



KING COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM



FOUNDATION

NEWS
SPRING 2016

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KCLS Brings Innovative Learning to the Community With ideaX

Teens and tweens learn valuable skills playing with 3D printing, robotics, coding, and more

If you've visited a KCLS library in the last few years, you know that technology is a big part of what we do. Libraries have expanded their mission to include digital literacy as a core service. Of course, reading and traditional literacy are still vitally important which is why adding these new digital services to the library isn't about choosing screens over stories. It's more like adding an extension to the bookshelf.

In today's world digital literacy is paramount to a child or teen's future success. Here in our part of the country, 25 percent of the top jobs are in technology. In addition, non-tech jobs increasingly require advanced skills like coding and data organization. But many children don't have access to the types of learning that would get them ready for a job in our digital world.

How can the library help bridge this digital gap? Libraries are uniquely positioned to help anyone who walks through the doors gain access to information, resources, and new skills.

Premiering this year at KCLS is a new pilot program called **ideaX**—a collection of projects designed to bring science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education to teens and tweens through connected learning opportunities in an informal, out-of-school learning environment. The series will feature offsite workshops on the Techlab and Mobile Learning Lab vehicles teaching digital media, 3D design, electronics, robotics, coding, and game design.



This means that not only will children and teens enjoy browsing through books at the library, they will have a chance to learn and play with the latest technologies—giving them valuable skills for the future. This program is made possible by funding from the KCLS Foundation through generous donors like you. Your gifts to the KCLS Foundation are providing unique opportunities for kids to gain expertise in technology that will have a big impact on their future. Thank you!



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The Literary Lions Gala, a Recipe for Success

Community raises \$335,000 for innovative library programs

Last month more than 750 guests came together to celebrate libraries and literacy at the **23rd Annual Literary Lions Gala**. Author and former restaurant critic for the *New York Times* and editor of *Gourmet* magazine **Ruth Reichl** shared her love for libraries in a keynote address that began, "Librarians do the work that any democracy ought to think is a part of its mission. I have so much respect for what librarians do today."

KCLS Director of Libraries Gary Wasdin echoed Ruth's thanks to the attendees whose support helped **raise more than \$335,000 for KCLS programs**. "Libraries create equity in our communities. We often mistakenly think about providing equal access to all. But equality is not the same thing as equity. Our libraries are filled with books, programs, and staff so that we can provide every individual with the resources they need to succeed."

"The value of a library is not the sum total of its book collection, but rather the role it plays in meeting the needs of its community."

This message resonated with the attendees and the community of authors who were honored as the 2016 Literary Lions. "We are so fortunate to have so many talented writers in our backyard. Kudos to the Gala committee who assembled such an extraordinary and talented group," said Gala Co-Chair Mike Stranik. "I'm looking forward to spending more time with David Guterson and Steve Zakuani at their upcoming Author Salons" added Co-Chair Shari Wetherby.

2016 Literary Lions

Martha Brockenbrough

Deb Caletti

Renee Erickson

Jonathan Evison

Elizabeth George

Roger Hobbs

Ken Jennings

Kelly Jones

Stephanie Kallos

Jon Morris

Debra Music

Steve Olson

Nancy Pearl

Ruth Reichl

Matt Ruff

Erica Strauss

Samantha Vamos

Molly Wizenberg

Thank You!

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Authors Kelly Jones, Erica Strauss,
Ruth Reichl, and Samantha Vamos



Nancy Pearl, Elizabeth Castleberry, Ruth Reichl, Gary Wasdin, and Emily Rollins



Jessie Naluai and Annabel Dessert visiting with Nancy Pearl



*Author Steve Olson showing off his newest book, **Eruption***

Friends with Benefits

*From Elizabeth Castleberry,
KCLS Foundation Executive Director*

"This is so fun!" That's what one of the volunteer corps shouted to me as we passed in the crowded foyer of the Bellevue Hyatt Regency at the Literary Lions Gala. Dina, a returning volunteer, had the chance to mingle with authors and visit with guests as Pacific Northwesters ditched their fleece and donned black tie attire to support the KCLS Foundation. Volunteering at the annual event is just one way to support the KCLS Foundation. Another is to become a donor.

