



FY22

DEVELOPMENT REPORT





The Free Library of Philadelphia creatively serves our communities every day, in person and online. With this 2022 Development Report, the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation recognizes and thanks the many individuals and organizations whose philanthropy was critical to the Free Library's success in fulfilling its mission and meeting its goals from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Thank you for your commitment to advancing literacy, guiding learning, and inspiring curiosity through the Free Library of Philadelphia.

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MESSAGE FROM D. JEFFRY BENOLIEL



Chair, Board of Directors
Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation

“The Foundation, with your generous gifts, will continue to fund critical programs that are making a difference in our communities.”

DEAR FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA SUPPORTERS,

After five years as a board member, I was honored to begin my leadership as Chair of the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation Board in the year we welcomed our new President and Director Kelly Richards. Kelly brings to this role strong leadership, organizational and operational skills, and a passion for libraries and what they can enable in our many diverse communities.

Despite the challenges of recent years, the Free Library, with critical support from the Foundation, continued to deliver on its mission to advance literacy, guide learning, and inspire curiosity. In fiscal year 2022, the Free Library further expanded virtual programs and services, while gradually returning to in-person activities, welcoming over 1.4 million visits to its 54 library locations and nearly 1.7 million visits to its website.

With the Foundation's support, the Free Library aided job seekers by hosting career fairs and expanding online services, and augmented the City's digital equity plan by distributing hot spots and tablets across the city. The Literacy Enrichment Afterschool Program (LEAP) supported students in neighborhood libraries and online as they returned to classroom learning. Additionally, initiatives such as the *In the Path of Islam* exhibition and programs, which were curated by community members, celebrated diverse voices. These and many more educational, cultural, and supportive resources funded by the Foundation enhance the Free Library's unique and vital role in our region.

The City of Philadelphia's fiscal year 2023 budget provides a historic increase of more than \$13 million for the Free Library of Philadelphia. This increase enables our neighborhood libraries to resume five-day service with the addition of more than 300 employees, and the Foundation, with your generous gifts, will continue to fund critical programs that are making a difference in our communities.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my thanks to all our donors, who give because they share our commitment to the value of this institution, which enriches so many lives.

Sincerely,

D. Jeffrey Benoliel
Chair, Board of Directors
Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation

MESSAGE FROM KELLY RICHARDS



President and Director
Free Library of Philadelphia and
Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation

GREETINGS FREE LIBRARY SUPPORTERS,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you as the president and director of the Free Library of Philadelphia and Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation. I would like to personally extend my thanks to you for your support of the City of Philadelphia's Library system, which welcomes millions of visits to our neighborhood libraries and online resources every year.

I am honored to have been appointed to this position and I am very grateful for the warm welcome that I have received. It has been a pleasure to meet with many of you, in groups large and small, in person and online. From festive gatherings like this year's gala—our first since 2019—to virtual conversations and the quarterly Morning Blend series, it has been awesome to connect with you. I am eager for many more opportunities to share our experiences and hopes for the future of this extraordinary institution.

Support for the Library comes from generous individual, foundation, and corporate donors, and from the City. This year, Mayor Jim Kenney proposed a significant funding increase of \$10.4 million for the Free Library that will be used to provide training, increase funds for collection materials, and achieve stable five-day service by adding 220 full-time and 96 part-time Library staff members. An additional \$2 million for digital materials and \$675,000 for executive/leadership staff was added in the amendments by City Council. The City's funding provides for the essential operations and staffing throughout the organization, and contributions secured by the Foundation from donors help to care for and showcase the Library's impressive special collections; provide opportunities for civic dialogue at neighborhood libraries, the Parkway Central Library, and online; offer a full suite of childhood, family, and adult literacy programs; support job seekers; and much more.

There is so much that excites me about partnering with you to sustain and expand the Free Library's services to Philadelphia communities. I am thrilled to begin this new chapter together, and thank you for your partnership on this journey.

Warmly,

Kelly Richards
President and Director
Free Library of Philadelphia and Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation

“I am eager for many more opportunities to share our experiences and hopes for the future of this extraordinary institution.”

