

FY23

DEVELOPMENT REPORT





WHAT'S INSIDE

The Free Library of Philadelphia serves our communities every day, in person and online. With this 2023 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, 2022, through June 30, 2023. 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

“Your generosity and dedication to this organization positively impacts our city.”

DEAR FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA SUPPORTERS,

Fiscal year 2023 has been a time of exciting growth and change for the Free Library and the Foundation. The Free Library continued to offer the programs that our communities have enjoyed through the years while adding new ways for Philadelphians of all ages to enjoy and learn at our neighborhood libraries, and the Foundation’s donors have provided critical financial support to many of these initiatives.

The Free Library carried out its mission to advance literacy, guide learning, and inspire curiosity with offerings such as the Author Events Series, which featured 120 programs; and the Literacy Enrichment Afterschool Program (LEAP), which provided homework help and enrichment opportunities to K-12 students in neighborhood libraries across the city.

Family Literacies and Community Connections, a new pilot program made possible by donor support, began serving Philadelphians from Afghanistan by connecting them to local resources and tools to support their acclimation. In addition, the Foundation supported the Library’s signature One Book, One Philadelphia program, which each year features a new title and related programming. The 2023 selection was *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu, with youth companion titles *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang and *Drawn Together* written by Minh Lê and illustrated by Dan Santat. The season launched in April with a community fair at the Parkway Central Library; and the June finale included a conversation with Yu at the Community College of Philadelphia and a festive karaoke party at the Asian Arts Initiative.

To continue to advance the Foundation’s work, in fiscal year 2023 the Board of Directors launched the search for an Executive Director to partner with Kelly Richards as the organization defines its strategy and direction going forward. We look forward to working with Monique Moore Pryor, our Executive Director, as the Foundation continues to support the critical services and programs offered by the Free Library.

On behalf of the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation Board of Directors, I offer my deepest gratitude to all of our donors. Your generosity and dedication to this organization positively impacts our city. We are honored to have your support.

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,

As I reflect on the accomplishments we have made over the past year, I am so grateful for the awesome level of support I received from donors, the staff, Board members, the Mayor, City Council, and countless others. With additional funding from the city of Philadelphia, and the generous contributions of individual, foundation, and corporate donors, the Library has presented another year of vital programs and resources that are making a difference in the lives of millions of Philadelphians.

In fiscal year 2023 we opened 10 neighborhood libraries for Saturday service: Cecil B. Moore, Charles Santore, Eastwick, Fox Chase, Greater Olney, Haverford, Kensington, Nicetown-Tioga, Tacony, and Walnut Street West. The expanded hours allowed these neighborhood libraries to better serve community members, providing essential materials and resources, as well as services and programs, that further the Library’s mission to advance literacy, guide learning, and inspire curiosity. We will continue to work toward six-day service at more locations in the next year.

Gifts made to the Free Library Foundation enhance the Library’s core programs, including literacy programs for patrons of all ages, job seeker resources, civic engagement events, special exhibitions, and so much more. These beloved and essential offerings enliven all of our communities, and I extend my personal thanks for your gifts, which make these activities and materials available.

I am excited by the progress that has been made thanks to your incredible support, and I am eager to build on our success. Together, we will sustain and enhance the Free Library’s offerings to the children, adults, and families of Philadelphia for years to come.

Warmly,

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

“I am excited by the progress that has been made thanks to your incredible support, and I am eager to build on our success.”

ADDED A TOTAL OF

\$3.9 million in unrestricted funds

TO THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA FOUNDATION'S
ENDOWMENT THROUGH GENEROUS LEGACY GIFTS.



HOSTED OVER

**200 programs for over 4,700 attendees
through the Culinary Literacy Center,**

WHICH ADVANCES LITERACY, BUILDS CONNECTIONS, AND PROMOTES
COMMUNITY HEALTH THROUGH COMMUNALLY PREPARING AND SHARING MEALS.