Thanks to the support of thousands of donors like you, the KCLS Foundation is providing increasing support to the programs offered in your local library. Popular programs like Summer Reading and Literacy for Citizenship, and new programs like ideaX and Plaza Comunitarias.

Donors who support KCLS with annual gifts of \$2,500 or more are recognized in the **Leadership Circle**. Leadership Circle members receive exclusive invitations to behind the scenes tours, complimentary tickets to Author Salons, and a limited edition "platinum" library card. While the platinum library card holds no special powers—you still need to wait your turn on the hold list and pay any fines for overdue library books—it is a fun way to show off your commitment to libraries. To learn more about the KCLS Leadership Circle contact me at 425-369-3450 or eacastleberry@kclsfoundation.org.

Reading with Rover Comes to KCLS

Kids gain confidence with help from furry friends

We all know pets make the best listeners, so it's a natural fit to pair a child who is apprehensive to read aloud with a dog who is all ears. **Reading with Rover** is a community-based literacy program working with schools and libraries throughout the KCLS service area. School-aged children can build reading skills and confidence by reading aloud to a certified therapy dog that is trained to encourage and nudge them along the way.

Kids and parents can drop by the Bothell Library on select Sundays this spring to try Reading with Rover for themselves. Children are encouraged to pick up a book, choose a dog, and sit, stay, read, read, read!

For more information, visit kcls.org/calendar or readingwithrover.org.



A girl reading with Moose, a certified therapy dog

Spanish Speaking Students Achieve Success through Plazas Comunitarias

More than a hundred students have already taken advantage of this free program

A new pilot program in King County is providing adult learning opportunities for Spanish speakers for free at the Bellevue Library. Plazas Comunitarias provides a wide range of basic education courses, including literacy and math, in Spanish. Studies show that students learn English faster and more efficiently if they have a solid education in their own language. Students who participate in Plazas Comunitarias can start or continue their elementary, middle, and high school education in Spanish while working towards a GED provided by the Mexican Secretary of Public Education.



*Plazas Comunitarias students and teachers with KCLS
Director Gary Wasdin and the Mexican Consulate*

The program launched in September 2015 and we already have a great success story to share.

Jarlin grew up in Colombia but could not attend elementary school because, as the oldest child in his family, he had to provide for his mother and sisters. Although he has been living in the US for more than 20 years and is completely fluent in English and Spanish, he has failed to obtain his GED despite several tries. **In his own words, he recognized the lack of basic education skills that were impeding him to succeed.**

However, in the first two months since he began attending Plazas Comunitarias, Jarlin mastered division, multiplication, and other basic mathematical problems. In November, he passed his first exam and received an elementary education certificate.

Jarlin, whom his teachers call a very hard-working student, is continuing his study through Plazas Comunitarias to achieve his secondary education degree. He is very motivated and before long, we know we'll be seeing his smiling face holding a GED diploma. Congratulations Jarlin, keep up the great work!

Adults! Join In on the Fun of Summer Reading

Patrons of all ages will now be able to enjoy the perks of reading with KCLS this summer

Summer Reading, a longtime favorite of kids all over King County, will now include a program focused specifically on getting adults excited about reading. The Adult Summer Reading program, **Everyone's Reading This Summer**, will provide you an opportunity to participate in the summer reading experience you enjoyed growing up, and share in the joy of reading with your children. You can inspire others to join you by sharing reviews of the books you read on the interactive KCLS online catalog.



Everyone's Reading This Summer will run June through August, and participating is easy! Simply sign up for the program on the KCLS website starting June 1. For each book you read, add a star rating to, and comment on, you will receive a badge! At the end of the summer, winners will be selected based on the number of badges accumulated. Prizes will include \$200 cash cards and more.

The program will also feature community events such as reading parties in public parks and visits with local authors. Everyone's Reading This Summer is proudly sponsored by the KCLS Foundation and made possible by your generous support. You are building a community of readers (from ages 3 to 103) here in King County!

To learn more, visit kcls.org/summer.