

A Special Message from Melinda Gates

In lieu of attending our 2020 Gala, Melinda Gates sent us a special message about libraries



Libraries are an important public good, and librarians are some of our most underrecognized public servants.

Our community is lucky to have one of the best library systems in the nation, and the King County Library System Foundation is a big reason why. Thank you for reminding us that when we invest in the future of libraries, we invest in each other.

Melinda Gates is the Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, creator of Pivotal Ventures, and author of Moment of Lift.

Library Giving Day 2020

Celebrate libraries on Library Giving Day, April 23, 2020

Library Giving Day

Library Giving Day is returning in 2020 for its second year! Library Giving Day started last year in Washington state and it has spread nationally. Over 200 libraries in the United States and Canada have signed up to be part of the campaign in 2020. In 2019, we raised \$43,302 and this year our goal is to raise \$50,000.

Check out our website for more information on how you can get involved with Library Giving Day!

How to get involved with Library Giving Day

1. Make a gift online for Library Giving Day!
2. Become a Library Giving Day Leader! - Go to the KCLS Foundation website to learn how you can set up a peer-to-peer fundraising page for Library Giving Day. Share your crowdfunding page with friends, family, and coworkers and encourage them to give to KCLS!
3. Support a friend! - If someone you know has set up a crowdfunding page, you can give to their campaign. Check out the KCLS Foundation website for more info.

KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



FOUNDATION

2020 SPRING NEWS

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How is KCLS there for you during COVID-19?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, KCLS is expanding online resources

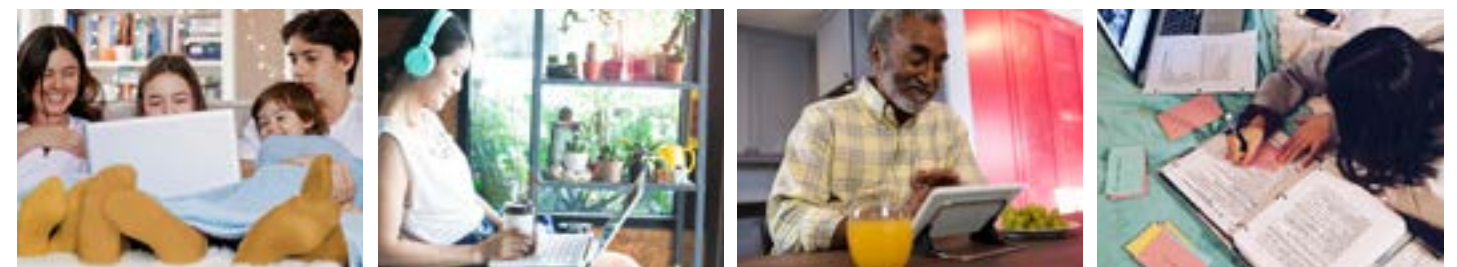
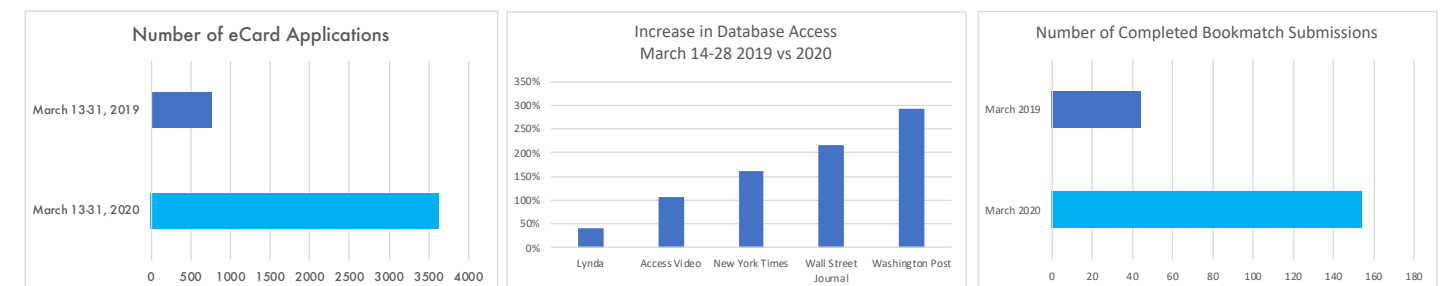


During the COVID-19 shut down, the King County Library System has been quickly adapting and expanding online resources to give patrons access to the materials they need to navigate this sudden shift in everyday life. For new patrons, the KCLS eCard application is completely online and provides access to all of KCLS' online materials including e-books, online classes, and research databases.

