



ANNUAL REPORT

FY21



HOUSTON PUBLIC
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

FY21 Table of Contents

3	HPLF Mission
4	HPLF Commitment
5	HPLF Support for HPL Programs
6	FY21 Financial Review
7	FY21 Revenue
8	FY21 HPLF Impact
9	FY21 Programs
24	FY21 Board of Directors
26	FY21 HPLF Staff
26	HPLF Contact Information

At the Houston Public Library Foundation, our *Mission* is to unite partners who value lifelong learning.



FY21 HPLF Commitment

The Houston Public Library Foundation faced unprecedented challenges during FY21 with COVID-19 but this did not deter from our commitment to support the programs and activities of the Houston Public Library. Just like millions of other non-profit organizations, we expanded our technological platforms, increased remote access to resources, and provided funding to the Houston Public Library so that they could continue providing access to their award-winning programs to the greater Houston community through virtual pathways. This included HPL's lending program of hot spots, laptops, tablets and other devices for individuals to gain connectivity. The cornerstone of our efforts in FY21 was toward bridging the technological divide.

With creative innovation that embraced the emerging needs of the Houston community, the Foundation shifted to a new standard of virtual operations. We embraced technology at every level of operations and programming. In FY21, we engaged our partners and donors through virtual platforms for all of our events. This involved rapid learning, which resulted in some trial and error, yet with patience and endurance, the Foundation emerged stronger and more resilient!



What We Believe

The Houston Public Library Foundation values operating with greater cross-cultural understanding and believes the diversity of our community is one of Houston's significant strengths. Embracing diversity is understanding, accepting, and valuing differences between people including those of different races, ethnicities, genders, ages, religions, abilities, and sexual orientations. Inclusion is combining individuals from different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to build a stronger community.



Fy21 HPLF Support for HPL Programs



1,219
programs

116,463
program participants

\$1,378,591

HPLF provided to HPL for programs

FY21 Financial Review



\$23,882,251

total assets | as of June 30, 2021

As of June 30, 2021 the Foundation held \$19 million for Library Programs, including the \$2.12 million corpus of the Foundation's endowments that is permanently restricted.