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



FUNDED

800 hygiene kits

WHICH PROVIDE DAILY ESSENTIALS TO PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSECURITY—FOR DISTRIBUTION AT NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES IN HIGH-NEED COMMUNITIES.

WELCOMED

1,407,565 in-person visits

ACROSS 54 LIBRARY LOCATIONS AND

1,699,066 online visits.

With your support in fiscal year 2022, the Free Library of Philadelphia ...

HELD OVER

35 learning circles for adults in eight languages

AT THE LANGUAGES AND LEARNING CENTER.

EXPANDED AND DIVERSIFIED THE LIBRARY'S COLLECTIONS BY ACQUIRING OVER

20,000 new books, DVDs, and ebooks,

USING OVER \$450,000 OF FUNDING FROM THE

American Rescue Plan Act.



CELEBRATED THE

20th anniversary of One Book, One Philadelphia

WITH 76 EVENTS CENTERED AROUND QUIARA ALEGRÍA HUDES' MEMOIR *MY BROKEN LANGUAGE*.



LOANED OVER

11,000 Wi-Fi hot spots and tablets,

WITH FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND, TO PHILADELPHIA RESIDENTS, HELPING TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE THAT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC INTENSIFIED.



HELD

142 Author Event programs

WITH RENOWNED WRITERS, INCLUDING TONY AWARD-WINNER HARVEY FIERSTEIN, BESTSELLING AUTHORS SANDRA CISNEROS AND AMOR TOWLES, AND PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES AND GEORGE F. WILL. THERE WERE

17,884 total attendees

FOR IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENTS.

RECEIVED A BEQUEST FROM THE ESTATE OF BARBARA GITTINGS AND KAY LAHUSEN TO BENEFIT THE

Barbara Gittings Collection,

AN LGBTQ+ COLLECTION LOCATED IN INDEPENDENCE LIBRARY.



CREATED THREE TRAVELING ARTIFACT EXHIBITIONS FOR DISPLAY AT MASAJIDS IN PHILADELPHIA IN CONNECTION WITH

In the Path of Islam,

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PROJECT AMPLIFYING THE DIVERSE VOICES OF PHILADELPHIA'S INDIGENOUS MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

OBSERVED THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUSIC INSTRUMENT LENDING PROGRAM. SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE MUSIC INSTRUMENT COLLECTION HAS MADE OVER

3,500 instrument loans

TO PATRONS.



COUNTED

719,330 cardholders.



EXPANDED THE FREE LIBRARY JOB SEEKERS' WEBPAGE

freelibrary.org/jobseekers

TO CONNECT JOB SEEKERS TO INFORMATION ON CAREER PATHWAYS, TRAINING PROVIDERS, AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN PHILADELPHIA INDUSTRIES WITH FAMILY-SUSTAINING WAGES.



PROMOTED

Reading Promise,

A FAMILY-FOCUSED CAMPAIGN DESIGNED IN COLLABORATION WITH PHILADELPHIA PARENTS TO SUPPORT LITERACY DEVELOPMENT AT HOME AND IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS.

HOSTED EIGHT DYNAMIC DISCUSSIONS THROUGH

Hear Me Out,

A MODERATED, ONLINE CIVIC DIALOGUE SERIES HELD THROUGH LIBRARIES ACROSS THE STATE, SUPPORTED BY THE

Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation.



RELAUNCHED THE CULINARY LITERACY CENTER'S IN-PERSON HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMMING, WHICH FEATURES

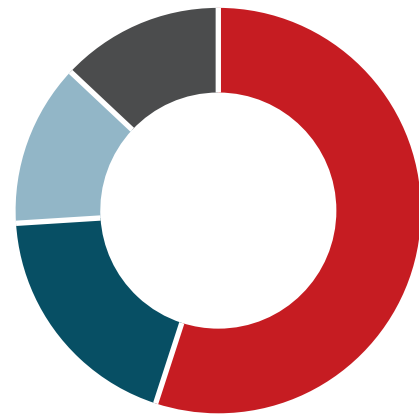
free cooking classes in low-income neighborhoods,

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MARCH 2020.

FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENTS

The following figures reflect all non-campaign gifts and pledges made to the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation during fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022).