CELEBRATED READ BY 4TH'S THIRD ANNUAL
READING PROMISE WEEK, FEATURING

**52 free events held in
28 ZIP codes across the city,**

PROMOTING A CULTURE
OF LITERACY IN PHILADELPHIA.



REACHED

**over 600 job seekers
through career fairs and
career readiness workshops**

AT NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES.

WELCOMED

1,922,016 in-person visits

ACROSS 54 LIBRARY LOCATIONS AND

1,960,023 online visits.



ORGANIZED

more than 50 events
attended by approximately
1,600 individuals

FOR THIS YEAR'S ONE BOOK, ONE PHILADELPHIA SEASON, WHICH FEATURED THE NOVEL INTERIOR CHINATOWN BY CHARLES YU.



COUNTED

767,298 cardholders.

Distributed hygiene kits

THAT INCLUDED ITEMS SUCH AS SOAPS, TOOTHBRUSHES AND TOOTHPASTES, COMBS, CHAPSTICKS, AND WIPES

at seven
neighborhood libraries.



HELD

120 Author Events,

WITH

15,000 attendees.

Expanded access to databases and materials

INCLUDING SUBSCRIBING TO THE PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS JOURNAL ONLINE, CONTINUING THE SHORT STORY DISPENSER, AND EXPANDING ADDITIONAL ACCESS TO THE ESSENTIAL EDUCATION GED® AND HISET® PROGRAMS.



SHARED OBJECTS FROM ITS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WITH

over 3,000 visits in the first four months of
Mapping Imagination: The Art of World-Building,

AN EXHIBITION THAT EXPLORED THE CREATIVE AND ARTISTIC CHOICES THAT MAPMAKERS USE TO BUILD WORLDS AND ENHANCE STORYTELLING.

FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENTS

The following figures reflect all non-campaign gifts and pledges made to the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation during fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023).

WHERE SUPPORT COMES FROM



60.5%	Individuals \$7,420,445
19.8%	Corporations/Other Organizations \$2,428,096
19.7%	Foundations \$2,414,012
<.1%	Government/Public Entities \$3,000

FY23 TOTAL DONORS
6,235

FY23 TOTAL GIFTS
11,082

FY23 TOTAL DOLLARS
\$12,265,553

HOW SUPPORT IS APPLIED



33.3%	Endowment \$4,082,603
32.6%	Childhood and Family Literacy \$4,000,062
21.9%	Unrestricted \$2,691,260
4.6%	Neighborhood Libraries \$570,139
4.2%	Adult Literacy and Opportunity \$514,958
1.8%	Civic and Cultural Engagement \$226,315
<1%	Other \$90,848
<1%	Collections and Resources \$89,368



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.



JOHANNA B. BAEK

Johanna B. Baek's 15+ year career has included positions at globally leading institutions in the financial services, payments, and tech sectors (Vanguard, American Express, and Google). She has acquired extensive experience in driving vision, strategy, and execution for transformational business plans, new product development programs, marketing campaigns, and customer experience optimization initiatives. She provides data-driven, customer-oriented change leadership for business-critical initiatives, which facilitate rapid operational scaling and multimillion dollar growth. Baek holds a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University, and a Master of Business Administration from Columbia Business School.



JOHN F. HOLLWAY

John F. Hollway is Associate Dean and Executive Director of the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. He is a researcher and thought leader on the use of root cause analysis in criminal justice, and has consulted with various agencies and corporations. Hollway's *Killing Time: An 18-Year Odyssey from Death Row to Freedom* won the National Independent Book Award for non-fiction in 2011. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Applied Positive Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Juris Doctor from the George Washington University Law School.



DICK WEBSTER

As the Vice President of Regulatory Policy and Strategy at PECO, Dick Webster oversees the company's regulatory affairs as well as procurement of electric and gas supply. During his nearly 40 years with PECO, Webster has led merger integration efforts, supported long-term strategic development, and was responsible for the oversight of information technology and business process changes to implement customer choice at PECO. Webster holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware and a Master of Business Administration from Villanova University.