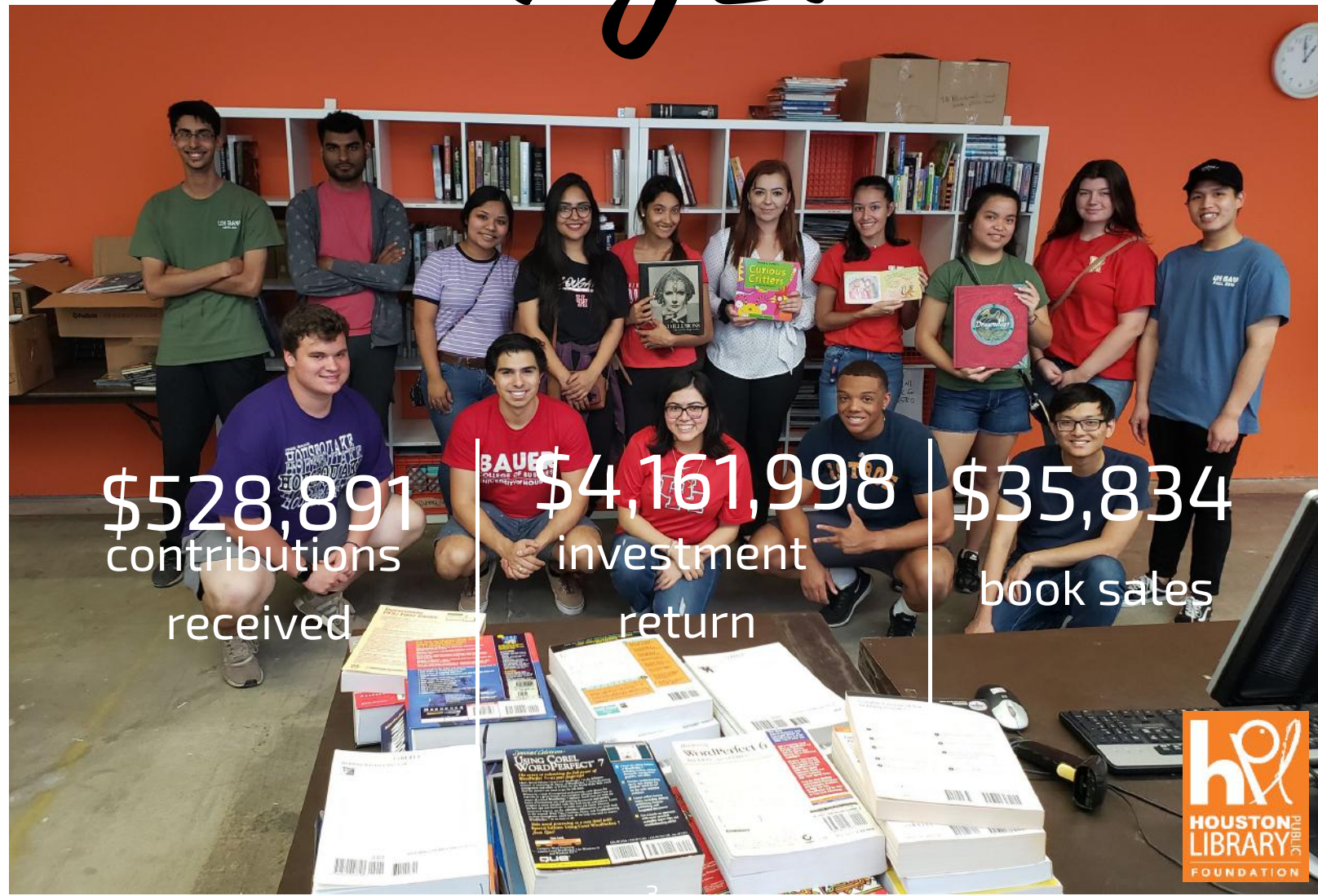


The revenue for the Foundation was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Planned in-person events were postponed and/or shifted to virtual events. Our earned income from book sales declined due to the closure of the warehouse, cancellation of on-site book sales and the lack of volunteers to process books for sale on third-party websites.

The Foundation's investment portfolio benefitted from strong economic and market performance, generating a portfolio return of 21% for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2021.

\$4,726,723
FY21 total revenue

FY21 Revenue



\$528,891
contributions
received

\$4,161,998
investment
return

\$35,834
book sales



Statement of Net Position

The Statement of Net Position includes all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting. The following table reflects condensed information on the Foundation's net position:

June 30,	2021	2020	Increase (Decrease) 2021-2020	2019	Increase (Decrease) 2020-2019
Cash and investments	\$ 22,222,912	\$ 20,034,590	\$ 2,188,322	\$ 22,584,618	\$ (2,550,028)
Other assets	1,659,339	1,540,385	118,954	533,131	1,007,254
Total assets	\$ 23,882,251	\$ 21,574,975	\$ 2,307,276	\$ 23,117,749	\$ (1,542,774)
Total liabilities	\$ 963,687	\$ 642,877	\$ 320,810	\$ 662,318	\$ (19,441)
Net position					
Restricted	\$ 19,549,663	\$ 17,636,935	\$ 1,912,728	\$ 19,435,122	\$ (1,798,187)
Unrestricted	3,368,901	3,295,163	73,738	3,020,309	274,854
Total net position	\$ 22,918,564	\$ 20,932,098	\$ 1,986,466	\$ 22,455,431	\$ (1,523,333)

Statement of Activities

The Statement of Activities presents the operating results of the Foundation. The following table reflects condensed information on the Foundation's operations:

For the years ended June 30,	2021	2020	Increase (Decrease) 2021-2020	2019	Increase (Decrease) 2020-2019
Expenses					
Programmatic	\$ 2,291,659	\$ 3,696,217	\$ (1,404,558)	\$ 2,951,613	\$ 744,604
Other	448,598	484,331	(35,733)	464,852	19,479
Total expenses	2,740,257	4,180,548	(1,440,291)	3,416,465	764,083
Revenues					
Investment return	4,161,998	674,306	3,487,692	1,284,980	(610,674)
Contributions and other income	564,725	1,982,909	(1,418,184)	3,014,901	(1,031,992)
Total revenue	4,726,723	2,657,215	2,069,508	4,299,881	(1,642,666)
Changes in net position	1,986,466	(1,523,333)	3,509,799	883,416	(2,406,749)
Net position, beginning of year	20,932,098	22,455,431	(1,523,333)	21,572,015	883,416
Net position, end of year	\$ 22,918,564	\$ 20,932,098	\$ 1,986,466	\$ 22,455,431	\$ (1,523,333)



FY21 HPLF Impact

Access to learning is free to all individuals through the Houston Public Library. The Houston Public Library's vast array of service locations offer programs that enhance social inclusion, active citizenship, and personal development. The Foundation's funding to the Houston Public Library provides opportunities to improve our local quality of life, including self-sustainability as well as competitiveness and employability.

Library programs are free of charge to the public yet are not supported by local tax dollars. Donations received by the Foundation contributes to the well-being of Houston, where together, we are *Houston Strong!*



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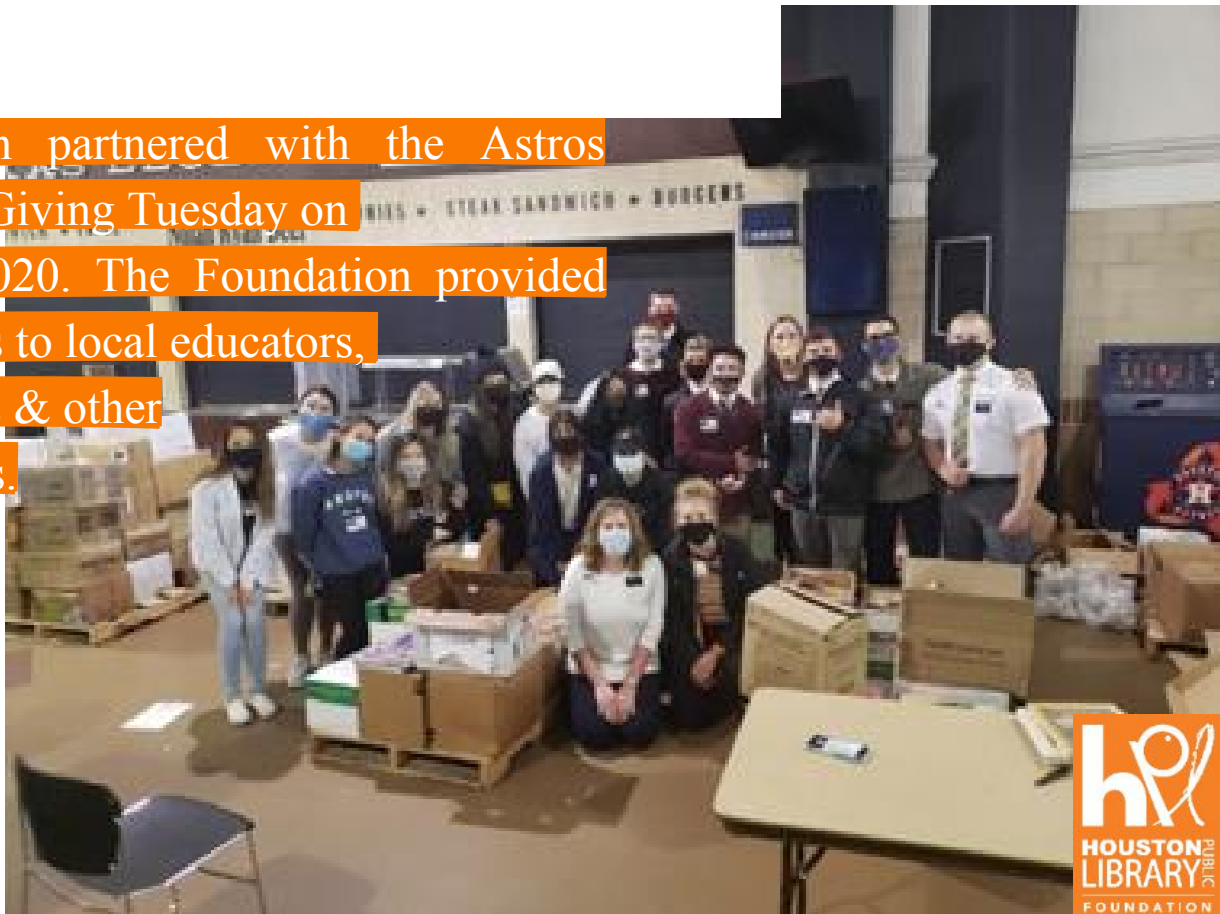
The Foundation's investment portfolio benefitted from strong economic and market performance, generating a portfolio return of 21% for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2021.