WHERE SUPPORT COMES FROM



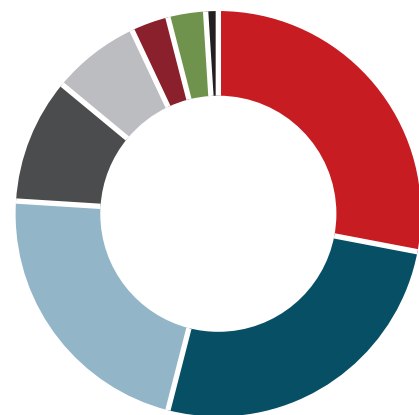
55%	Individuals \$5,240,209
19%	Corporations/Other Organizations \$1,812,589
13%	Foundations \$1,283,088
13%	Government/Public Entities \$1,276,964

FY22 TOTAL DONORS
6,082

FY22 TOTAL GIFTS
9,961

FY22 TOTAL DOLLARS
\$9,612,850

HOW SUPPORT IS APPLIED



28%	Unrestricted \$2,703,850
26%	Childhood and Family Literacy \$2,532,612
22%	Endowment \$2,145,346
10%	Neighborhood Libraries* \$999,583
7%	Collections and Resources \$653,160
3%	Adult Literacy and Opportunity \$285,481
3%	Civic and Cultural Engagement \$266,518
<1%	Other \$26,300

*\$850,000 of the total for neighborhood libraries is for capital support



ACROSS THE BOARD

The announcement of Kelly Richards as president and director of the Free Library coincided with the election of Folasade A. Olanipekun-Lewis as chair of the Free Library of Philadelphia’s Board of Trustees and D. Jeffry Benoliel as chair of the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation’s Board of Directors. Benoliel was elected vice chair in 2018 and Olanipekun-Lewis most recently served as the treasurer and the co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, bolstering the efforts of Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Dr. Guy Sims.



Entrances

The Board of Directors welcomed three outstanding new members this year. Each brings special talents to the Foundation, and we welcome their active participation in the important work ahead.

DONALD M. GENERALS, ED.D.

Dr. Donald M. Generals became the President of the Community College of Philadelphia in 2014. He earned his Doctor of Education in Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education at Rutgers University, and both his Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts at William Paterson College. He has certificates in administrative leadership and educational management from Cornell and Harvard. Dr. Generals has 20 years of teaching experience, and writes and speaks on a range of educational issues. His book, *Booker T. Washington, The Architect of Progressive Education*, was published in 2013.

PETER WOLF

Peter Wolf has over 20 years of legal experience including serving as in-house counsel at several biotechnology companies, and practicing corporate and securities law at various firms. He is an adjunct faculty member at the Horn Entrepreneurship program at the University of Delaware. Mr. Wolf was previously the executive director of Life Science Cares Philadelphia, which connects the life science community with organizations serving critical community needs. He received his Juris Doctor from the George Washington University National Law Center and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Delaware.

KARIMA A. ZEDAN

Karima A. Zedan is the Founder and Principal of Zedan Impact Consulting, which supports organizations in digital and technological equity, social impact, corporate social responsibility, and organizational design. She has spoken on issues of equity, inclusion, intersectionality, and leadership; served as subject matter expert on topics related to technology, digital skills and equity, and income inequality and education; and has delivered briefings and other presentations to Congress, the Federal Communications Commission, and more. She holds a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice from Temple University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania.

Exits

We extend our gratitude to those directors whose service on the Board ended in fiscal year 2022.

SHELLEY STEWART

In fiscal year 2022, Shelley Stewart departed from the Board of Directors. Mr. Stewart served on the Executive, Education Assistance, and Project Committees and the search committee for the president and director. We extend our gratitude to Shelley for his five years of service on the Board of Directors and acknowledge the expertise, time, and resources that he shared, along with his dedication to the organization and its mission.

