

Transformations

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY

FOUNDATI*o*N

A Tool for Equity



This fall, a new vehicle hits the road – with a Library inside!

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Mobile Library is making resources more accessible. For some in our community, getting to a Library branch is difficult. With public support from Mecklenburg County along with funding from your Library Foundation, the Library is going to them.



“Our goal is to bring the Library to neighborhoods that don’t have one,” explains Meryle Leonard, the Library’s Outreach Leader. “Our priority

is to visit communities with limited resources, but we’ll travel anywhere in the County where there’s a need we can help address.”

Yesterday and Today

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library has a history with bookmobiles. They first appeared in the 1930s as a way to expand library service despite financial challenges. By the 1970s the system had 16 branches, many in busy shopping centers, and the bookmobiles were retired.

Today’s Mobile Library will carry more than books. “We expect high book circulation, but there are additional ‘storylines’ for this vehicle,” explains Leonard. “We will also offer programs,

technology, guest speakers, classes and workshops in everything from digital literacy to resume writing and academic support.” The vehicle will park at scheduled landing points where portable furniture will create a gathering area for programs, computer use and conversation.

The Man at the Wheel

Mobile Library Coordinator Saul Hernandez will be on board for hundreds of miles each week. Before moving to Charlotte, he oversaw a mobile library for the Middle Georgia Regional Library System and he’s passionate about what ours can do.



“This is a tool to **more equitably distribute Library resources.**

Outreach is all about making connections and understanding the goals that are

specific to each neighborhood. I’m always looking for tweaks we can make to best serve every stop.”

Hernandez spent his first year in Charlotte getting to know the community and seeking out organizations with complementary missions. “Partnerships are critical – for everything from parking and other logistics to identifying the right needs for each neighborhood. Some areas that don’t have a physical Library also lack grocery stores, parks

and other services. By coordinating with partners who offer fresh food, health services, family activities and more, **we can help build a healthier community** overall.”

Hernandez sees the Library’s vision as a ‘public commons’ reflected in the Mobile Library. “Libraries are intentional community builders, a trusted place to convene and connect people, resources and ideas. We’re building and decentralizing networks - I compare it to a web of nutrients that feed underground bulbs until they pop up, strong and healthy. Libraries bring together the nutrients.”

Finding the Mobile Library

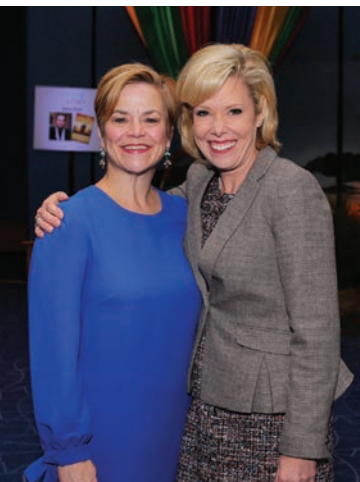
Check cmllibrary.org for updated information about neighborhood stops and schedules. To learn more, contact Jenni Gaisbauer at jgaisbauer@cmllibrary.org.

VERSE & VINO

Join us for a
November to Remember

Details inside!





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Your Library's new CEO and Chief Librarian Marcellus "MT" Turner is driven by compassion.

MT's been making the rounds since his arrival in April, visiting every Library location to meet staff and customers – and in each interaction, his warmth and kindness is felt. Charlotte Mecklenburg Library has always been a place where everyone is welcomed with empathy and respect, and under MT's leadership we continue our commitment to being a compassionate library – a partner in efforts toward making the community we share a kinder, more inclusive place to live and work.

An example of this compassion can be found in recent initiatives meant to close the digital divide. To date, the MeckTech computer distribution program has given away close to 2,500 devices to households in need. We shared a grant from Google Fiber with Project Outpour and Hope Vibes, to outfit their personal hygiene vehicles with free Wi-Fi for their customers experiencing homelessness. As this partnership deepens, we're proud to host Project Outpour at two Library locations.

In a year of unprecedented challenge and transition, we closed the fiscal year with 40% more annual donors than last year. We hope to see many of you in November at *Verse & Vino* and a one-time celebration of Main Library, *One for the Books*.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for demonstrating compassion and empathy through your generosity and philanthropy.