FY21 Programs



THE ASTROS
FOUNDATION

The Foundation partnered with the Astros Foundation for Giving Tuesday on December 1, 2020. The Foundation provided over 5000 books to local educators, school librarians & other literacy partners.

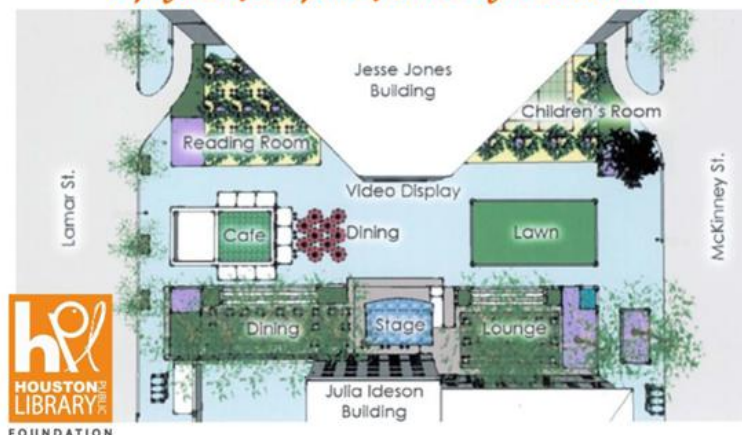


FY21 Programs

The Barbara Bush Literacy Plaza at the Houston Public Library honors the incredible life and legacy of the former U.S. First Lady and serves as a focal point in Houston to inspire and instill a love for reading in all who visit. Renamed for Mrs. Barbara Bush in 2016, the beginning stages of the plaza kicked-off with private gift of \$500,000 from President George W. Bush and Mrs. Barbara Bush.

BARBARA BUSH LITERACY PLAZA

A physical focal point for literacy in Houston!



Dedicated in the fall of 2021, the beautifully transformed, versatile space features a water wall, an adult reading area, a children's reading room with shade structures, a performance stage, a jumbo video display screen for engaging programming and

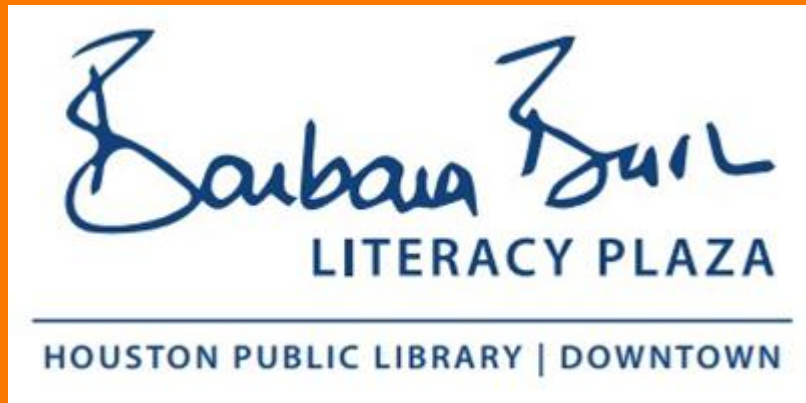
artificial lawn, planters with trees, new furnishings, and other special amenities.