LEADERSHIP

Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation Board of Directors

OFFICERS

D. Jeffry Benoliel
Chair

Jude Tuma
First Vice Chair

Lynn Charytan
Second Vice Chair

James J. Biles
Treasurer

Richard A. Greenawalt
Secretary

Folasade A. Olanipekun-Lewis
Vice Chair, Ex Officio

Kelly Richards
President and Director

MEMBERS

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Carol Banford
Honorable Phyllis W. Beck (ret.)
Benito Cachinero-Sánchez
Jeffrey Cooper
Tobey Gordon Dichter
Donald M. Generals
Melissa Grimm
Janet F. Haas
Robert C. Heim
Honorable Renée C. Hughes
Michael A. Innocenzo
Phillip P. Jaurigue
Charles P. Keates
Geoffrey Kent
Susan B. Muller
Peter D. Nalle
Patrick M. Oates

Shelley Stewart
Barbara Sutherland
Karla Trotman
Joe H. Tucker, Jr.
Jay L. Weinstein
Peter Wolf
Karima A. Zedan

EMERITUS

James H. Averill
Peter A. Benoliel
Marie H. Field
Elizabeth H. Gemmill
W. Wilson Goode, Sr.
Alexander Kerr
Leslie Anne Miller
William R. Sasso
A. Morris Williams, Jr.

JULY 1, 2021—JUNE 30, 2022

Free Library of Philadelphia Board of Trustees

OFFICERS

Folasade A. Olanipekun-Lewis
Chair

Jeffrey Cooper
Vice Chair

Suzanne Simons
Vice Chair

Donald M. Generals
Treasurer

Jenée Chizick-Agüero
Secretary

D. Jeffry Benoliel
Vice Chair, Ex Officio

Kelly Richards
President and Director

MEMBERS

Donna Allie
Api Appulingam
Honorable Pamela Dembe
Michael DiBerardinis
Tobey Gordon Dichter
David Gould
Robert C. Heim
H.W. Jerome Maddox
Donald E. Moore
Mustafa Rashed
Sonia Sanchez
Joseph W. St. Geme
Matthew Stitt
Elaine Tomlin

EMERITUS

Gloria Twine Chisum
W. Wilson Goode, Sr.
Herman Mattleman*
M. Teresa Sarmina

*deceased April 2022

JULY 1, 2021—JUNE 30, 2022



Welcoming Kelly Richards

On January 14, 2022, the Free Library of Philadelphia and Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation welcomed Kelly Richards as president and director. Prior to this appointment, Kelly served as director of the Muskegon Area District Library in Michigan and president of the Michigan Library Association. He brings with him almost three decades of library experience. He began his career in library services in the Las Vegas Clark County Library District, and also worked in the Genesee District Library in Flint, Michigan, before taking on the role of director in Muskegon. In addition, Kelly served as the chairperson for Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance, an organization that trains government agencies and businesses in principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion/belonging. Kelly earned an Associate of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at Ferris State University and a Masters in Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh.

Kelly shares, “As president and director, my goal is to build a stronger Library, and incorporating

diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) thoroughly into our organization is essential.” In his first six months, Kelly designated the Library’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion to manage the Library’s Human Resources department. “This move will build trust between all levels of the organization,” he continues. “It will ensure staff has the training and development necessary to learn and grow and carry out their work to the best of their abilities; and it will ensure intentional systems change that speaks to the world of today inside and outside of the Library.”

Among Kelly’s top priorities has been to secure stable five-day Library service across the neighborhood libraries. Demonstrating the Library’s need for increased staffing to fulfill this objective, Kelly has worked in partnership with Mayor Jim Kenney and City Council to increase city funding for the Library in fiscal year 2023 to support the hiring of more than 300 additional staff, which will help stabilize five-day service across the 54 libraries.



Advancing Opportunities for Library Staff

The Education Assistance Fund was established by the Foundation’s Board of Directors in 2020, to assist staff in pursuit of a first-time bachelor’s or associate degree as a path to career advancement. The program’s goals are to provide financial assistance to employees throughout the Library, Foundation, and the Rosenbach Museum & Library who are working toward their post-secondary degrees, support their upward mobility, and increase diversity across all levels of the Library. Board members, individual donors, and staff members contributed to the Fund. In fiscal year 2022, seven employees received tuition assistance from the Fund to study at local educational institutions, including Community College of Philadelphia, DeVry University, Drexel University, Peirce College, Saint Joseph’s University, Temple University, and Widener University.

