

LEWIS & CLARK LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Making a great library even better!

A Year of Change, Growth and Opportunity

BY JOHN FINN, LEWIS & CLARK LIBRARY DIRECTOR

2020 HAS BEEN A TOUGH YEAR.

Here at Lewis & Clark Library we had twin challenges with the COVID pandemic and the Library's construction project. Through all of the confusion, questions, dust, noise, and despair of 2020, we always saw a chance for creation, a chance to make something great from the wreckage.

I believe this newly reborn Library building will be a showplace for the community for many, many years to come. The community will continue to embrace this institution as the Community's Living Room. The changes that we have made to the structure and the living spaces are enormous. Without growing the footprint at all, we created new

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Find your fiction titles on the second floor.



The Children's Library has reading nooks!



Relax and read in one of the new comfy chairs.

All library photos by Thom Bridge, Photographer, Helena Independent Record.

The Lewis & Clark Library Foundation was established in 1978 to support the Lewis & Clark Library system, beyond what tax monies can provide. In these times of increasing demand for information in all formats, private support is critical to maintaining excellent library services. It is the goal of the Foundation Board of Directors, through the caring and generosity of like-minded citizens, to maintain long-term financial support for the public library.

Visit us online at:
www.lclibfoundation.org

The Lewis & Clark Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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spaces to sit and read and converse. There are quiet places to think, work, and collaborate. There are meeting and community spaces to share ideas and be enlightened and entertained. The spaces for Children and Teens have been made modern and comfortable and usable in ways this Library has not known before.

As we move into 2021 we look forward to progress. We look forward to greeting our patrons with cautious open arms. The Library team is working hard on getting the building in Helena ready for use. We are making very deliberate plans for safety and usability.

While the construction caused upheaval here in Helena, our other branches—in Augusta, East Helena, Lincoln, and the Bookmobile—have persevered. They continue to provide as many great services to their communities as the pandemic will allow. The Lewis & Clark Library family is a strong one.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make this year of growth and opportunity possible. First, thank you to our construction and design teams, Dick Anderson Construction and Mosaic Architecture and Design. They worked hard to make sure patrons and staff were safe during this lengthy and complicated project. And of course, I want to thank the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation for their never-ending support for this Library team and the community. Library staff feel loved and appreciated every day. They pick up a toy in the Children's area, or sit in a new piece of furniture, and they know the Foundation made that possible.

The Foundation truly does *Make a Great Library Even Better.*



The Grand Staircase leads to the new Fiction section.



Books are still front and center in the library.



Lobby across from new coffee bar.

Leave a Lasting Legacy – Explore the Benefits of Planned Giving

Call Library Director John Finn at (406) 447-6699 to learn how easy it is to make a planned gift or visit <http://lclibfoundation.org/planned-giving>.

You can help ensure the lasting health and vitality of our county-wide public library for generations to come.

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THANK YOU TO THE **218** DONORS WHO DONATED UP TO \$99 OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS. ALTOGETHER YOU CONTRIBUTED A TOTAL OF **\$8,110** TO MAKE A GREAT LIBRARY EVEN BETTER!

Bidding farewell, but not goodbye ...



Babs Leaphart, Sarah Sullivan and Merry Fahrman volunteering at the 2016 Library Staff Picnic.

Apologies for the quality of this image. It's one of the rare group photos of our board members and this one happened to have these three standing together!

It is always bittersweet when board members have fulfilled their terms on the Board of Directors. Three of our most dedicated members—Merry Fahrman, Babs Leaphart and Sarah Sullivan—served with a passion for the Foundation's mission to support Lewis & Clark Library and the phenomenal staff who serve library patrons throughout the county. Their kindness, devotion, compassion, joyful sense of humor, and creative ideas will be missed! When invited to write a reflection on their years serving on the Board, they readily agreed.

Merry Fahrman (2015-2020) I feel privileged to have served on the Foundation Board for the past seven years. When I review the projects that we have supported, they are numerous: the Bookmobile, a solar energy project, and an extensive renovation project have all made lasting improvements. Library programming has provided the community with enrichment opportunities that include author talks and workshops, poetry readings and receptions. Enrichment opportunities have addressed the needs of young children, teens, adults and seniors. I applaud the library staff for their efforts to provide programming during the challenges of the current year. I leave the board with a better understanding of the many and varied ways in which Lewis & Clark Library serves our community. I will continue to support the Library Foundation. I'm confident that future activities will continue "Making a great library even better!"