Exits

We extend our gratitude to those directors whose service on the Board ended in fiscal year 2023.



HONORABLE PHYLLIS W. BECK (RET.)

In fiscal year 2023, Honorable Phyllis W. Beck was elected as a Board Member Emeritus. Since joining the Board in fiscal year 2011, her service has included working on the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee. Prior to being on the Board of Directors, Beck was a Free Library of Philadelphia Trustee from 1993 to 2010. She generously gave of her time and resources over decades of devoted service, and we extend our gratitude for her dedication to the Library and its mission.

Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation Board of Directors

OFFICERS

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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

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Honorable Phyllis W. Beck (ret.)
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Marie H. Field
Elizabeth H. Gemmill
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Alexander Kerr
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JULY 1, 2022—JUNE 30, 2023



Free Library of Philadelphia Board of Trustees

OFFICERS

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President and Director

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Mustafa Rashed
Joseph W. St. Geme
Matthew Stitt
Elaine Tomlin
Lisa Walke

EMERITUS

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

JULY 1, 2022—JUNE 30, 2023

To learn more about the Free Library's out-of-school time programs, click the QR code or scan with your smartphone camera:



Teen Programs and Spaces at the Parkway Central Library

On April 12, 2023, the fourth anniversary of its opening, the **Marie and Joseph Field Teen Center** hosted a celebration with teen patrons. Since its launch, the Field Teen Center has offered a variety of beloved events, and this year featured new and expanded engagement opportunities. A total of 455 Field Teen Center programs took place in fiscal year 2023.

The Maker Lab, adjacent to the Field Teen Center, continued with renovations while offering programs. The space has new acoustic draping and computers, and additional furnishings are forthcoming. Current Field Teen Center programs include SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Acceptance) Club and the Third Thursday Book Club. With the planned hiring of a Maker Mentor, the Field Teen Center hopes to offer

daily maker programs highlighting art, music, dance, and technology.

The Field Teen Center hosted its first annual prom in May 2023 at Parkway Central's Skyline Room and Terrace. The teen-selected theme—Villains' Night—was brought to life by decorations, catering, music, and performances.



Summer of Wonder Celebrates its 100th Anniversary

Summer of Wonder is a program for all ages, online and in neighborhood libraries, which invites participants to attend Library programs and activities, and encourages students to read during the summer months. 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the Free Library of Philadelphia's summer reading program. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a belated celebration was held on June 10, 2023, at the Cecil B. Moore Library in North Philadelphia. Attendees enjoyed face painting, balloon animals, storytelling, crafts, and a dance workshop; and celebrated the culmination of the "Week of Play," which launched Summer of Wonder 2023. This year children received game boards to track their summer reading and stickers for completing activities.

The Library's other signature summer offerings include Science in the Summer and the Summer Camp Challenge. Science in the Summer, sponsored by **GSK** and administered by **The Franklin Institute**, engages second through sixth-graders in activities designed to increase confidence and encourage interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers. Through funding from the **William Penn Foundation**, Summer Camp Challenge participants receive materials and training to incorporate one hour of literacy activities into daily camp programming. Cumulatively, these programs provide ongoing engagement with the Library and help offset "summer slide," the gap in learning that can happen between school years.



LEAP Welcomes Students at 5,000+ Programs

The **Literacy Enrichment Afterschool Program (LEAP)** provides homework help, literacy support, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) activities for K-12 students in neighborhood libraries



throughout Philadelphia, offering a safe space to gather during out-of-school time hours. LEAP activities included a partnership with **The Franklin Institute** to teach the science of wind; participation in Peace Day Philly, in which students practiced peaceful ways to resolve conflict; and opportunities to learn about Black women innovators during Black History Month. Fiscal year 2023 featured over 5,000 online and in-person programs for more than 46,800 participants and attendees.