Bonita Riggins, who received support through the Fund to attend Saint Joseph’s University, shares, “[It] acted as the motivation that I needed to keep on persevering. Often, I looked at the numbers and said to myself, ‘I cannot.’ With the assistance, I began to say, ‘Maybe I can.’ Thank you so much.”

Additionally, with support from a generous donor, five Library staff members have received full scholarships to Drexel University in pursuit of their Master’s in Library and Information Science.

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Principles

In fiscal year 2022, the Library and Foundation continued to advance our commitment to a more equitable and inclusive workplace that supports staff members of diverse backgrounds and experiences. Dr. Guy Sims, the Free Library’s first full-time chief diversity and inclusion officer, continued to implement **Pathways to Progress: Strategic DEI Priorities and Action Plan**, which was introduced in fiscal year 2021.

Dr. Sims introduced the monthly Community Conversations series for staff in January 2022. This program makes space for staff members to come together to discuss and process

important issues and themes centered on diversity, equity, and inclusion, including dismantling racism, unconscious bias, and bystander intervention, among others.

The Free Library also participated as a cohort member of the City of Philadelphia’s citywide Racial Equity Strategy in fiscal year 2022. In connection with the Mayor’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Library was one of 12 City agencies and offices working together to assess key practices, procedures, and policies to advance racial equity; and to develop and implement action plans to increase equitable impact in our organizations.



Vanguard Supports Expansion of Literacy in Early Learning Spaces

The Library's **Literacy in Early Learning Spaces (LiELS)** program supports child care teachers through technical assistance, professional development, and classroom resources. LiELS prioritizes equity by partnering with child care programs in neighborhoods with high poverty rates; those that serve students and families who are learning English, or speaking languages other than English at home; and those that receive lower levels of state funding, where teachers are typically among the lowest paid workers in the field.

With funding from the **Vanguard Strong Start for Kids Program™**, in fiscal year 2022 this program expanded to three new neighborhoods (West Philadelphia, North Philadelphia, and Olney) and added 19 new child care program partners. Partners were provided with 24 virtual professional development sessions, 16 in English and eight in

Spanish, for 318 attendees. One director, whose center recently completed the three-year program with LiELS, expresses, "I am glad my child care had the opportunity to participate in such a purposeful program ... My teachers benefited, my children benefited, my families benefited, and ultimately the community is better because of it."

In December 2021, a virtual Family Engagement event served families from 45 child care programs. Books to encourage at-home reading were gifted to participants, which included 898 children ages birth–5 years, and 404 school-age children. The event featured live interactive segments, including read-alouds, singalongs, movement activities, art projects, and games. Each segment emphasized an aspect of early literacy with enrichment activities, at-home literacy tips and games, and Library information.

The A. Morris Williams, Jr. and Elaine W. Camarda Fund for Youth Programs

This year, the Foundation was honored to receive a \$1 million gift to establish this new endowment that will resource youth programming in neighborhood libraries across the city. On an annual basis, distributions from the Fund will support the Library's implementation of at least eight programs for children and teens in neighborhood libraries, designed by library staff for their patrons. President and Director Kelly Richards acknowledged the impact that this Fund will have, sharing, "This endowment generously provides funding for awesome programs that will creatively serve our youngest community members for generations to come. I thank Morris and Elaine for their visionary gift, which will support the Library in meeting the needs of children and families across Philadelphia."

About the decision to establish the Fund, Williams says, "Elaine and I would like to empower our branch librarians to deliver innovative ideas to help our young Philadelphia residents. We need to support the Free Library of Philadelphia to help all citizens of Philadelphia access free education, entertainment, and business resources."



Serving Teens at the Free Library

The **Marie and Joseph Field Teen Center** at the Parkway Central Library serves patrons ages 12 to 18 through in-person and virtual programs, as well as through reference and research support. Though its collection is open to all, the space is reserved for teens for reading and browsing, research, homework, peer interaction, and enrichment activities. In fiscal year 2022, Field Teen Center programs served 5,358 attendees. Programming included the SAT and College Prep series, a monthly virtual workshop designed to prepare teens for the college application process; and Teen Reading Lounge, a nontraditional book club in which teens help to create the reading list and design creative and civic engagement projects.

