



CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY  
**FOUNDATION**  
 310 N. Tryon St.  
 Charlotte, NC 28202

Your Library builds the relationships that set the stage for change. Help improve lives and build a stronger community, together.

**SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY FOUNDATION.**



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**MAIL**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation  
 310 North Tryon Street  
 Charlotte, NC 28202

Thank you for your generosity and your investment in the community we share.

## EVENTS

**VERSE & VINO**

Thursday, November 7, 2019  
 Charlotte Convention Center  
*Signature annual fundraising event, featuring New York Times best-selling authors*

**EPICFEST**

Saturday, November 9, 2019  
 ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center  
*Free family literary festival featuring award-winning authors*

**COMMUNITY READ**  
 March, 2020

**FOR THE LATEST EVENT INFORMATION, VISIT FOUNDATION.CMLIBRARY.ORG**

## A Gift for Tomorrow

Including the Library Foundation in your estate plans allows you to support what you love, long into the future.

Anyone can make a lasting impact through a retirement account, will, insurance policy or other estate plans.



LEARN MORE about planned giving at [foundation.cmlibrary.org/planned-giving](https://foundation.cmlibrary.org/planned-giving) or by contacting Karen Beach at 704-416-0802

# Transformations

**BE IN THE ROOM**  
 for a

**VERY SPECIAL**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The sixth annual Verse & Vino on November 7 promises to be the biggest and best yet!

Guests will enjoy an evening of wine, food, laughs and mingling with *New York Times* best-selling authors in vignettes straight from the pages of their books. The authors will speak about their work, their process and the importance of libraries, in a program emceed by radio personality, author, and voracious reader Sheri Lynch. And this year, there will be a big announcement you'll want to hear firsthand.

Maddie Myers, Client and Community Relations Assistant Director at PNC, is the newest member of the Verse & Vino planning committee. She observes, "I know the work that goes into this is unparalleled. This event is so important for our Library and our community, and I'm proud that PNC is a part of it."

### HOT TIP!

A growing number of book clubs and other groups have made Verse & Vino an annual tradition. The only way to guarantee seating together is to purchase tickets for your group in one transaction – or buy a book club table for ten, with recognition of your group on the table.

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY  
**FOUNDATION**

**VERSE**  
 & **VINO**

**11.07.19**



This year's *New York Times* best-selling lineup:



**Karen Abbott** is the author of historical non-fiction including *Liar*, *Temptress*, *Soldier, Spy*, named a best book of 2014. New Release: *The Ghosts of Eden Park*



**Ross Gay** is the award-winning author of three books of poetry. New Release: *The Book of Delights*



**Alice Hoffman** is the author of more than thirty works of fiction, including Oprah's Book Club selection *Here on Earth*. New Release: *The World That We Knew*



**Kevin Wilson** is the author of several novels including *The Family Fang*, adapted into an acclaimed film. New Release: *Nothing to See Here*

Tickets on sale now at [foundation.cmlibrary.org](https://foundation.cmlibrary.org)

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We've been planning a lot of ribbon cuttings lately.

This is a period of exciting growth, made possible because your Library is a priority to this community. Efforts are underway throughout the County that underscore the importance of literacy to opportunity, and your Library is proud to be at the heart of those initiatives.

In the coming weeks and months, we'll celebrate the reopening and renovation of North County Regional Library, relocate and expand Scaleybark Library, and begin improvements at South County Regional Library. **We'll also be making an exciting announcement at *Verse & Vino* that will impact the community for generations to come.**

All of this is possible because your Library matters. To Mecklenburg County, the business community, charitable foundations, individual donors...and to you. Your Library continues to grow and improve because you invest in the mission of improving lives and building a stronger community. We will be forever grateful.

Warmly,

Crawford Pounds  
Chair, Foundation Board

Jenni Gaisbauer, CFRE  
Executive Director

## New Faces

This fall, two members of the Foundation's Board of Directors completed their terms. We are forever grateful to two incredible leaders, **Bill Gorelick** and **Peter Larkin**, for their vision, commitment and passion, and we look forward to many years of continued engagement and friendship.

We are thrilled to welcome two new board members:



**Selena Giovannelli** is a Charlotte attorney and a passionate advocate for education, libraries and the arts. Selena is a graduate of the UNC Chapel Hill School of Law, and has served on the boards of the Junior League, KinderMourn and Charlotte Ballet. She lives in Charlotte with her husband and teenage son.



