah, who brings her daughter Petra to every Sensory Storytime session, loves that the program meets children's individual needs while being welcoming for all participants. Sensory Storytime has also created a lasting bond between Petra and the Library. Outside of the program, Petra visits her local VPL branch at least 3 days a week to visit the Children's staff, play, and take out books. Sarah describes the Library as a safe space where they feel at ease and free of judgment.

Sensory Storytime has had an immense impact that not only benefits the children participating, but their parents as well. The opportunity for parents to connect over the similar struggles they face, and to share tips and resources, has proved invaluable.

The support of VPL Foundation donors makes it possible for VPL to pilot unique programs such as Sensory Storytime at Library branches across Vancouver, giving children the opportunity to learn, play, and grow no matter their stage of development. Through donor support, programs like Sensory Storytime build a sense of community, where people from all walks of life can connect and find hope.



“I was introduced to Sensory Storytime at a time when I felt that no one understood what I was going through. I felt frustrated, lost, and scared... I went from feeling alone and hopeless to feeling like I have a place where I belong with so much support.”

- Myra



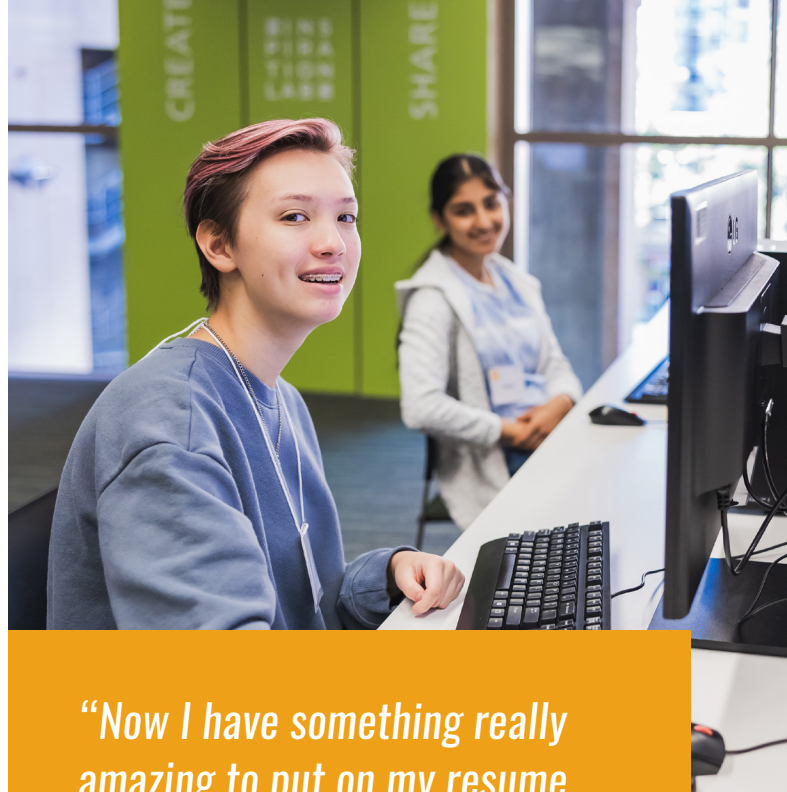


Introducing *ink* - a stepping stone for teen writers

It's a dream for many teen writers to have their name published in a book or anthology - and VPL's *ink* magazine makes this dream a reality. This annual publication, for and by teens, includes all types of writing and visual art, showcasing the creativity and diversity of teens from across Vancouver.

ink magazine is produced through VPL's *ink Teen Advisory Group (ink TAG)*, where teen members are involved in all aspects of the magazine's publishing cycle, including selecting pieces, magazine design and layout, and planning the launch party.

Each year, youth participants work together in a positive way to conceptualize the publication and



“Now I have something really amazing to put on my resume and it feels like this can be a stepping stone on my creative journey. I’ll be looking for more opportunities to get published.”

- *ink* magazine teen writer



make it a reality. While building relationships with VPL teen services staff and creative mentors from the local arts community, *ink TAG* members learn about editorial processes, art and writing selection, and potential academic and career paths.