The Library's **Literacy Enrichment Afterschool Program (LEAP)** provides afterschool mentoring, homework assistance, individualized tutoring, access to computers, and trauma-informed care. Library staff members, After School Leaders (ASLs), and Teen Leadership Assistants (TLAs) offer LEAP both online and in person in libraries throughout the city. Through their employment with LEAP, TLAs receive and provide mentorship for each other and the K-12 students they serve. While LEAP's online engagement and in-person programming took place throughout the year, in the spring of 2022, programs in neighborhood libraries focused on literacy; science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM); and wellness. New this fiscal year was a series of First Friday events for TLAs, at which the Library's teen staff found mutual support for their work, advanced their learning about collaboration in a virtual setting, and connected with their peers.



CELEBRATING EVENTS

Gala 2022: Celebrating a New Chapter

On April 9, the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation welcomed over 250 supporters to the Parkway Central Library for this year's gala, *Celebrating a New Chapter*, to welcome Kelly Richards as president and director of the Free Library of Philadelphia and Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation.



Mayor Jim Kenney served as honorary chair of the gala.

Ric and Mindee Harris, Reverend Dr. Alyn E. Waller and Ellyn Jo Waller, Ed.D., and Elaine Camarda and A. Morris Williams, Jr. served as co-chairs. The Foundation thanks them for their strategic partnership in support of Kelly's vision and goals for the Library and its future service to Philadelphians. In addition to the co-chairs, lead sponsors for the gala included **Comcast**, **PECO**, **Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church**, and **Janney Montgomery Scott**. The Foundation is deeply grateful for their enthusiastic and generous support, and extends thanks to everyone who sponsored the event, purchased tickets, and made donations at the gala or in lieu of attendance.

Gala proceeds supported the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation, which provides critical resources to Library programs and services for our neighbors across the city.

Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed a beautifully decorated and dramatically lit Parkway Central; meeting and getting to know Kelly; eating delicious hors d'oeuvres and dinner, accompanied by the Austin Woodlin Jazz Quartet's musical entertainment; and dancing until midnight. During dinner, a new video produced for the gala shared Kelly's excitement for the Library's work, and featured staff and patrons from across the Library system sharing the impact of the Library's services and programs, including offerings for families and children. An on-site "paddle raise" fundraising drive secured over \$35,000 in contributions to support youth programming across the Free Library system. These funds helped the Foundation to meet the Lily Literacy Challenge, a matching gift incentive from **The Lily Foundation**, which provided an additional \$25,000 in funding for the Library's childhood and family literacy initiatives. The Foundation thanks everyone who raised their paddle to make a gift in support of the Library's literacy programming.

To view the gala video, click the QR code or scan with your smartphone camera:



Virtual Learning Events Highlight Philanthropy and Estate Planning

The Foundation hosts an ongoing series of learning events on topics related to charitable and legacy giving for the benefit of our donors. In fiscal year 2022, the Foundation hosted two new webinars in this series, attended by over 100 individuals.

In September, Director of Hirtle Callaghan, Susan McEvoy, and Chair of Private Clients, Trusts and Estates at Cozen O'Connor, Helene Jaron, presented "The Ins and Outs of Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) and Private Foundations." Helene and Susan explained the differences between DAFs and private foundations, and provided frameworks and questions for donors to consider to determine the best path for their personal situations. The series continued in March with "The Importance of Estate Planning: Planning for the 'What If,'" a topic offered in response to donor interest surveys. This webinar featured attorney Angela Giampolo of Giampolo Law and financial advisor Richard Kuhn of Northern Trust, who together presented on the fundamentals of estate planning and addressed participant questions.

To view recordings of these events, click the below QR codes or scan with your smartphone camera:

"The Ins and Outs of Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) and Private Foundations"



"The Importance of Estate Planning: Planning for the 'What If'"



The Foundation expresses thanks to all of the presenters this year for generously sharing their time and expertise, and is eager to continue offering more learning opportunities on topics of philanthropy in the future.

CELEBRATING OUR SUPPORTERS

CHAIRMEN'S CIRCLE

The Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations whose lifetime gifts and pledges to support the Free Library and the Rosenbach Museum & Library total \$1 million or more.

