



St. Louis Public Library
FOUNDATION



IMPACT REPORT

slpl.org



On behalf of the St. Louis Public Library, and the hundreds of thousands of people it serves, our thanks for your thoughtful and generous support.

The Library is able to provide a wide variety of wonderful services, programs and unique learning tools solely because of your help. The citizens of St. Louis support their Library generously, but as the importance of giving all children an early start in literacy has become clear, the divisions caused by the 'digital divide' are deepening, and the necessity of access to good information is an ever more important key to a successful life, more and more needs are brought to the Library in the hope we can help. You have allowed us to respond to many of these hopes.

In 2019, the Foundation offered a variety of wonderful opportunities to children and adults: programs, exhibits, concerts and digital experiences to name only a few. You helped to greet hundreds of brand new parents with *Born to Read* bags, that include a first picture book and simple ways to introduce their new baby to words. You created the wonderful exhibit *Print to Pixels: How Words Changed the World*, which helped thousands learn how print built our world, the role St. Louis had played in that evolution, and offered a chance to see some of the world's rarest and most beautiful printed works, part of the Library's important collections. You allowed us to create the unique *Storytime Theater* program, introducing young children throughout St. Louis to the magic of theater and performance. Your support of the Library's Summer Camp program alone has helped introduce possibilities to hundreds of children and their grateful parents! I could go on and on.

A final instance: I have stood twice now on the stage of the Library's beautiful auditorium in Central Library - made possible because of the Foundation - to congratulate and read out the names of graduates from our Career Online High School program as they accept their diplomas. These adults, who for many different reasons did not graduate from high school, have earned their degree with the help of tutors, Library staff, and an online program. Their degree is now recognized by every state in the US. This graduation program is an exciting experience, with crowds of happy friends and proud relatives, Library staff, and the graduates themselves in caps and gowns. Both the graduation and the reception that follows are emotional and moving experiences.

You make that possible. You set that hope free in our community. Thank you.

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ABOUT THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The mission of the St. Louis Public Library Foundation is to support the Library's programs and services through advocacy and fundraising and to build relationships with others who share a passion for the Library's work.



THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

In fiscal year 2019, your St. Louis Public Library Foundation raised and provided **\$1,179,385** in support of St. Louis Public Library.

Friends of the St. Louis Public Library

Thanks to the generosity of civic-minded individuals like the Friends of the St. Louis Public Library (SLPL), SLPL is able to enrich the lives of more than two million people who live and work in the St. Louis region. Friends gifts provide annual support for a number of free SLPL programs and initiatives.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING:

- Born to Read Bags for New Parents
- Early Childhood Outreach Team
- Storytimes and Storytime Theater
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Read it Together
- Reading Pays
- Read It Forward
- Summer Programming
- Summer Camps
- School Year Camps
- Play Date Theater

ADULT PROGRAMMING:

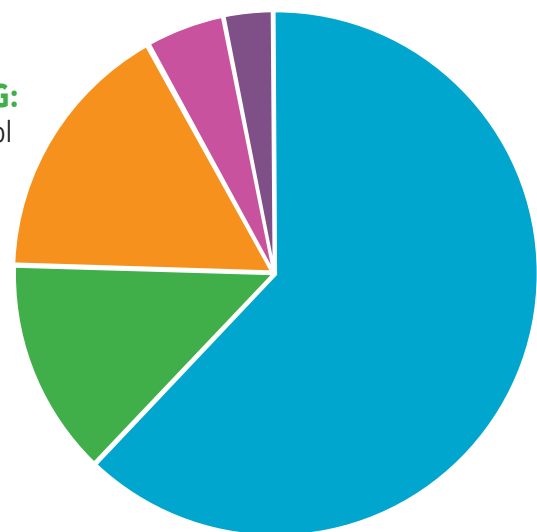
- Career Online High School
- Creative Experience Programming
- Diversity Programming
- Not So Quiet! concert series
- Veterans Writing Workshops

EXHIBITS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS:

- Print to Pixels:
How Words Changed the World
- The Birds and the Bees:
Pollinators & Native Gardens
- The Nest

NEW MATERIALS

ENDOWMENT



OUT IN THE WORLD WITH WORDS



Born to Read funding provided by Dana Brown Charitable Trust

Early Childhood Outreach Team

Did you know SLPL has a special team that brings storytime and literacy resources directly to daycares, early childhood centers and schools across St. Louis City? SLPL's Early Childhood Outreach Team brings the Library to children where they are.

23,000
children served annually

34,000
books delivered

2,675
Born to Read bags delivered to new parents



There's No Time Like Storytime!

At St. Louis Public Library there is a story for everyone, whether it is a traditional storytime, sensory storytime for children with sound-sensitivity or a story come to life on stage with Storytime Theater.

110,243
children attended storytime

65 storytimes a month

STORYTIMES:

- Sensory Storytime
- Storytime Theater
- Baby Bookworms
- Pajama Storytime

Summer Camps @ SLPL

SLPL offers free summer camps for toddlers to teens – from space camp and remote electronics to digital photography and live animation. These free opportunities introduce campers to worlds of information, creativity and wonder.