- 20-25 youth register each year
- Teens meet bi-weekly, both online and in-person
- Provides teamwork and leadership opportunities in a supportive environment
- Engages 7-8 mentors from the local writing, arts, and publishing community each year

**ABSOLUTELY ANYONE CAN
COME INTO ANY BRANCH OF VPL**

Many adolescents can carry heavy social and emotional burdens, which can impact their mental health. Through **ink TAG**, teens have the opportunity to lighten that load by connecting with one another and with mentors, in a supportive community. As one program mentor states:

*“It is very easy for young people to feel alone and like they are the only person navigating difficulties which are actually quite common. **ink** is a great way for teens to express their emotions and their experiences. Through participating, I hope teens can learn that writing and language are powerful tools that can move mountains!”*

- Program mentor

While the doors of VPL are open to all, some youth can feel excluded from participating in programs such as **ink TAG**. To ensure this program reaches teens with **diverse backgrounds who represent all of the communities VPL serves**, teen services staff work with Alternative High School teachers and administrators, Neighbourhood House and Community Centre youth workers, and many other groups that serve vulnerable young people to promote the program. Through these valuable community partnerships, VPL can reach and connect with teens who would most benefit from **ink TAG** mentorship and leadership opportunities - often those whose voices usually go unheard.



Caring donors make programs such as **ink TAG** happen. In 2021, a generous contribution from the **Diamond Foundation** enabled VPL to engage community partners who work with vulnerable youth - identifying and encouraging those who would benefit the most from participating. Donor support also enables VPL to secure creative industry mentors to engage, teach, and inspire participating youth on how to grow and leverage their creative passion into future success.

If you are looking for emotional and powerful teen-led writing, keep a lookout for **ink magazine**, released each December and available online. Expect a rich and poignant publication full of talent - showcasing the many facets of a young person's experience in Vancouver and around the world.

[Click here to view last year's copy of ink.](#)

THIS PROGRAM IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE DIAMOND FOUNDATION.

Board of Directors



Olin Anton

"I benefited 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."



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."



Greg Oyhenart

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



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."



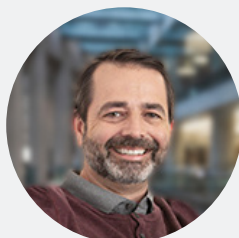
Beth Ann Locke

"Growing up, I found fresh worlds to explore every week at my local library. Now libraries are community hubs with portals to learning, entertainment, job resources, and access to opportunities. I joined the VPLF Board to keep building our communities."



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."



Jason McDaniel

"The library has provided a critical connection to the community for my family. It was a safe and peaceful place to study in my youth and now my four children have all benefited from their many journeys of learning and exploration at our local branch."



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."



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."

VPL at a Glance | 2021

Meeting our community's needs in changing times

2021, for all its challenges, was a rewarding year for VPL. The first Early Learning Space opened at the Renfrew branch, surprising and delighting families in the neighborhood. All across the city, in-person visits continued to rise back towards pre-pandemic levels, while new virtual programs such as live streaming events, recorded live programs, and online interactive activities, for both children and adults, brought the Library into people's homes.

VPL continues to celebrate and honor Indigenous ways of learning through programs such as the Indigenous Storyteller in Residence, and Connections to Kith and Kin - a unique program where experts help Indigenous participants search online records for family documents.

These programs were delivered online in 2021, providing valuable information and insights to Library patrons.

One of the most impactful ways VPL is helping to address affordability issues and remove barriers to Library use is through the elimination of overdue fines. Library fines disproportionately impact those facing economic and social barriers, all too often discouraging those who may benefit the most from accessing Library services. In June 2021, VPL held a two-week fine forgiveness event to re-engage Library users. Continuing on our journey to reduce barriers to Library service, VPL eliminated overdue fines for all cardholders in June of 2022.



Photo Credit - Kim Thé, Pebble Star Artists

OVER 
8.9m
DIGITAL & PHYSICAL
ITEMS BORROWED

KIDS UNDER 10 BORROWED
AN AVERAGE OF

91 

PHYSICAL ITEMS PER
PERSON/YEAR - more than
any other Library users!

FOOT TRAFFIC
TO BRANCHES HAS
INCREASED OVER

59%
SINCE 2020 

ALMOST 

22,000

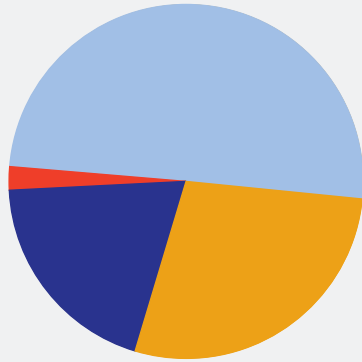
cardholders had their fines
forgiven and their VPL cards
reactivated in 2021





[Click here to read VPL's full 2021 annual report.](#)