The Annenberg Foundation
 The Arcadia Foundation
 Janet and Jim Averill
 Peter A. Benoiel and Willo Carey
 Elaine W. Camarda and A. Morris Williams, Jr.
 City of Philadelphia
 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Tobey and Mark Dichter
 William B. Dietrich Foundation
 Marie and Joseph Field
 The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation
 Sally and Dan Gordon
 Peggy and Rich Greenawalt
 Otto Haas Charitable Trust,
 recommended by Janet and John Haas
 Hamilton Family Charitable Trust
 Robert and Eileen Kennedy Heim
 Nancy and Alan* Hirsig^
 Independence Foundation
 Institute of Museum and Library Services
 John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
 Lincoln Financial Foundation
 The Leslie Miller and Richard Worley Foundation
 National Endowment for the Humanities
 PECO
 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission^



On March 9, 2022, the Foundation honored Chairmen's Circle members at a special event at the Union League. Directors of the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation, Trustees of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and Trustees of the Rosenbach Museum & Library attended to express their appreciation for the members' generosity.

This annual event recognizes an individual or couple who have been instrumental partners in the Foundation's work, and this year the Foundation recognized Barbara and Fred Sutherland. Barbara's 10 years of service as a director of the Foundation, including as chair in fiscal years 2019–21, were devoted to advancing the work of the Board and stewarding the organization through the pandemic and leadership transition. With Fred's enthusiastic participation, the couple has also inspired many others to join them in generously supporting the Free Library.

The Foundation Board and staff extend heartfelt thanks to Barbara and Fred Sutherland, and to all of our Chairmen's Circle members.

The Pew Charitable Trusts
 Philadelphia City Institute
 Board of Managers
 The Philadelphia Foundation
 PNC Foundation
 William H. Shea, Jr.
 Leon C. Sunstein*
 Barbara and Fred Sutherland

United Way of Greater Philadelphia
 and Southern New Jersey
 Vanguard Strong Start for Kids
 Program™
 Wells Fargo
 William Penn Foundation
 Sankey and Constance Williams
 Wyncote Foundation, at the
 recommendation of Frederick Haas^

Our Members: At the Heart of Our Mission

Members of the George S. Pepper Society, Raven Society, and Knee-Hi Society are dedicated and passionate donors whose generous annual membership gifts support hundreds of Free Library programs and services, including literacy-based activities, workforce development, social services, English language learning classes, and civic dialogue events that enrich the lives of Philadelphians across the city. In appreciation, members are invited to special programs and events that celebrate the Free Library, its special collections, and staff.

The Free Library is a leader in fostering civic dialogue, and the Foundation's third annual Pepper Forum, *Vaccinations: Past and Present*, in November 2021, focused on an important contemporary issue. Members of the **George S. Pepper Society** were invited to a live panel discussion featuring esteemed experts Argie Allen-Wilson and Doctors Carolyn Cannuscio, Paul Offit, and Stanley Plotkin, who spoke about the history of vaccines and vaccination, and the recent approach and challenges toward COVID-19 vaccine development and delivery. The panel was moderated by Maiken Scott, host and creative director of WHYY's *The Pulse*.

For a recording of this year's Forum, click the QR code or scan with your smartphone camera:



In June 2022, Peppers gathered at the Parkway Central Library's Skyline Terrace for the annual Pickwick Salon, a special event that recognizes Pepper members and the impact of their annual gifts. The event welcomed Quiara Alegria Hudes—author of the 2022 One Book, One Philadelphia featured selection, *My Broken Language*—who read from her heartwarming memoir as the 20th season of One Book, One Philadelphia drew to a close.

Members of the **Raven Society**, a young professionals membership group, enjoyed two events, including a partner event in June with One Book, One Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Latino Film Festival (PHLAFF), in which they co-hosted a festive happy hour that included short film screenings as part of the PHLAFF's 11th annual season.

The **Knee-Hi Society**, a membership for families with young children, was reintroduced this year with a new benefits structure. To recognize the appreciation young families have for their neighborhood libraries, the Knee-Hi Society will direct 80 percent of each Knee-Hi membership to libraries in neighborhoods throughout the city. The Foundation is eager for this program to grow and develop in the coming year!