**Liz Winer** is a community advocate for health, education and social justice and the founding trustee of the Winer Family Foundation. Her focus has been on early childhood development with the vision of fostering economic mobility in the Carolinas. Liz holds a B.A. in public communications from American University in Washington, DC. She has lived in Charlotte since 2000 and is married with two children.

## Foundation Staff

Jenni Gaisbauer, CFRE, *Executive Director*      Karen Beach, CFRE, *Deputy Director*  
Teleia White, *Director of Individual Giving*      Melanie Baron, *Marketing and Communications Specialist*

## Board Members

Crawford Pounds  
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Sally Robinson  
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Cristina Wilson  
Elizabeth Star Winer  
Lauren Woodruff

## Your Generosity in Action

In Fiscal Year 2019, your Library Foundation raised

**\$1,506,919**

from 1598 donors. *Thank you!*

## Areas of Impact Include:

### Literacy and Educational Initiatives

- Signature programs include Summer Break, College and Career Connections, Community Read, digital literacy classes and Active Reading workshops.

### Technology Improvements

- Enhanced public technology includes makerspaces, laptop vending machines and upgraded devices. Operational improvements include the RFID tagging of books and materials to make circulation and materials handling more efficient.

### Donor Restricted Branch, Program and Endowment Funds

### General Library Support

- Includes an allocation to each branch for staff development and unrestricted dollars for the Library's use.

### Collections and Acquisitions

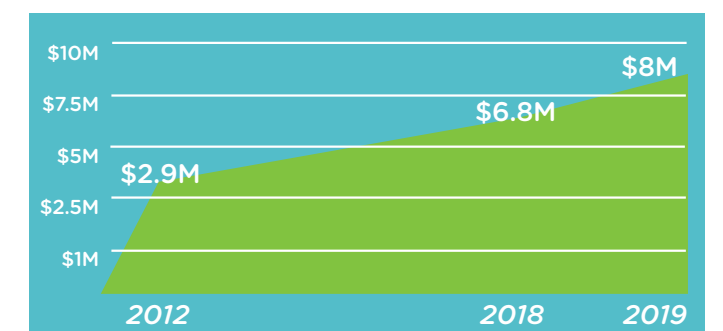
### FY 2020 Initiatives



**223**  
**Carnegie Circle Members**  
gave over **\$1,000**,  
up 12.5% since last year

## Endowment Growth

In FY 19, the endowment provided funding for initiatives including the ImaginOn summer exhibition, Historian-in-Residence program and ongoing training and professional development for Library staff, to name a few.







## A Lifelong Relationship

Library trustee and monthly donor Ailen Arreaza has had a lifelong relationship with the Library. *“I moved to Charlotte as a teen, and I’d hang out at the University City Library after school with my friends. For me the Library was both social and academic – it was one of the first places I felt truly independent.”*

Today, Arreaza works for a non-profit organization for parents and is a busy mom to a 10-year-old and a 7-year-old. “I’m always looking for resources for families, and the Library is a treasure. When my sons were younger we went to storytime every weekend at ImaginOn. Now we live closer to Sugar Creek Library, and the kids reserve books on the app and we go there to pick them up.” The family spent the summer in Spain and brought Charlotte Mecklenburg Library with them. “We used Hoopla and other digital services to download books and audiobooks. The kids have ONE Access accounts through school so with multiple accounts we could all use online resources at the same time.”

Arreaza joined the Library’s Board of Trustees in 2017. “I’m glad to give back in this way, as our Library goes through an exciting period of transition. I’m especially proud to bring my perspective as a Latina to my role on the board. Many new immigrants come from places where libraries weren’t readily available, and ours offers so much. I’m excited to help the Library reach the Latino community in deeper ways.”

She’s also proud to support the Library Foundation. “As a trustee and a community member, I feel confident in the Foundation’s work, and glad to be a monthly donor. **By contributing monthly, I’m able to give more over the course of a year than I would with one annual gift, so for our family’s budget, monthly giving makes perfect sense.”**

### TO LEARN MORE:

About monthly giving, visit [foundation.cmlibrary.org](https://foundation.cmlibrary.org)

About Library resources, visit [cmlibrary.org](https://cmlibrary.org)

## Unlocking the Vault: Investing in Greater Access

Researchers have long known the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room is a historical treasure trove, heavily used by genealogists, historians, preservationists, journalists and students. Thanks to generous private investments and endowment support, the collection is easier than ever to access.