In collaboration with the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation, who has graciously donated over \$200,000, the plaza will also feature a bronze statue of First Lady Barbara Bush and 5 bronze metal benches in the shape of an open book that will be placed in the newly named "Barbara's Nook."

The Houston Public Library Foundation is grateful for the generous contributions of major donors - President George H.W. and First Lady Barbara Bush, the Brown Foundation, Inc., Downtown Redevelopment Authority (The Main Street/Market Square TIRZ #3), Phillips 66, and The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation who helped to make the Barbara Bush Literacy Plaza's opening possible.

The Foundation will kick-off the **"Be A Part of The Plaza"** Campaign in *January 2022*. This public campaign will be an opportunity for the public to make a contribution as a sponsor for pavers, lounge chairs, even a ping pong table and have them engraved to "be a part of the plaza."

FY21 Programs



was made possible by:

President George H.W.
&
First Lady Barbara Bush



BARBARA BUSH
HOUSTON LITERACY FOUNDATION



FY21 Programs



Fly21 Programs

Beyond the Page



"Beyond the Page" is our Annual Signature Fundraising event in support of the Foundation's fundraising initiatives. This event has been so graciously *sponsored by Phillips 66* since 2017.

In light of COVID-19, in 2020 the Foundation postponed the Annual "Beyond the Page" that was originally scheduled for the Spring of 2020 and moved the event to the Fall of 2020 and like many other non-profit organizations we had to pivot to presenting this luncheon virtually.

2020 BEYOND THE PAGE LUNCHEON
100th Suffrage Anniversary Celebration

Join us to celebrate the women and men who made history through the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The Century women who have been trailblazers, glass-ceiling breakers, and inspiration for others around the world.

BEYOND THE PAGE
Houston Public Library Foundation's
ANNUAL BENEFIT EVENT 2020

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

Beyond the Page 2020 honors a century of trailblazing women who have been trailblazers, glass-ceiling breakers, and inspiration for others around the world.

RESCHEDULED DATE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020
12:00 Virtual Program

Virtual Program on Zoom Platform
Cost: presented upon request pre-booking

Tickets are available at houstonlibraryfoundation.org/BeyondthePage

Beyond the Page is a virtual fundraising luncheon in support of the Houston Public Library Foundation. The event will feature a virtual program on Zoom platform, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. The event will also feature a virtual program on Zoom platform, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

Karen Karbo is the author of 14 award-winning novels, memoirs, and works of nonfiction. Her genre-bending Girl On Woman series, including the international best-seller The Fougal According to Cass Chival, explores biography, memoir, philosophy, humor, and self-help to examine how we should live. Her essays, articles, and reviews have appeared in Elle, Vogue, Esquire, Outside, the New Republic, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Review of Books, Salon.com, and other magazines. When not working on her own material, Karen loves to help occasional authors to their stories.

Meet Karen during the VIP event!

YEAH, NO. NOT HAPPENING.
How I Found Happiness, Self-Improvement, and Saving Pick It All—And How You Can Too
KAREN KARBO

19th Century women were not only trailblazers, but also authors. They wrote novels, memoirs, and works of nonfiction. They were also trailblazers, glass-ceiling breakers, and inspiration for others around the world.

100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment
Houston Public Library Foundation
Beyond the Page Luncheon

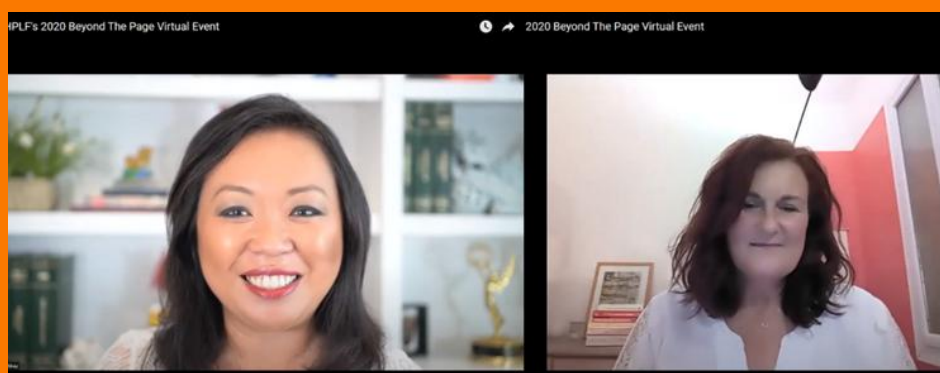
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100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment
Houston Public Library Foundation
Beyond the Page Luncheon