70
free camp sessions

1,060
children attended summer camp sessions



EXHIBITS AT CENTRAL LIBRARY

Exhibits at Central Library have the largest reach of any SLPL program with an average attendance of **30,000 per month**.

Exhibits allow our current patrons to interact with their Library in a whole new way and also results in an increase in first-time visitors, introducing them to a world of resources.

Print to Pixels: *How words changed the world*

During the Print to Pixels exhibit, visitors journeyed through the past to uncover the history of print as it evolved through the centuries.

102,375 visitors

The Birds and the Bees: *Pollinators & Native Gardens*

This exhibit highlighted St. Louis Public Library's new pollinator garden and explored the pollination process.

70,192 visitors



NOT SO QUIET!

CONCERT SERIES



2019 marked the tenth year St. Louis Public Library offered the Not So Quiet! concert series (NSQ!). The series consists of free concerts taking place at Central Library, Buder, Julia Davis and Carpenter locations.

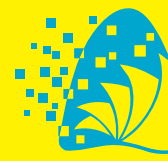
BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Not So Quiet! concert series builds strong communities across St. Louis by bringing diverse groups of people together to enjoy free concerts in a safe and trusted setting. The concert series introduces different musical genres bringing free cultural programming to neighborhoods where these experiences often do not exist.

Not So Quiet! concerts are offered to the public at no charge and are made possible through the generous support of civic-minded individuals, businesses and foundations.

Funding by Plaza Advisory Group.





creative
experience
@ St. Louis Public Library

LET'S **YOU** BE
CREATIVE



When Central Library reopened in 2012, St. Louis Public Library (SLPL) debuted Creative Experience, the first free digital makerspace in St. Louis. Creative Experience @ Central Library provides free access to specialized equipment and software used for creating, editing and publishing.

In 2019, SLPL began offering one-on-one appointments on how to use the Creative Experience's recording room and other specialized equipment in order to remove barriers for those customers who are uncertain or intimidated by the changing technological landscape.

SLPL's Creative Experience offers exciting workshops, tutorials and programming, everything from podcast production to video editing. In 2019, SLPL introduced a documentary film intensive workshop. Participants learned how to select their topic, create a budget, develop a script, use lighting, operate a camera and organize and edit their footage.

In 2019, Creative Experience went on the road. Trained staff took virtual reality equipment to the Julia Davis Library every Monday for a virtual reality workshop during the free lunch program. When Staff would arrive, children lined up, excited to sign up and explore something new in virtual reality.



BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

"I started off getting my high school diploma, and after that I went straight into the college program. The courses were really new for me because I haven't been in school in the last 25 years. It was a big change for me. I was able to register in college. I finished my first semester, and I got straight 'A's' in all four courses. Give yourself a chance and you'll be amazed what you can do." – Sharita, COHS graduate

"By completing the Career Online High School course, [it] allowed me the opportunity to experience the feeling of success by receiving a diploma. As a student of Career Online High School, I was able to challenge myself academically. And as a reminder, that it is never too late to finish school. At this present time, I am currently employed full-time at a truck driving company...I will enroll at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. I will be taking classes that I believe will be important for entrepreneurship." – Aaron, COHS graduate

"The reason I wanted to finish my high school diploma is because I was ready for a career to start. I didn't want to get turned down [for] job offers because of not having my high school diploma. I also wanted to make my family proud of me for not giving up...I will be enrolling into college in January 2019, majoring in Criminal Justice. I would like to earn my bachelors to become a Probation Officer for juveniles. I want to get out in my community and help those who are younger than me in need. Those who are having a rough childhood as I did and no one to look up to. I want to be the role model for those kids." – Tasha, COHS graduate

CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL

St. Louis Public Library (SLPL) initiated Career Online High School (COHS) in October of 2017. The program offers adults, age 25 and older, the opportunity to earn a nationally accredited high school diploma and career certificate. With the help of partners, SLPL helps individuals realize their potential. Students are encouraged to utilize SLPL resources, and SLPL offers Chromebooks to each student for use while participating in the program. With a high school diploma, graduates of the program are able to continue their education, advance in their careers, and become role models for their friends, family and community.

Scholarships for this program are provided through corporate support from Emerson.



VETERANS WRITING WORKSHOP FINDING THEIR VOICES

St. Louis Public Library (SLPL), in partnership with Missouri Humanities Council, gives veterans a voice through the annual Veterans Writing Workshop at Central Library.

SLPL's Veterans Writing Workshop provides a safe and creative outlet for veterans, active duty members and their families to develop writing skills. Professional writers facilitate the five-session workshop and lead the group through readings, constructive critiques and draft revision. Participants leave with the tools and confidence to tell their stories.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Thank you to everyone who made 2019 a success! The following list recognizes donors who made gifts between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2019.

This list can also be accessed on our website at: slpl.org/about-slpl-foundation

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