After School Leaders and Teen Leadership Assistants support LEAP's work online and in neighborhood libraries. Through funding from the **City of Philadelphia's Office of Children and Families**, this year LEAP hired over 50 teens (ages 14-18) as Teen Leadership Assistants. These teens also received professional development in career readiness, financial literacy, and LEAP program design. About their experience, one Teen Leadership Assistant shared: "Working as a Teen Leadership Assistant is an experience that will make you kinder and wiser. You will feel seen as a person by everyone around you, be it kids, After School Leaders, or Library staff."

DID YOU KNOW ... ? Neighborhood libraries offer a variety of engaging programs across the city!
To explore the calendar of upcoming events, click the QR code or scan with your smartphone camera.



Neighborhood Library Capital Improvements Underway Across Philadelphia

The Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation partners with the City of Philadelphia to enliven communities with innovative, inclusive, and inspiring programming; and raise contributions from donors to support capital improvements in neighborhood libraries. Modern, safe spaces in which community members can enjoy programs are essential to delivering on the Library's mission to advance literacy, guide learning, and inspire curiosity across Philadelphia.

This fiscal year, capital work generously funded by the City of Philadelphia's **Rebuild** initiative officially began at the Kingsessing and Paschalville libraries, both in Southwest Philadelphia. Rebuild is a historic investment in neighborhood parks, recreation centers, and libraries across Philadelphia. In total, 12 neighborhood libraries will undergo major renovations or projects such as HVAC and roof improvements as part of the Rebuild program.

Private support raised through the Foundation provides enhancements to library renovations that are paid for through Rebuild dollars. For example, at Paschalville, the **Knight Foundation** has generously pledged \$1 million to ensure that the newly renovated library



PHOTO CREDIT: REBUILD PHILADELPHIA

will be a tech-enabled hub that supports the needs of this community. This grant supports community engagement and outreach; development and piloting of new programming; the purchase of state-of-the-art technology and equipment; and discreet direct construction costs, including the creation of a media lab.

In addition to these Rebuild sites, the Frankford Library, in lower Northeast Philadelphia, is undergoing a critical \$5.5 million renovation made possible by generous gifts to the Free Library Foundation from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Support from the **William Penn Foundation**, the **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program**, the **Pennsylvania Department of Education Office of Commonwealth Libraries's Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund**, the **Patrick J. McGovern Foundation**, and **The McLean Contributionship** will give Frankford Library a fully

renovated exterior and interior, featuring cosmetic upgrades, new meeting rooms, an ADA-compliant lift that provides access to programming spaces on the lower level, and a reconfiguration of the main staircase.

Whether generating funding for programs in neighborhood libraries or raising capital support for renovations, the Foundation is committed to ensuring that all Philadelphians have access to Library resources and programs that enrich the communities they serve.



PHOTO CREDIT: REBUILD PHILADELPHIA

Lillian Marrero Library Hosts Teen Writing Workshop

Over the past year, staff at the Lillian Marrero Library in North Philadelphia noticed an increase in the number of teens visiting the branch. To better serve these patrons, the Library staff engaged the teens in planning conversations about programming, and found a common interest in creative writing. Thanks to a generous gift from **Dale and Richard Levy**, beginning in May 2023, the Lillian Marrero Library hosted a four-week poetry and songwriting workshop for teens. Under the instruction of a local bilingual artist (Spanish and English), the students were introduced to written and vocal works by Meek Mills, the late Maya Angelou and Biggie Smalls (The Notorious B.I.G), and teen poetry slam champion Jae Nichelle, among others.



PHOTO CREDIT: REBUILD PHILADELPHIA

To learn more about how the Free Library serves patrons of all ages, click the QR code or scan with your smartphone camera:



Providing Library Resources for Recently-Arrived Afghan Community Members

Philadelphia is a Certified Welcoming city that celebrates many immigrant and refugee communities. In recent years, the city has become home to more than 800 refugees from Afghanistan. A majority of these new community members have settled in Northeast Philadelphia and, thanks to support from an anonymous donor, the pilot program **Family Literacies and Community Connections** was launched at Northeast Regional Library in fiscal year 2023.