With over 250+ Houstonians attending [virtually this event celebrated the women](#) and men *who made history* through the ratification of the 19th Amendment and acknowledged the 21st Century women who have been the trailblazers, glass-ceiling breakers, and inspiration for others around the world.

The keynote speaker for this [special 100th Suffrage Anniversary](#) was the exceptionally *witty and entertaining* Karen Karbo. Karen featured her latest novel, "Yeah. NO. Not Happening," a humorous feminist manifesto about learning how to own and appreciate our flaws.



FY21 Programs



With many Houstonians itching to travel since COVID-19 began, in April 2021 The Foundation was honored to take a virtual flight with *Rick Steves* as our keynote speaker for our Spring" Beyond the Page luncheon. A popular public television host, a best-selling guidebook author, and an outspoken activist who encourages Americans to broaden their perspectives through travel, Rick entertained the over 300 guests with amazing stories of his travels throughout the world.

Save The Date!

We will be back in person for the 2022 "Beyond the Page" fundraising luncheon on March 29, 2022 at The Hilton Americas.

FY21 Programs

The Friends of the Houston Public Library

Despite the several months that we had to shut down our warehouse because of COVID-19, the Friends of the Houston Public Library remained dedicated to our mission by volunteering to process and scan books culled from Houston Public Library branches and donated by the community. The Friends sell these books at our affordable monthly book sales bringing in tens of thousands of dollars each year to the Foundation.

In light of the pandemic, this past year we were only able to host three book sales. However, we have already kicked-off this new program year with our first book sale in October 2021 and anticipate hosting monthly book sales throughout this next year.

The Friends of the Houston Public Library is a coalition of book lovers, professional altruists, education and literacy pioneers, big dreamers, goal-setters, and everyday Houstonians who band together to support and drive awareness of the Houston Public Library.

Since 1953, The Friends of HPL have:

- Raised over \$2.5 million for hundreds of library programs
- Provided over 50 scholarships to the staff of The Houston Public Library
- Held over 100 community book sales
- Donated over 650,000 books back into our Houston community and around the world.





FY21 Programs

Houston Public Library

In March 2020 the Houston Public Libraries across the City closed due to COVID-19. Under the leadership of Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, HPL Director, services and programming for the Houston community quickly shifted to virtual. The Houston Public Library began moving into virtual programming such as storytime via Facebook Live, curbside pick-up at most neighborhood libraries, and the HPL podcast, One Chapter.

During the summer of 2021, the Houston Public Library hosted the John P. McGovern Summer Reading Program. This reading program encourages kids and teens to read during the sizzling days of summer to elevate their reading skills in preparation for the next school year. They can participate by reading or listening to books then entering the book title's or time read on the online log. this program is graciously sponsored by the McGovern Foundation.

The Houston Public Library also hosted a digital version of Camp Stream, which is sponsored by the Powell Foundation. Camp Stream is a free, week long summer program that allows students in grades K-12 the opportunity to participate in activities relating to each aspect of STREAM: science, technology, reading, engineering, arts, and math.

To learn more about these programs and more, please visit to :
<https://houstonlibrary.org/community-engagement>



FY21 Programs

Houston Public Library

The Foundation was honored to participate in three live virtual celebrations with HPL in January and February 2021.

For the highly anticipated reopening of the Houston Public Library (HPL) McCrane-Kashmere Neighborhood Library. The library located at 5411 Pardee Street reopened after sustaining damages from Hurricane Harvey and will offer limited services due to COVID-19. During post-Harvey reconstruction, the library facility underwent significant transformations and will feature updated finished, furniture, and community areas and expand access to technology and enhanced upgrade the McCrane-Kashmere Neighborhood Library resources.