The Library Edition of popular genealogy software Ancestry.com is now available in all Library branches, and Carolina Room staff offer programs and research assistance online, over the phone and in Libraries and offsite locations throughout the County.

Another critical step is digitization. Some of the room’s most popular collections and exhibits are already available online at [cmstory.org](https://cmstory.org), and preparations are underway to ultimately digitize more of the collection.

Community historian Dr. Tom Hanchett recently joined the Carolina Room as the Library’s first Historian-in-Residence, and he’s right at home. *“The Carolina Room has been a second home for me since I arrived in Charlotte 38 years ago to research the city’s older neighborhoods. It’s an honor to be in this role, sharing our region’s rich history and the Library’s resources with the community.”* Dr. Hanchett has already launched a series of history-based programs throughout the County.



## A Lasting Impact

Molly Griffin is always looking ahead, and that’s why she’s chosen to invest in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation with a planned gift.

*“I’m so happy to be able to invest in this way. I’ve loved books since childhood, and I’ve always been a Library user. I’m also passionate about education and equal access to opportunity. The Library blends those priorities, and planned giving allows me to have a lasting impact on this community.”*

Griffin was a member of the Library’s board of trustees when the Library Foundation was established. “I’m proud to have been involved in the birth and launch of the Foundation, such an important component of the Library’s growth. As our community changes, the Library will play an increasingly important role in bringing people together. The future is very bright for the Library, and I’m glad to be a part of it, in every way I can.”

### PLANNED GIVING

Planned gifts ensure the Library’s financial security for generations to come. Anyone can leave a legacy gift of any size, and your Library Foundation welcomes an opportunity to work with you to create a structure that suits your personal passions and works within your overall estate plans.

To learn more about planned giving, contact Karen Beach at 704-416-0802 or [kbeach@cmlibrary.org](mailto:kbeach@cmlibrary.org).



WHY WE GIVE

## Maps Online

The Library’s collection of historic maps is of special interest to donor Paul Kardous. *“The Carolina Room is a treasured resource. After spending many hours doing research and looking through old maps and city plans, I thought the best way to say ‘thank you’ was to make a gift to help further the collection in a small way to help continue to have this amazing collection at the heart of our region.”*

Paul’s gift will be used to outsource the digitization of the room’s oversized maps. “Digitization is a high priority right now, and our historic maps are a special challenge because many are fragile and difficult to handle. By digitizing this collection, we can provide broader access online while preserving these important artifacts,” explains archivist Sydney Vaile.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to the largest collection of genealogical resources from all fifty states in a North Carolina public library, the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room’s archival assets include historical photos and postcards; *Charlotte Observer* negatives; school yearbooks; family, business and non-profit records and documents; one of the largest collections of local music in North Carolina; historic and modern maps of the Carolinas; records for all North Carolina counties; historic newspapers and government documents and statistics. Not to mention a substantial collection of artifacts, scrapbooks and other memorabilia.







Madison McCullough at the first annual Torch Awards, honoring Carolina Youth Coalition program graduates.



*“By donating to a program like College and Career Connections, my family and I can encourage future mathematicians, artists, tradespeople, teachers, scientists and more! College and Career Connections gives students the tools to succeed, no matter their intended career path. I hope those students return to the Library as volunteers, donors and eventually as parents with their children. I love that what I give today is felt far into the future.”*

Colleen Karnas-Haines, PhD  
Supporter of College and Career Connections

## Your Support Helps Teens Prepare to Fly

Madison McCullough wore a new blazer to interview for a volunteer position at the Hickory Grove Library four years ago. *“I was 14 years old, and I wanted to make an impression.”*

She did. Teen Services Specialist Melanie Murdock recalls afternoons and weekends with Madison. “She was very funny, and never backed down from any task. I could see her confidence growing as she spent more time at the Library. And she was a very good student. I knew we could help her navigate the college acceptance process.”

Murdock invited Madison to participate in the Library’s College and Career Connections workshops to learn about scholarships and admission requirements. Madison recalls, “I wanted to go to school but I was worried about finances. This was stuff I hadn’t started to think about yet as a 9th and 10th grader, and it was helpful to know what to expect and how to prepare.”

During Madison’s junior year, the Library began a relationship with Carolina Youth Coalition. CYC is a college-access non-profit organization that prepares high-achieving, under-resourced high school students to get into, excel at, and graduate from college and Murdock recommended Madison to the program. *“The Library is a great source for information, but we’re also a powerful vehicle for linking people with other resources in the community, which opens doors of opportunity beyond the scope of Library services.”* CYC was able to help Madison pay for tests and application fees, assist with transportation and provide coaching. She also found a community of kids like herself – ready to take on the world.

