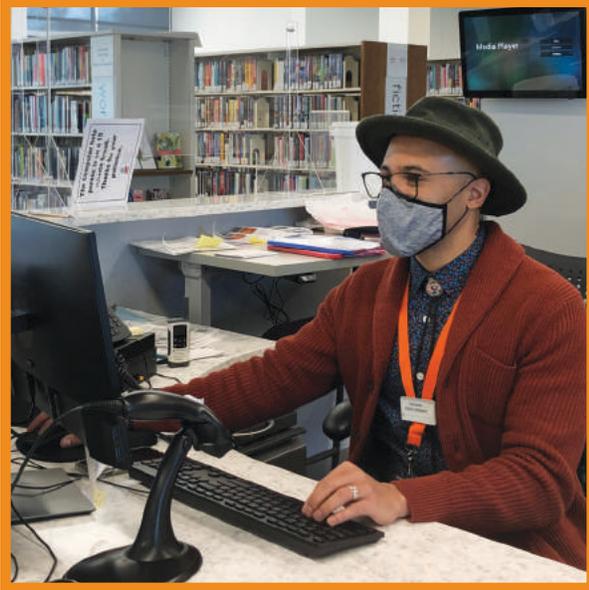




2020 ANNUAL FUND GIFTS IN ACTION

Total granted to library: \$338,730



TECHNOLOGY

Technology became even more critical to our libraries and our community this year. The library's subscription to its Zendesk customer service platform enabled staff to field more than 40,000 patron calls between March and November. A Zoom software subscription is providing a safe way for employees to meet virtually so they can communicate effectively. Foundation funds also paid for software licenses for Adobe Suite and other programs for public computers, and new self-checkout stations at several libraries.

COLLECTIONS

When the Safer at Home order went into effect, the foundation quickly granted the library \$50,000 to expand its digital collection with eBooks, audiobooks, newspaper and magazine subscriptions, and access to databases. It then raised another \$125,000 from the community for these online resources.

The library's books and other media also grew with the addition of popular DVD and Blu-ray titles for all nine libraries' Serendipity collections; copies of popular racial equity books; award-winning books for children and teens; hundreds of teen and juvenile fiction and graphic novels; more than 600 adult nonfiction titles; nearly 150 vinyl albums for the Central Library record collection; and dozens of audio-enabled children's picture books.



2020 ANNUAL FUND GIFTS IN ACTION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Early this year, the library sent four staff members to the National Public Library Association in Nashville. Later in the year, staff attended a variety of virtual learning opportunities: Twenty-three staff members took part in the YWCA's virtual Racial Justice Summit; three attended the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) National Institute; and five completed *Library Journal* Equity in Action courses. The library also used funds for an all-staff read. Despite new circumstances, staff engaged through training and development, helping them become true community ambassadors and effective public servants.

EQUITY AND INNOVATION

A Local History Platforms grant supported preservation and gathering of local history, including podcast preservation work, putting interviewers on the ground for neighborhood partners, hiring workshop facilitators and creating a portable sound booth. The foundation also covered costs of the library's Archive-It subscription to create, store and provide access to web content. As a part of the Living History Project, "Stories from a Distance" documented pandemic experiences from community members, with an emphasis on marginalized voices. The Native American Storyteller-in-Residence and Library Takeover projects are on hold until in-person programs can resume safely.



MINI-GRANTS

Goodman South Madison Library hosted two Literacy Network-led Community English class series, with 40 participants enrolled. The foundation worked with the Friends of Goodman South Madison Library to fund the courses for beginning and intermediate-level English learners. The second session was taught remotely via Zoom. The foundation also supported the Bubbler's MPL Helping Hands project, which commissioned local artists-in-residence to create illustrations about library staff service efforts amid the pandemic. The artwork was shared digitally via the Bubbler website and the library's social media.



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