HPLF is grateful to the Houston City Council for supporting the work and vision of HPL. Dr. Lawson shared, "As a cornerstone in the community, we are excited to reopen the McCrane-Kashmere Gardens Neighborhood Library to ensure residents have access to books and technology, resources that are critical, but even more so during the pandemic"



FY21 Programs

Houston Public Library

The Foundation was also proud to celebrate with the Houston Public Library the grand reopening of the Flores Neighborhood Library after it closed four years ago following heavy flooding and damages caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Mayor Sylvester Turner joined other dignitaries and community leaders at a virtual ribbon-cutting earlier today to mark the library's highly anticipated return.

For the foreseeable future, the Flores Neighborhood Library at 110 North Milby will offer limited public services in keeping with health and safety protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic.



FY21 Programs

Houston Public Library

Through a public and private collaboration that included a lead gift of \$1.6M donation to the Foundation from Aramco Americas, Houston Public Library opened the first new construction TECHLink concept. Located in the city's north side neighborhood of Trinity Gardens, TechLink Dixon powered by Aramco, is on the site of the former Dixon Library that had been damaged beyond repair from Hurricane Harvey.

The facility, rebuilt in the same location at 8002 Hirsch Rd., bridges the technology divide with the latest interactive technology to enhance learning.

TECHLinks are multimedia and technology centers that are innovative and transformative extensions of the library's services to provide communities with free and equitable access to new and emerging state-of-the-art technologies.

Crafted as a learning environment with a focus on creativity, self-expression, and collaboration for increased service points to our customers in their communities. Services provided at the TECHLinks are book, document, & photo scanners, VR headsets, laser cutter and engraver, 3D printers and 3D Scanner, embroidery machine, kid-friendly handheld tablets, public workshops, music and video studio equipment.



FY21 Programs

Houston Literary Awards

The logo for the Houston Literary Awards features the text "THE 2ND ANNUAL" in small, spaced-out capital letters at the top. Below this, the words "HOUSTON LITERARY AWARDS" are written in large, bold, black capital letters. Underneath, the phrase "A Virtual Evening" is written in a cursive script. At the bottom, in smaller black capital letters, it says "Hosted by the Houston Public Library Foundation".

THE 2ND ANNUAL
**HOUSTON
LITERARY
AWARDS**
A Virtual Evening
Hosted by the Houston Public Library Foundation

The Second Annual Houston Literary Awards honored Houston's acclaimed authors on October 3, 2020, presented by the Houston Public Library Foundation. At this virtual event, each Literary Excellence Award-Winning Author shared insights into their exceptional literary works.

The Reader's Choice Award is a public nominated award that celebrates local authors and their works. It begins with public nominations and concludes with voting for five accomplished finalists.

Houston Literary Awards

Literary Excellence Award-Winning Authors

Justin Cronin



Gwendolyn Zepeda



Varsha Bajaj



Andrea White



ReShonda Tate Billingsley



The 2020 Reader's Choice Award winner was Nkem Denchukwu!



In order to enhance the experience of honoring Houston's acclaimed authors, the Foundation decided to postpone the 2021 Literary Awards until we could safely meet in-person again and looks forward to hosting this event again in collaboration with the Houston Public Library in the Fall of 2022.

FY21

Board of Directors

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Licia A. Green-Ellis

Vice-Chair

Zarine Boyce

Treasurer

Tina Peterman

Secretary

Neil Thomas

Event Chair

Melinda Little

Members

Carme Williams

Gaynell F. Drexler

Alia Vinson

Rachel L. Cevallos

Adan Vega

Mary Jane Wakefield



FY21 Staff

Fund Development | Avis McCray

Marketing | Elizabeth Gomez

Finance | Sandra Pegram

Warehouse & Volunteers | Bryan Cardenas

Contact

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website: www.houstonpubliclibrary.org