Madison continued to volunteer at the Library, where she researched scholarships, college life and test preparation. She utilized free Library resources like tutor.com and TERC (Testing and Education Reference Center) to craft stronger application essays and achieve higher test scores. Murdock penned a host of recommendations and offered ongoing encouragement.

Prior to graduation, Madison shared suggestions for future College and Career Connections programs. “I used my experience as a guide. All the tests, how to prepare, how to handle interviews. You have to be able to tell your own story to a stranger, to make them understand where you’re coming from and what you’ve been through.”

This fall, Madison is heading to the University of Pennsylvania to study nursing, armed with nearly \$1M in scholarships and financial aid – and a new blazer, a gift from CYC. *“The Library has given me so much – more resources, support and connections than I ever imagined. Now I’m ready to fly away and grow and become my own person. I’m forever grateful for this opportunity.”*

## An Epic Celebration of Literacy

Now in its fifth year, *EpicFest* has hit its stride. The annual 2-day literary festival joyfully welcomes book-lovers of all ages into a community of readers by connecting children, teens and families with authors, illustrators and the Library.

On Friday, November 8, ten award-winning authors and illustrators will visit 20 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools classrooms to speak with students and teachers. Last year, these visits touched nearly 3,000 students from pre-K through 12th grade.

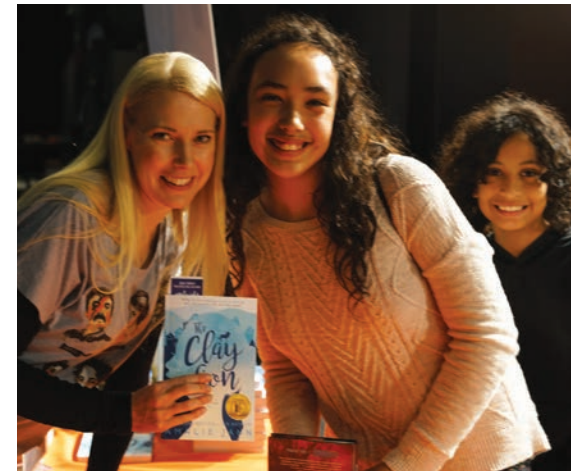
Saturday, November 9 is the public festival at ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center. The authors and illustrators will talk about their work, sign books, and inspire readers of all ages. The day will also feature musical performances by Eric Litwin of *Pete the Cat* fame, a writing workshop for teens, and a special afternoon event for all fans of young adult literature. And of course, literacy-themed activities indoors and out. Community partner Read Charlotte has been on hand every year with activities and information for early readers. *“There’s a special energy in the air – this event is a true celebration of literacy and what it means for children. We all want our children to succeed and reading is a critical piece of the puzzle. To see that firsthand at EpicFest is encouraging and inspiring,”* says Read Charlotte Executive Director Munro Richardson.

Mark West, a professor and scholar in Children’s Literature and Chair of the Department of English at UNC Charlotte is a member of the *EpicFest* planning committee, and his students volunteer each year at the festival. “Children’s literature is defined by its audience – and the University’s partnership with the Library brings my students together with kids. I’ve always felt like we’re on the same team, and *EpicFest* is a magical celebration of the importance of literacy.”

Join us to make an epic memory of your own.

*“We are proud to support EpicFest because we recognize the importance of literacy in building strong communities. This festival is a unique opportunity to engage with reading in a fun and interactive way.”*

Kristi Thomas, Wells Fargo Corporate Philanthropy and Community Affairs Manager and board member for Read Charlotte



**FREE to Attend!**  
**November 9, 2019 at ImaginOn**

**Featured Authors and Illustrators:**  
Tracey Baptiste, Patrice Barton,  
Debbie Dadey, Elizabeth Eulberg,  
Gordon C. James, Cindy Lin,  
Trudy Ludwig, Vaunda Micheaux Nelson,  
K-Fai Steele, Jessica Young

**Event Sponsors**



**Presented to the Community by:**  
**Community Partner:** Read Charlotte  
**Imagination Sponsors:** American Airlines,  
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[cmlibrary.org/epicfest](http://cmlibrary.org/epicfest)

*EpicFest was created to remember and honor Jim and Elizabeth (Libby) Preston’s passion for reading, and to encourage and instill a love of reading in children.*