"This partnership has really been a life saver on our end, we are promoting it to faculty and students as we have moved to online only classes for the rest of this quarter and at least the first few weeks of the next quarter." - **Bellevue College**

KCLS' online resources are proving invaluable for patrons across the community from parents keeping their student on track, to getting up to date information on state and county closures, to staying connected with an online art class.

KCLS Online March 2019 vs March 2020: A Snapshot



Literary Lions Virtual Gala

Community raises \$422,741 to Fund the Future of Libraries



The 2020 Literary Lions Gala was set to be the most successful evening in the event's 27 year history, with over 800 attendees and volunteers registered, and a record breaking \$145,000 in sponsorship. Just three days before the Gala, the KCLS Foundation Board made the decision to cancel the event in light of increasing concerns around COVID-19 and a desire to protect the health and well-being of all our participants.

The KCLS Foundation Staff quickly pivoted to create a virtual gala experience with an online "Raise the Paddle," opportunities to purchase Author Salons and limited edition Magnums, and a special message from Melinda Gates. Our Virtual Gala raised more than \$422,741 for the King County Library System's programs to support our goal to Fund the Future of Libraries.

Donations of \$1,000 or more were matched by our generous Challenge Match sponsors **ThriftBooks** and anonymous donors.



Thank you to Literary Lions Gala Co-Chairs Michele Leonard and Jim Wigfall for their leadership in making the 2020 Virtual Gala a success!

Next year's Literary Lions Gala is set for **March 6, 2021** and we will spend another year in anticipation of **Colson Whitehead as our Keynote Speaker**. Whitehead is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Underground Railroad*, winner of the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize, and *The Nickel Boys*, winner of the Kirkus prize and one of TIME magazine's must-read books of 2019.

Thank you to our 2020 Sponsors!



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Penguin Random House

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Puget Sound Energy
Recorded Books
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions

Thank you to everyone who made a gift through our online "Raise the Paddle" event, made a gift in lieu, and who donated the value of their ticket to the 2020 Literary Lions Virtual Gala. Your continued support and generosity is invaluable.

What do Libraries Mean to You?

In lieu of attending the 2020 Gala, we asked our Literary Lions what libraries mean to them.



“ Libraries serve and empower people of all ages, backgrounds, and needs. For all of these reasons and more, libraries are the cornerstone of our communities, as well as our democracy. ”

- Christine Day, author of *I Can Make This Promise*

“

Without libraries I would not be a writer. I grew up in a home without books: oh, we loved books, loved story, but we could not afford to buy them. When I left home, I could not afford to buy books. When I first moved to this country I could not afford to buy books--I would not have had the comfort of familiar friends in a strange country.

”



- Nicola Griffith, author of *So Lucky*



“ I'm a lover of libraries pure and simple, and always have been, mainly because they imply something beyond and outside of the seemingly endless stupidity of this world. To me they're hope and sanctuary, and bastions of sanity, and bulwarks against the ceaselessly incoming tide of ignorance, greed and hate ever threatening to inundate us. Without them we're lesser and stripped of something vital. Libraries. May they never cease. ”

- David Guterson, author of *Turn Around Time: A Walking Poem for the Pacific Northwest*

Thank you to our Literary Lions for providing quotes. For full quotes, visit our website.

2020 Literary Lions Authors

Keynote: Colson Whitehead

Shauna Ahern
Jessixa Bagley
John Becker &
Megan Scott
Claudia Castro Luna
Christine Day

Timothy Egan
Clyde Ford
Nicola Griffith
David Guterson
Charles Johnson
Kelly Jones

Eric Liu
Karl Marlantes
Ciscoe Morris
Michelle Ruiz Keil
Susanna Ryan
Larry Stone