Three Afghan neighbors were hired as Community Connectors to introduce the Library and its services to new residents. Over a period of several months, Afghan refugees new to Philadelphia came to Northeast Regional, enjoying family storytimes and other programming, and obtaining their Library cards. The donor's contribution funded the purchase of 125 tablet devices for Afghan families. Community Connectors and other participants were also introduced to nearby businesses interested in hiring from the Afghan community. Continued programming at Northeast Regional in fiscal year 2024 will help Afghan community members build digital literacy skills, learn internet safety, and connect with the Library's digital resources, including reading lists, electronic and audio books, language learning programs, and job seeker resources.



Adult Education Resources at the Languages and Learning Center

The **Languages and Learning Center (LLC)**, launched in September 2019, serves adults seeking to improve their English, basic reading and writing, digital literacy, and/or world language skills. Generously supported by funding from the **Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation**, **BNY Mellon Mid-Atlantic Charitable Trusts**, the **Wish You Well Foundation**, and individual donors, the LLC provides learners with a welcoming, accessible learning environment.

While its physical resources are located at the Parkway Central Library, the LLC supports individuals' literacy and learning goals across Philadelphia and online. The LLC's signature programs include digital literacy instruction and a variety of classes and programs with digital components. Leamos ("Let's Read") welcomes Spanish-speaking adults who do not yet know how to read and write in Spanish, helping them to develop their skills through self-paced online lessons, and with access to a Spanish-speaking tutor. Beginning English Language Learning classes teach the basic vocabulary, grammar, and digital skills necessary to participate in more advanced classes. GED® and HiSET® preparation offers students studying for their high school equivalency exams self-paced, independent, and remote learning options. Instruction through Northstar Digital Literacy trainings gives learners the basic skills to perform tasks on computers and online.

Of her involvement with the LLC, Hajime says:

"I am from Japan and have experienced so many Library language programs that are free, fun, and informative, including Edible Alphabet, grammar courses, and a reading circle. These experiences encouraged me to take the GED® class online. Last summer, I jumped at the chance to teach the Japanese class online, and I've loved introducing some of Japan's culture to others. I am very thankful that I am a part of the Library community."

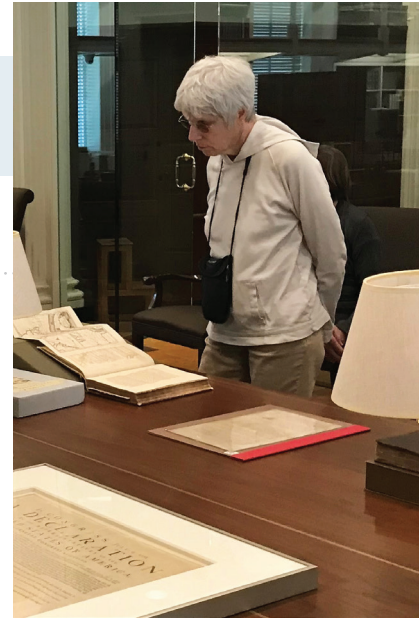
After pandemic-related closures paused a full rollout of the LLC's initiatives, 2023 was the first year in which the Library expanded LLC programs to neighborhood libraries. In addition to continuing to host educational programs online and in person at Parkway Central, LLC programming was offered at the Lillian Marrero Library in North Philadelphia, the Independence Library in Center City, and the Whitman Library in South Philadelphia. In fiscal year 2023, the LLC supported over 8,400 adult learners, advancing their learning goals and increasing their confidence in critical skill areas. In fiscal year 2024, the LLC will continue to reach new and existing patrons through further digital offerings and in-person opportunities across Philadelphia.