Babs Leaphart (2015-2020) The Lewis and Clark Library Foundation board and staff have the goal of making our libraries even better places. For the last six years I've seen that attitude pervade all that the Foundation does. The meetings tend to be "soul refreshing" with brainstorming from board members and staff about ways to provide books and meaningful experiences to our communities. In the last few years members of the library staff have presented many creative ideas that add to our libraries and community in innovative ways. They are most often met with a "can do" attitude from the board. I loved: visits to our branch libraries and relaxed lunches that followed, picnics with our library staff, the community poetry readings, and any time spent with "good soul" board members, past and present. I look forward to the opening of our newly renovated library and to days when I can enjoy it with (or without) my grandkids! Thanks to all and to John and Patti for their positive guidance!

Sarah Sullivan (2015-2020) I just finished reading Yaa Gyassi's latest novel, *Transcendent Kingdom*. At its core, the book is about a young woman in search of answers. She asks, what is the intersection, if any, between science and spirituality, between the human mind, our animal soul, and the diverse world we all inhabit. It seemed the perfect ending to my six-year tenure on the Lewis and Clark Library Foundation Board. At its core, libraries are places where questions are answered and imaginations are unleashed. Libraries are windows to the world and open to all. They are precious custodians of art, culture, and knowledge across continents and throughout time. It has been an honor and a privilege to play even a small role in maintaining this invaluable community resource and a thrill to be a part of the beautiful renovation of the Helena Library. Thank you, Lewis and Clark Library, for serving our community in so many important ways.

Our vision is that each member of our community will have superior access to the highest quality library and information services now and into the future.

Your Gifts Make a Difference!

LIBRARY WISH LIST FOR FY2021

- Augusta Branch—Public Programs \$ 500
- Lincoln Branch—STEAM Take & Make Kits \$ 750
- East Helena Branch—Lego Bricks & Reading Circle books \$ 1,500
- Bookmobile Book Giveaways \$ 1,000
- Bike Lock & Tire Pump pilot project \$ 400
- Portable Video/Audio Recording Kits \$ 6,000
- Book vending machine refills & giveaways \$ 3,289.25
- Beanstack Renewal—2nd year \$1,657.75
- One Thousand Books Before Kindergarten \$ 500
- Playaway Launchpad pilot project \$ 6,000
- Big Read/Speakers—Billboard \$ 2,000
- Town Hall Webinar Software \$ 1,400

The Foundation's annual budget includes \$25,000 for library staff to propose a wish list of items or services for all library branches and departments, to bring these enhancements to patrons of all ages and to all the communities of Lewis and Clark County.



FOUNDATION FUNDS IN REVIEW

As of June 30, 2020 the Foundation's assets totaled **\$879,227**. The Foundation's FY2020 revenue totaled **\$175,558**, which includes **\$16,276** in dividends, **\$80,932** in donations, Boone Trust income of **\$58,000**, miscellaneous donations of about **\$1,145**, Bookmobile Ad revenue of **\$1,150**, and an unrealized gain/loss of **\$17,981**. In August, the Foundation transferred **\$23,699** (30% of the FY 2020 charitable gifts revenue) to the Permanent Endowment at DA Davidson.

As of June 30, 2020 the Permanent Endowment held total assets of **\$690,663.31**. A second investment account at D.A. Davidson held **\$62,057.24** in "liquid" funds, of which **\$50,000** was used this summer for special enhancements for the Helena library (furniture, children's toys, film footage of new library, outfit new recording studios, and building up opening day collections).



2020

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The Lewis & Clark Library Foundation is grateful for your continued generosity and support of the great work done by the hard-working library staff. We are proud of their innovative approaches to continue to move the library forward and provide services for a wide variety of patrons. Each year, we are amazed by their creativity and sincere passion for the many communities they serve. Thank you for being a part of making a great library even better.

It has been my great honor to serve as your Foundation President. Thank you for your generosity and support of our great library.