Warmly,

Jennifer Green, *Board Chair*

Jenni Gaisbauer, CFRE, *Executive Director*

New Board Members

Since our last issue of *Transformations*, four members of your Foundation's Board of Directors completed their terms. We are grateful to **Ann Caulkins**, **Florence Kim**, **Crawford Pounds** (past chair) and **Paige Roselle** for lending their time, talent and treasure to our Library and our community. We look forward to many years of continued partnership.

And we are thrilled to welcome new board members:

- **Kelly Ann Adamczyk** brings experience in human resources as a corporate recruiter and a generalist for large companies and small non-profits. She's lived in Charlotte since 2019 and immerses herself in every community she calls home as a volunteer. She currently serves on the Charlotte Youth Coalition board.
- **Jennifer Bennett** is a longtime Library Foundation supporter and a managing director and associate general counsel at Bank of America Corporation, where she leads the Global Subsidiary Corporate Governance Group. She also serves on the board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
- **Peter Keane** has served as president and chief investment officer of Keane Capital Management from its founding in 1999 to the present. He's served on several non-profit boards and has volunteered as a coach, mentor and tutor for over 30 years. In 2010 Keane founded the Alpha & Omega Foundation with a focus on educational equity in Charlotte.
- **Gina Lawrence** is a civic leader and community volunteer, serving in leadership roles on the boards of Children's Theatre of Charlotte and Women's Impact Fund. She currently serves on the board of the Latin Arts Association and Friends of Music at Charlotte Latin School. Gina is an avid reader, a hopeful golfer and a devoted gardener.
- **Anne Madden** is the senior vice president and general counsel for Honeywell, where she oversees the company's global legal functions. She's the recipient of numerous honors including a "Woman Worth Watching" by *Profiles in Diversity Journal* in 2011 and again in 2019. Anne also serves on the board of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Foundation.

Getting to Know MT

When Marcellus “MT” Turner arrived in Charlotte, one of his first priorities was to visit each of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library’s 20 branches to meet staff and customers. We spoke with your Library’s new CEO and Chief Librarian about libraries, communities, and his vision for the future. His responses have been edited for length.

How do you see the relationship between the Library and Library Foundation?

We’re two entities, but for the Library to achieve the progress we want, we need the support of private dollars. Public dollars can only take us so far, and private dollars allow us to do more of the innovative, experimental work we want to do. To move forward we must have a great and strong Library Foundation, and we certainly do.

What does the new Main Library mean for the community?

Many of us come to the table with an idea of what a library is, and I hope when people see this new library, it blows their socks off. It will be the flagship location for our system. It will inspire, everyone will feel welcomed and included, and it will be an agent for positive change in our community.

How will community partnerships be a part of the new Main Library?

Community partnerships are the lifeblood of any library system. Partnerships allow us to leverage our complementary strengths to reach more people with more of the resources our community needs and wants.

In one word, how do you think you’ll feel on the new Main Library’s opening day?

Hopeful. Hopeful that we’ve delivered on this idea so many people worked on before I arrived. Hopeful it meets the community’s needs and interests. Hopeful it liberates our idea of what a library can be.

Is there anything you’d especially like our donor community to know?

I look forward to meeting you, to working with you, to helping you realize what our Library means. I want you to know that I appreciate the confidence you have in us to deliver on your support. I’m excited to get to know you!



We’ve heard you’re a foodie. What’s your favorite Charlotte restaurant so far?

I’m a foodie who likes good food. Not necessarily expensive meals, but a good atmosphere – and that means people enjoying themselves. I discovered Flower Child and some other new favorites exploring the neighborhoods around our Library locations, but I love a good burger! I missed going to Zack’s before it closed, so I’m still on the hunt for Charlotte’s best burger. Any suggestions? Email me at ceo@cmlibrary.org.

For the full video interview – including what MT is currently reading – scan this code with your phone’s camera:



Or visit:
foundation.cmlibrary.org/news/getting-to-know-mt

**5
Fast
Facts**

Last time
MT lived
in the
South:
1994

Print or
E-book?
Neither –
audiobooks
in the car!

Favorite
ice cream:
Cookies
and
Cream

Number of
time zones MT
has lived in:
Four

First job:
Student
library
assistant in
fourth grade

This November, you're invited to participate in two events supporting and celebrating Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW!



VERSE & VINO

ALL THE AUTHORS,
COMMUNITY & WINE | ONLINE!

