

2018 SPRING NEWS

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ideaX Makerspace Now Open in Bellevue

Made possible by community donors and a generous grant from Google, the Bellevue Library now features cutting-edge technology available to all

What do you get when you combine a laser cutter, a recording studio, a room full of sewing machines and ukeleles, and hundreds of curious minds? It's the new ideaX Makerspace at the Bellevue library! **More than 900 community members helped welcome the new space at the April 14 celebration.** The ideaX Makerspace is a joint effort made possible by community donors, corporate partners, and innovative library staff.



What started as a dream in 2015 has become a cutting-edge, permanent space for creative technology on the eastside - free to anyone with a library card. The ideaX Makerspace features three creative studios and a multi-purpose room for up to 100 people, a sound and video recording space, a laser cutter, 3D printer, virtual and mixed reality, sewing machines, musical instruments, art kits, electronic circuits, and music mixing equipment.



With plans already underway for another ideaX Makerspace inside Federal Way Library in 2019, excitement is brewing for the future of ideaX. This expansion is made possible by thousands of community donors and a **\$100,000 grant from Google.org.** "In our community, STEM education and training is in high demand throughout local job markets," said Darcy

Nothnagle, head of external affairs for the NW at Google. "We're proud of our work with the KCLS Foundation to provide a home for these programs and create more opportunities for residents across King County."

Google isn't the only one seeing the value in ideaX. Congresswoman Suzan DelBene toured the Bellevue Makerspace prior to the opening, saying "This partnership between the KCLS Foundation and Google will boost the great work KCLS has been doing with their ideaX program. Our libraries provide a place where the community can come together to learn and experience new things, and the opening of this dedicated STEAM makerspace in Bellevue will ignite a spark in our future creators."

You can help write the next chapter for ideaX! Visit the Makerspace, attend a workshop or drop-in, volunteer your time and expertise, or make a donation.



Literary Lions Gala Sees Record-Breaking Success

Community raises \$493,000 for library programs, including the innovative ideaX



A record-breaking \$493,000 was raised at the 2018 Literary Lions Gala to accelerate and expand library programs. Many thanks to the community sponsors, generous library supporters, esteemed authors, and Gala co-chairs **Rick and Frances Taylor** and **Ducksoon Hwang**, who made this year's event a resounding success.

The New York Times bestselling author of 14 titles, **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** spoke about his love of reading and his own series of books about Mycroft Holmes. He was interviewed on stage by Costco co-founder **Jim Sinegal** and the event's Master of Ceremonies **Nancy Pearl**.

Nancy Pearl kicked off the evening's program by inviting the 17 Literary Lions authors (see below) on stage to be recognized. With titles ranging from short stories celebrating the pairing of pie and whiskey, to biographies of Chief Sealth, to children's books - guests had the opportunity to visit with some of their favorites and discover some new writers amongst this year's Literary Lions.

Astronaut **Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger** shared her story of following in her idol's footsteps and going from teaching in the classroom to orbiting the Earth. "Growing up I had two heroes - writer Laura Ingalls Wilder and astronaut Sally Ride," said Metcalf-Lindenburger. She went on to credit the library as a vital resource in her own journey and as an educator.

In her experience, providing access to literacy programs - including digital literacy - is paramount to helping students build the necessary job skills. "Both Dottie and Kareem love libraries and appreciate the unique roles libraries can play in bringing science, technology, engineering, art, and math to underserved communities," said KCLS Foundation Executive Director **Elizabeth Castleberry**.

Donations made the night of the Literary Lions Gala fund ideaX programs which vary from Coding Dojo to Battle Bots and are hosted in KCLS community libraries across King County. Library patrons of all ages can enjoy the new ideaX Makerspace at the Bellevue Library and soon a second ideaX Makerspace, slated to open in Federal Way in 2019 thanks in part to the generosity of KCLS Foundation donors.



Literary Lions Authors

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
Jessixa Bagley
Dave Boling
David Buerge
Ben Clanton
Rene Denfeld
Omar El-Akkad
Molly Gilbert
Bharti Kirchner
Kate Lebo
Samuel Ligon
Kim O'Donnel
Ijeoma Oluo
Renee Patrick
Nancy Pearl
Laurie Ann Thompson
Willy Vlautin
Rachel Yang

Thank You to the Literary Lions Gala Sponsors!

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Contractors
OverDrive
PRIME Electric
PwC
Recorded Books
Tulalip Tribes

Summer at Your Library - What Fun Will You Find?

Your donations support summer reading challenges, children's activities, teen hangouts, community outreach and author visits for all ages

If you've ever stepped foot in a KCLS library during the busy summer months, then you know that libraries transform from June to September. What may usually be a cozy place becomes a hub for summer fun with **author visits, magic shows, LEGO competitions, coding camps, and reading parties** – encouraging people of all ages to keep reading and learning.