Financials

Gifts by Designation

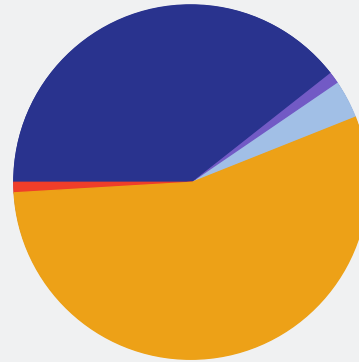
by % of funds raised







	Accessible Services	21%
	Area of Greatest Need	51%
	Library Spaces	25%
	Collections, Programs & Services	3%

Gifts by Source

by % of funds raised



	Individuals	39%
	Monthly Donors	1%
	Corporations	4%
	Estates	55%
	Investment Income	1%

Total Raised 2021 FY*


 **\$3,082,466**


* Year ended on June 30, 2022


** 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 vpfl.ca/financial-responsibility

Expenses

 **\$391,800**
SALARIES AND BENEFITS

 **\$473,391**
ADMINISTRATIVE

 **(-\$67,628)**
CANADIAN EMERGENCY WAGE
SUBSIDY**

 **\$797,563**
TOTAL



Thank You.

Vancouver Public Library and the Vancouver Public Library Foundation thank all those who generously gave their support in 2021-2022.

\$500,000+

Dilawri Group of Companies; The Nicola Family Foundation; The Estate of Anton Stramitz; The Estate of E. Jane Ward

\$100,000-\$499,999

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

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In honour of 'Abdu'l-Bahá; In honour of Hannah Boldt and Alma Olsson; Karen Cannon, In honour of Stanley & Elsie Cha; In honour of Fiona Curtis; Melina Auerbach, In honour of Jacob & Ayomi de Wijze; Linda Gledhill In honour of their brother Michael Bourne; In honour of Houshang Moradi Kermani; In honour of Nikolai Korndorf; In honour of Edna Nash, Britannia Secondary guidance teacher; In honour of Angela & Antonio Morena; In honour of Suzanne O'Sullivan; In honour of Rebecca Patterson; In honour of Lisa Schwabe; Leonard Schein Family in honour of Barbara Small; In honour of Donna Sheppard; In honour of Vancouver's wonderful librarians; In honour of all VPL staff,

volunteers & community members; Yosef Wosk Family Foundation in honour of Alan Twigg's mother Betty Twigg; Yosef Wosk Family Foundation in honour of Paul Whitney

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Madge Aalto; Maureen Shaw in memory of Carol Acton; In memory of Nora & Eric Allen; In memory of Ross Angus; In memory of James Armstrong; In memory of Dr. José & Lydia Aquino; In memory of Alice Bacon; In memory of Dennis Baxendale; In memory of Trevor Bell; In memory of Archie Benson; Mary M. Cutbill in memory of Eileen M. Berthier; In memory of Ernest & Ady Cech; In memory of Paddy Clarke; In memory of Fiona Curtis; Robert Kent DesRochers in memory of Elizabeth Grace DesRochers; In memory of David Devine; Zysblat & Feldstein families & friends, In loving memory of Ida Feldstein; In memory of Carlos Foppiano; Pansy Poon, in memory of Ho, Pui Fun; In memory of Shirley & Gordon Goundrey; William Robert Galloway in memory of Kenzie Hoar; In memory of Donna Hossack; In memory of Cheryl Ann Hughes; In memory of William Hughes; In memory of Ronald Burns Hyde; In memory of Mutsuko Miriam Kumagai (nee Sumi), from the Sumi Family of Seattle; In memory of Ada & Max Kim; In memory of Christina Lau; Sheila Matano in memory of James Simeon Matano; Brenda Johnston in memory of Peter Morgan; In memory of Peter Morgan; In memory of Dermot Murphy; In memory of Peter, Mary & Grace; In memory of Cely Schouela; In memory of June Seto; In memory of Sarah Shipley; In memory of Charles Parker Smith; In memory of Emma Stanborough; In memory of Hellen Stephen; In memory of Joseph Noel Stone; Judith Walker in memory of Sue Teahan; In memory of Jim Wong-Chu; Ken & Anne Woods in memory of John R. Woods

Volunteers

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

Great care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you discover errors or omissions, please call 604-331-4092.

Vancouver Public Library Foundation acknowledges that our work takes place on the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), sel̓il̓wítulh (Tsleil Waututh) and sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) Coast Salish peoples.



vplf.ca

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