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

PRESENTING SPONSOR



Verse & Vino is a Charlotte literary tradition and your Library Foundation's signature annual fundraiser. Last year's first-ever virtual *Verse & Vino* was a resounding success and attracted viewers from all over the country. This year, we'll build on that success with an event that streams to public and private gatherings of all sizes. We hope you'll join us to celebrate the joy of reading, writing and libraries with *New York Times* best-selling authors from around the world.

NEW FOR 2021:

- Bonus debut author, Wanda M. Morris
- All-new menu from Table & Twine
- CommonSpark beer, specially brewed by Town Brewing Co.
- Wine will be available by the case
- Viewing party at Town Brewing Co.

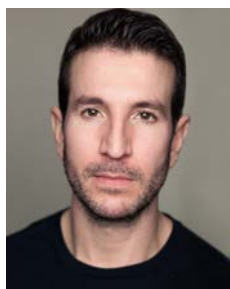
FEATURING NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHORS



ALKA JOSHI

Author of
The Henna Artist

New release:
*The Secret Keeper
of Jaipur*



ALEX MICHAELIDES

Author of
The Silent Patient

New release:
The Maidens



HEATHER MORRIS

Author of
*The Tattooist of
Auschwitz*

New release:
Three Sisters



BRYANT TERRY

Author of
Vegetable Kingdom

New release:
Black Food



MORE TO COME!

Visit foundation.cmlibrary.org for the latest additions!

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BANK OF AMERICA



Sponsors as of September 8, 2021

TECHNOLOGY SPONSOR



WINE SPONSOR



BEST-SELLER SPONSORS



COLLECTOR SPONSORS

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For a full list of sponsors at all levels, visit foundation.cmlibrary.org/verse-vino-sponsors-2021

Visit www.foundation.cmlibrary.org/november or focus your phone's camera here to learn more and reserve your spot at *Verse & Vino* and *One for the Books*.



There's something
for everyone.

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Celebration

One for the Books is a one-time, free event created to mark a turning point in Main Library's history. It's an opportunity for our community to honor the history of an uptown anchor, say goodbye to the current building and welcome the future together.

Drop by any branch in October to celebrate in your neighborhood – then come to Main Library in November to celebrate with people from all corners of the County.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

■ STEP INTO THE STORY

Tours available weekend days November 6, 7, 13 and 14.

Take a tour through time at Main Library – explore 118 years of innovation, community and opportunity on this spot through audio, video, performance and activities. Bring your book club or group!

■ A PIECE OF HISTORY

You CAN take it with you. We'll be auctioning and selling some Main Library mementos...quotes on the columns included.

■ 24 HOURS OF BOOKY

You told us your favorite title when you helped #bookmarkthetown – now read it aloud! We're looking for volunteers from the community to read in shifts – in person or on video – for your Library's longest all-ages storytime.

■ PUBLIC ART

The exterior of Main Library is alive with art, in partnership with Charlotte Center City Partners.



COMMUNITY
SPONSOR



DOCUMENTARY
SPONSOR



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

EVENT
DESIGN



TODD MURPHY
EVENTS



ALL INDOOR EVENTS ARE FREE,
BUT RESERVATIONS AND MASKS
ARE REQUIRED.

Please note that Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention and local health
guidelines in place at the time of each
event will be followed.

Your Generosity Makes an Impact

Thank you for helping to improve lives and build a stronger community.

2,224 DONORS

884 NEW DONORS

268 CARNEGIE
CIRCLE
MEMBERS
who each gave
\$1000 or more

HIGHLIGHTS OF DONOR IMPACT



The CommonSpark is a public-private partnership to infuse \$135 million into improving lives and building a stronger community in Mecklenburg County. The comprehensive campaign includes funding for a new Main Library and support services center; technology, innovation, programming and annual operating support throughout the Library system; and an endowment for the future.

To learn more and help ignite The CommonSpark, contact Teleia White at foundation@cmlibrary.org or 704-416-0803.

Visit foundation.cmlibrary.org or focus your phone's camera here to learn more and see this year's donor honor roll:



“The Honeywell Data Visualization Lab will feature tech-enabled amenities that will help the new Main Library become a public commons that is second to none in terms of strengthening connections, enabling continuous learning and creating economic opportunity for all.”