The fun starts on June 1 and kick-off events are planned for each library to debut this year's reading challenge for kids, teens, and adults.

But summer isn't just about reading - it's also a time to bring the fun outside the library.

To reach kids from all neighborhoods, KCLS brings the bright red **Library2Go vans to parks, community centers, YMCA camps, and apartment complexes** – **handing out free books and nutritious meals** with our nonprofit partners. KCLS Librarians can also be seen walking in parades and community events for everything from SeaFair to Pride.



Because of your generous donations, the KCLS Foundation will give **\$350,000 to KCLS for Summer Programming in 2018**. You can show your support for these beloved programs by making a tax-deductible donation at kclsfoundation.org/donate.

To find info on Summer Reading and other summer programs at your library, visit kcls.org/summer or search "summer reading" on the KCLS events calendar.

Thanks for the Feedback

Last year's survey to donors produced insightful results



Thank you to everyone who answered our 2017 survey to donors. We loved hearing from you about why you love your library, and what library programs you are most excited about. Some of you shared personal library stories that inspired our staff. And one lucky respondent won an Amazon Fire HD Tablet — perfect for keeping up with her eBook reading list. Congratulations, Margaret!

Your feedback will help determine which programs we fund, how we communicate with you, and what types of events we share in the future.

If you didn't get a chance to fill out the survey and would like to share your feedback, please contact our office at 425-369-3448 or info@kclsfoundation.org. We love hearing from you!

You're Invited!

Enjoy dinner with authors at trendy spots around the city

Tickets for a few select Author Salons are still available! This is your chance to share food, wine, and conversation with a best-selling author in a sought-after Seattle locale. Autographed books included!

Available salons include Martha Brockenbrough with Garth Stein, JA Jance at her home, and Kate Lebo & Samuel Ligon with Jonathan Evison. Purchase your ticket today before they are gone.

kclsfoundation.org/salons



Getting to Know You

Q&A with KCLS Director Lisa Rosenblum

To begin 2018, the King County Library System was proud to welcome new Director of Libraries, Lisa Rosenblum. Get to know her with this fun Q&A and be sure to say hi when you see her at your library!

Q: Can you share a bit about your background in the library field?

A: Well, I know you're hoping for an inspirational story about why I became a librarian, but I'm afraid mine isn't that exciting. I attended St. John's College in Maryland, which offers a great liberal arts education in the most traditional sense – you study Ancient Greek, translate Sophocles, and read all the classics. It was an amazing education, but I graduated during a time when there were no jobs, especially for overeducated liberal arts majors.

The only job I could find at the time, and that I liked, was working for a government contractor providing library services to Army libraries outside of Washington, D.C. After moving to Houston, Texas, I continued to work in libraries, and then when my family moved to San Jose, California, I got a job as a librarian. At that time, they were hiring entry-level librarians without degrees. I found I enjoyed the work so much that I went on to earn an MLS degree from San Jose State University. From there, I worked my way up the ladder to library director jobs in California and my previous position at Brooklyn Public Library.



Q: What led you to KCLS?

A: KCLS has a national reputation as a library system that is well-run, well-funded, and well-loved, and always on the leading edge. We were hearing about King County Library System in California 25 years ago when the previous Director, Bill Ptacek, was innovating in ways that were unheard of back then. For instance, he recognized that library systems the size of KCLS needed to move materials more efficiently. That may sound funny now, but you have to remember this was before Amazon. His vision to implement a state of the art materials distribution system was way ahead of its time. KCLS has always been a leader among its peers, and community members have always been strong supporters of libraries. Those are two big reasons for wanting to work here.

Q: How do you see the library's role in our community?

A: Libraries have done a great job adapting to the changing needs of the community. The library I started working for more than 25 years ago is different than the one I work for now, but many things are still the same. We still value books and reading and literacy, but we just emphasize it in a different way, that's all. And in many of our rural areas, the library is the only place in town offering a wide array of free services, from Internet-access to community gathering spaces.

Q: How can community members support their library?

A: There are many ways for community members to support the library. Foremost, we count on patrons to spread the good word on how important public libraries are to their communities. Financial contributions to the KCLS Foundation are always welcome, as they help augment the programs and services KCLS provides. But there are a number of other ways residents can volunteer their time to support the day-to-day work of the library. They can join a Friends of the Library group affiliated with their branch, or volunteer to serve on a library advisory board appointed by their local city administration. If they want to support the Library System on a broader level, serving as a Library Trustee is a great way to have a role in shaping the services KCLS provides today and in the future.