PRESENTING EVENTS

Visiting Philadelphia's Treasures: The Collections Crawl Series

The Free Library of Philadelphia is regarded for its renowned Special Collections, which enhance the Library's mission by making rare and historic materials accessible, providing knowledgeable research services, and offering programs that promote understanding of our shared cultural heritage. To spotlight the importance and depth of the historical treasures in and around Philadelphia, including the Library's own holdings, in fiscal year 2023 the Foundation introduced our newest educational series: the **Collections Crawl**. This series provides opportunities for intimate, behind-the-scenes visits at some of our region's most admired collections and archives.

The series debuted in December 2022 with a visit to the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, which included an exhibition tour and time spent in the rare book library. Additional sold-out events showcased the special collections of the historic Athenaeum of Philadelphia and the American Philosophical Society, which featured an exhibition tour and a library highlights and conservation presentation. We are excited to continue the Collections Crawl series at a new set of locations in fiscal year 2024!



The Inaugural Community Impact Awards

In fiscal year 2023, the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation was proud to launch the **Community Impact Awards**, created to recognize and honor organizations, individuals, and philanthropists whose work aligns with the Free Library's mission to advance literacy, guide learning, and inspire curiosity.

The inaugural awardees were selected for their impact in Early Childhood Literacy through direct service in their communities. **The African American Children's Book Project** has connected children to culture-celebrating and identity-affirming storytelling for over 30 years. **Barbershop Books** provides culturally responsive children's books in accessible places and encourages

community members to become literacy advocates. **Joyful Readers** provides quality, skilled, individualized reading tutoring. **Philibros** increases access to Spanish language books across Philadelphia and helps readers of all ages stay connected to their culture through stories. **Reading Allowed** has created a new model for specialized literacy tutoring for Philadelphia school-age children. **Read to Succeed Philadelphia** assists children with getting the help they need to close their reading skills gap.

We thank each of the selected organizations for their great service to our communities, and are delighted to honor them as our first cohort of Community Impact Award recipients.

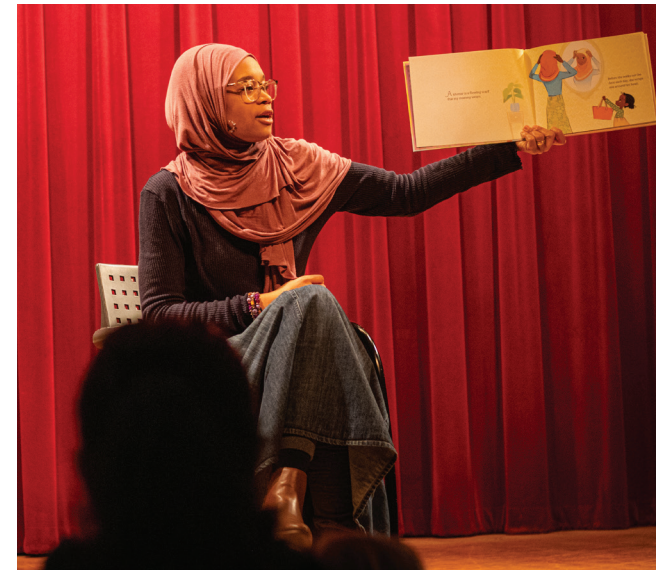
To explore past Author Events, click the QR codes or scan with your smartphone camera:



PODCASTS



YOU TUBE



Author Events Showcase Literary Talent

Over the course of its decades-long history, the Free Library's **Author Events Series** has grown to feature a robust event calendar with acclaimed novelists, renowned historians, celebrated public figures, and more. One of the Library's most recognized and beloved offerings, the series embodies the Library's mission: to advance literacy, guide learning, and inspire curiosity.