DARIUS ADAMCZYK
Chairman and CEO, Honeywell

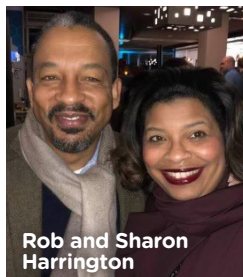
“At Truist Foundation, we're committed to creating pathways to economic mobility, and Charlotte Mecklenburg Library shares in this mission. It has a long history of providing lifelong education through innovative programs, resources and volunteer expertise to help area residents achieve better opportunities. The Main Library's expansion will create a hub of innovation, strengthening its reach and services.”

LYNETTE BELL
President, Truist Foundation

Broadening Support

When Rob Harrington and Tina Bonner-Henry talk about libraries, their enthusiasm is contagious - and spreading enthusiasm was the idea behind two virtual wine receptions the pair hosted this summer.

The two serve on the CommonSpark campaign committee. **"It's critical that support - especially financial support - for the new Main Library be broad based,"** explains Harrington. "Many in the Black community are willing and able to contribute but aren't asked. These events were an opportunity to expand our donor base and generate positive buzz around the project and the Library overall."



The receptions brought together African American business and civic leaders and their partners for a virtual conversation - over hand-delivered wine - with Marcellus "MT" Turner, your Library's new CEO and Chief Librarian, and Chad Carpenter of Snøhetta, Main Library's design architects.

Bonner-Henry explains, "We reached out to people we personally know, who we knew would see the value not

only in a new building for the Library but in everything the Library offers and would recognize the value of being a part of something bigger than ourselves."

So far, the reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. "We talked about the Library and surrounding development and welcomed MT to Charlotte. There was great energy and a social aspect as well...just like the Library," Harrington recalls. "The first reception was such a positive experience we did it again for people who couldn't make it, and the level of engagement has already exceeded our expectations." To date, the 36 couples who attended have pledged more than \$265,000 to the CommonSpark.

Bonner-Henry isn't surprised. "The new Main Library is an easy sell. Everyone has a personal connection to libraries. It's a meeting place, a social place, a place of learning and opportunity and possibility - my commitment today is because of what libraries offered me as a child and continue to offer today. **Anyone who feels strongly about building community will support the CommonSpark.**"



"Education, reading and the ongoing quest for knowledge is fundamental to lifelong stability and upward mobility. The Library has a special role in our communities to broaden that opportunity by providing access to reading and technology for many more people. We fully support the Library's mission and all the good that comes from their work."

MARY & CHRIS WINSTON, virtual wine reception guests

A Family Legacy

Holly Harkness Clark laughs as she shares a bit of family lore - her brother packed a book instead of a towel for his swimming lessons and was finally allowed to quit when their mother realized he never entered the pool!



Their mother, Marian Harkness, raised her three children to be readers, and **her legacy gift to the Library Foundation ensures that future generations can do the same.**

Marian Harkness passed away in February of 2021, and the siblings weren't surprised their mother included the Library in her estate plan.

Larry Harkness recalls, "Our parents set up a charitable trust and included the organizations they cared about. The Library required no deliberation."

His brother Robert adds, "They moved to Charlotte in 1953, and our mother made wonderful friends at the Library. She saw libraries as a gateway to education and information."

Growing up, the siblings recall regular visits to what is now the Myers Park branch. "We read a lot, and she read with us. Mom was in multiple book clubs," Holly remembers.

After her oldest children left for college, Marian earned a Master's in Library Science. She became a media specialist at West Charlotte High School, and later their church library.

Today, all three children use and support their libraries. "It's part of my legacy as a Harkness," smiles Holly.

To learn more about including the Library in your estate plans through a charitable trust or other means, contact Karen Beach at 704-416-0802 or kbeach@cmlibrary.org.

FOUNDATION

300 East 7th St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Ways to Give

Your Library is a place for all, and every gift makes a difference. Help improve lives and build a stronger community, together.



GIVE ONLINE

One-time or monthly
foundation.cmlibrary.org/securegiving



MAIL

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation
300 East 7th Street
Charlotte, NC 28202



Foundation Staff

Jenni Gaisbauer, CFRE, *Executive Director*

Karen Beach, CFRE, *Deputy Director*

Teleia White, *Director of Individual Giving*

Melanie Baron, *Marketing and Communications Specialist*

A Gift for Tomorrow

An investment in the Library Foundation as part of your estate plan 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 vehicles.



LEARN MORE about planned giving at foundation.cmlibrary.org/dewey-circle or by contacting Karen Beach at 704-416-0802