CELEBRATING OUR SUPPORTERS

THE GEORGE S. PEPPER SOCIETY

The Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation recognizes the following members of the George S. Pepper Society in fiscal year 2022.

ELKINS CIRCLE

\$25,000 AND ABOVE

Cindy and John Affleck
Peter A. Benoiel and Willo Carey
Amy Branch and D. Jeffrey Benoiel
Elaine W. Camarda and
A. Morris Williams, Jr.
Tobey and Mark Dichter
Peggy and Rich Greenawalt
Otto Haas Charitable Trust,
recommended by Janet and
John Haas
Robert and Eileen Kennedy Heim
Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer and
Joe Neubauer
Nancy Q. Petersmeyer
Barbara and Fred Sutherland

DICKENS CIRCLE

\$10,000–\$24,999

Barbara B. and Theodore R. Aronson
Janet and Jim Averill
Phyllis W. Beck
Nadine and James Biles
Jill and Sheldon Bonovitz
Lois and Julian Brodsky
Carolyn Cannuscio and Daniel Rader
Lynn Charytan
Jeffrey Cooper and Nancy Klaus
Peggy and Mark Curchack
Pamela and David Dembe
Elizabeth H. Gemmill
Deborah G. Gorman and
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On May 4, 2022, President and Director Kelly Richards and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Dr. Guy Sims participated in a happy hour and conversation with members of the Raven Society, a membership group for young professionals who are passionate about the Free Library and supporting its work. The conversation focused on the role that diversity, equity, and inclusion principles have in informing the present and future of the Free Library. The conversation with Kelly and Guy offered space for attendees to speak with Library leadership about the issues that are important to them.

Visit freelibrary.org/raven for more information on the Raven Society.



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FRIENDS OF THE FREE LIBRARY

The Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation extends its gratitude to the Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia and to each of the neighborhood library Friends groups. Through volunteerism, advocacy, financial support, and so much more, your investments in the Free Library support a more vibrant and equitable Library system for Philadelphians.

PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE

Angela Giampolo
Michelle Hong
William Levy
Evan Linhardt
Justin Pagliei
Alan Weissberger

THE YEAR AHEAD

The Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation is committed to resourcing programs and activities that advance literacy, guide learning, and inspire curiosity throughout the region, and to helping the Free Library deliver on the promise of an equitable future for Philadelphia children, families, and communities.

Opening of *Chronicling Resistance*: This exhibition and related programming will showcase what eight local activists, cultural organizers, and artists discovered when they researched the archives of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL). Through archival items, rare books, oral histories, and original artwork, *Chronicling Resistance* counters the systemic erasure of Black, Brown, and LGBTQ+ people from the historical record, breaks the silence, and uncovers new ways of understanding and enacting resistance. *Chronicling Resistance* is supported by the **Mellon Foundation**, **The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage**, and **PACSCL**.

Expanding Read, Baby, Read programming: With generous support from the **William Penn Foundation**, in fiscal year 2023 Read, Baby, Read will expand from its current 17 locations to 26 libraries, as part of a multi-year expansion plan across the system. Read, Baby, Read offers literacy-based programming to babies, toddlers, and their caregivers, and trains library staff on incorporating literacy and learning into programming. Programming includes baby storytimes, baby dance parties, parent circles, and pop-up storytimes at local community sites.

Launching the teen tech lab and maker space: The Field Teen Center offered 285 events and programs for teens in fiscal year 2022, and this new space, adjacent to the Field Teen Center, will expand its offerings even further. The space is undergoing renovations and adding new resources. The tech lab and maker space opened this fall, and will expand its programming in the coming months.

Hosting career fairs across the city: Sponsored by **Citizens**, career fairs connect job seekers to training organizations and employers from a wide range of industries, including healthcare, IT, and construction. Fairs will be supplemented by workshops on a wide range of topics, including the job search process and developing digital literacy skills, and resources like the Library's free Career Training Database, which introduces job seekers to career pathways and training programs. The Library's workforce development programming is also made possible through generous support from **Comcast**, **PECO**, and the **Institute of Museum and Library Services**.

Despite our very best efforts, errors may have occurred in the production of this publication. If you have questions, please contact the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation at giving@freelibrary.org or 215-567-7710.



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