In fiscal year 2023, we welcomed many impressive authors, including Pulitzer Prize-winners Buzz Bissinger, Hernan Diaz, and Maggie Haberman; Adam Gopnick of *The New Yorker*; journalist Mehdi Hasan; co-star of the hit TV show *Black-ish* Jenifer Lewis; Ari Shapiro of NPR; and Grammy Award nominee Michelle Zauner. Nearly 15,000 attendees participated in this year's series, and the Author Events' podcasts and YouTube videos have been shared more than two million times with Philadelphians and listeners from around the world.

Author Events speak to topics across the public, civic, and humanities spheres. In addition to bringing attention to a diverse array of authors, the series advances cultural access and equity by offering many free programs. To support these offerings, in fiscal year 2023, the Foundation introduced a new **pay what you wish** model for our free Author Events. Beyond the ongoing revenue provided by ticketed programs, these donations will help sustain this engaging series for years to come.



RECOGNIZING OUR SUPPORTERS

LEADERSHIP 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
 Estate of Elia Durr Buck
 Elaine W. Camarda and
 A. Morris Williams, Jr.
 City of Philadelphia
 Comcast NBCUniversal
 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Tobey and Mark Dichter
 William B. Dietrich Foundation
 Marie and Joseph Field
 Estate of Roseann P. Gill
 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

In fiscal year 2023, the Foundation updated the name *Chairmen's Circle* to *Leadership Circle*, advancing the use of inclusive language while continuing to honor our inspiring supporters. New recognition signage was installed at the Parkway Central Library in summer 2023 to celebrate these generous donors.



On March 15, 2023, the Foundation welcomed members of the Leadership Circle to the Skyline Room at Parkway Central for our annual appreciation event. Members of the Free Library Foundation Board of Directors and Trustees of the Free Library and Rosenbach Museum & Library were present to express gratitude to Leadership Circle donors for their generosity.

Each year this event also pays special tribute to an individual, couple, or institutional donor. This year the Foundation honored PECO for its loyal support, and Michael A. Innocenzo, PECO's CEO and outgoing Free Library Board member (FY19-FY23), for his years of service. PECO has been a steadfast funder: supporting One Book, One Philadelphia since its inception; funding the planning, implementation, and continued delivery of Philly Career Launch; and giving generously to Read by 4th and Summer of Wonder.

The Foundation Board and staff extend heartfelt thanks to PECO, Michael A. Innocenzo, and all of our Leadership Circle members.

Pennsylvania Historical and
 Museum Commission[^]
 The Pew Charitable Trusts
 Philadelphia City Institute Board
 of Managers
 The Philadelphia Foundation
 PNC Foundation
 William H. Shea, Jr.
 Lenore H. Steiner and Perry A. Lerner[^]
 Leon C. Sunstein*[^]
 Barbara and Fred Sutherland

United Way of Greater Philadelphia
 and Southern New Jersey
 Vanguard Strong Start for Kids
 ProgramTM
 Wells Fargo
 William Penn Foundation
 Constance and Sankey Williams
 Ruth W. Williams* and
 A. Morris Williams Jr.
 Wyncote Foundation, at the
 recommendation of Frederick Haas[^]

[^] Rosenbach contributors
 * deceased

Our Members: Lifelong Learners

Members of the Pepper Society, Raven Society, and Knee-Hi Society are generous Library advocates whose annual membership gifts sustain our mission and 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. In appreciation, members receive communications and invitations to tours, lectures, events, and other benefits.

The **George S. Pepper Society** brings together passionate individuals who share the vision of a vibrant Library that is accessible to all. On October 25, 2022, Pepper members kicked off the fall Author Events season with a special meet-and-greet with journalist Maggie Haberman prior to her public Author Event. In December, members were welcomed to the Pepper Forum, which each year highlights a critical current issue. This year Emily Rizzo of WHYY moderated *Off Shelves, Off Limits: A Discussion on Contemporary Book Banning*. On June 16, 2023, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks joined more than 110 members for our annual Pickwick



Salon, a special dinner that recognizes the impact of Pepper Society members. Brooks held a private Q&A and signing of her new book, *Horse*, in advance of the public Author Event that evening.

The **Raven Society** connects young professionals who are bonded by their love of the Free Library. In fiscal year 2023, Raven Society membership grew by 79%. On July 27, 2022, members gathered for Ravens on the Rooftop to enjoy the Skyline Terrace at the Parkway Central Library with their friends, family, and colleagues. For Oktoberfest 2022, chef Clara Park taught 36 Ravens how to make a Philly classic—the soft pretzel—at the Culinary Literacy Center. 2023 also featured exciting Ravens activities, such as the Poe Party, which celebrates Edgar Allan Poe's birthday each January, and a special tour of the exhibition *Mapping Imagination* in April.

The **Knee-Hi Society**, a membership for families with young children, was reintroduced last year. To recognize the appreciation young families have for their local libraries, the Knee-Hi Society directs 80% of each Knee-Hi membership to neighborhood libraries throughout the city. The Foundation is thrilled to continue developing Knee-Hi events in the coming year!



RECOGNIZING 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 2023.

ELKINS CIRCLE

\$25,000 AND ABOVE

Cindy and John Affleck
Peter A. Benoliel and Willo Carey
Peggy and Rich Greenawalt
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
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East Falls resident and Free Library Foundation supporter **Nancy D. Pontone** has regularly made visits to the Maps Department at the Parkway Central Library to review the historic Hexamer Atlas survey map of her neighborhood in support of her preservation work with the East Falls Historical Society. The Hexamer Atlas, which totals over 170 volumes, provides a parcel-by-parcel view and history of building and land usage over the many decades of its creation. Because of its age, many volumes of the Atlas are dilapidated and in need of delicate conservation. The Foundation expresses our deepest thanks to Nancy for generously supporting the conservation of an 1893-1895 Hexamer Atlas volume that details East Falls. The year-long project was conducted by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) and included repair of damaged pages, spine restitching, surface cleaning, repair and reconditioning of the leather cover and tabs, and more.



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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
Rachel Kieser
William Levy
Justin K. Pagliei
Alan E. 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.

Neighborhood libraries undergoing renovations:

The Frankford, Kingsessing, and Paschalville libraries were undergoing major renovations by the close of fiscal year 2023 thanks to a combination of the City of Philadelphia's Rebuild initiative and philanthropic support through contributions to the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation. In fiscal year 2024, the Blanche A. Nixon/Cobbs Creek, Cecil B. Moore, Lawncrest, and Richmond libraries will also begin renovations. We anticipate a number of newly renovated libraries reopening in 2024!

The Art and Influence of John Dowell opening fall 2023:

This exhibition and related programming will showcase the master printmaker and educator's contributions to his field, his city, and the Free Library's collections. It will highlight Dowell as a vital contemporary voice of the Philadelphia experience, and will welcome visitors to the Library, which he personally values because "a Black child can go for free."

Culinary Literacy Center (CLC) celebrating 10th anniversary in 2024:

The CLC is a commercial-grade kitchen and interactive learning lab in the Parkway Central Library that has revolutionized the way Philadelphians think about food, nutrition, and literacy. Programming extends beyond Parkway Central: the CLC hosts programs in neighborhood libraries across the city and online, provides youth and families with opportunities to learn, advances literacy through interactive programs, and shares information to enhance overall wellness.

Welcoming the Foundation's new Executive Director:

The search for a new Executive Director began in fiscal year 2023, leading to an exciting new hire in the summer of 2023. In fiscal year 2024, the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation welcomes Monique Moore Pryor, Esq. Monique joins the Foundation from an impressive career in higher education, most recently serving as the Chief Engagement and External Affairs Officer at Saint Francis College in Brooklyn, NY. She provided executive leadership to departments including human resources, communications, government and community relations, and fundraising. We are eager to introduce our donors to Monique in the new fiscal year!



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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