

We reimagined our Library.



After 25 years of blood, sweat, and more than a few tears, KCPL's vision of a renovated and enlarged Main Library finally saw the light of day in May. The reimagined Main Library reopened on May 9, 2022 after two years of construction, resulting in 20,000 square feet of new space and exciting new services and programs.

The new Main Library includes the IDEA Lab, our very own maker space; a Tool Lending Library featuring hundreds of tools and equipment that can be checked out just like a book or DVD; the Coffee Nook managed by local coffee house Mea Cuppa; an expanded Children's Area; the stunning Sky Bridge across Quarrier Street; a new entrance at the corner of Quarrier and Summers; the beautiful Legacy Wall and much more.

On September 21, the Main Library will host a Donor's Gala to honor the patrons whose donations made this \$32 million project a reality. Festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. and you are cordially invited. Be sure to check your mail and email for details!

Our revitalized and reimagined Library would not have been possible without the contributions of the Friends, Library donors, and area charitable organizations. Thank You!

It's easy to be a Friend! If you'd like to help, get in touch.

The Library Foundation of Kanawha County, Inc.
Attention: Marketing & Development
123 Capitol Street, Charleston, WV 25301
304-343-4646 ext. 1283 • www.kcpls.org



September 2022

Friends,

A lot has changed over the past year. KCPL has continued to fight the COVID pandemic, the system pulled off a virtual Book Festival last fall, staff shut down services in the Town Center Mall and moved back to the Main Library, and, of course, reopened the renovated and reimagined Main Library in Downtown Charleston.

Looking forward to the 2022-2023 fiscal year, we are excited about the new library vending services in Clendenin (only the second library kiosk in West Virginia), a remodeled elevator in St. Albans, and a new KCPL Bookmobile. Don't forget the 2022 West Virginia Book Festival in October - we hope to see you there!

Congratulations to the two newest members of the KCPL marketing staff - Jai Ravine came on board in May as our new Marketing Coordinator and Corrie Winton joined the team in June as our Virtual Services Specialist. Jai will focus on social media messaging, writing, and editing, while Corrie will put her talents to use designing and creating graphic images for the department.

You will be seeing a lot of both Jai and Corrie in the coming months. Of course, Lois Payne is the longest serving member of the Marketing & Development Department and will continue to serve as liaison to the Friends.

Meet the new Marketing staff members.



Corrie (left) and Lois (right) at the FestivALL Children's Fair Used Book Sale in July.

CORRIE WINTON: How do you see your role as Virtual Services Specialist? I design digital and print materials and make other digital assets for the library.

When not working at KCPL, what do you like to do? I like to collect and repair retro video games and consoles. When I'm not doing that, I spend time loving on my dog and creating art!

What's your favorite movie? *The Thing* (1982). I'm a sucker for 80s horror movies and their practical effects! It has the best practical effects of all time and invokes the feelings of paranoia and isolation.



Jai (left) interviewing Venu Menon of Mea Cuppa Coffee for More Than Books in July.

JAI RAVINE: How do you see your role as Marketing Coordinator? I collaborate with Corrie on graphic design projects, and manage website content and social media messaging. I come to KCPL with about 10 years of nonprofit and freelance media & communications experience.

I understand you're an author yourself - tell us about that. I wrote a couple books: *and then entwine: lesson plans, poems, knots* (TinFish Press) and *The Romance of Siam: A Pocket Guide* (Timeless, Infinite Light / Nightboat Books), both of which you can now check out from the KCPL collection!

The West Virginia Book Festival is back!



For the first time since 2019, the Festival returns for a live, in-person event on October 21 & 22 at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center.

Featured authors include best-selling authors Elin Hilderbrand and C.J. Box, American fantasy author V.E. Schwab, children's author and illustrator Marc Brown, and the local authors of *Murder on Staunton Road*, Charlie Ryan and Mitch Evans.

The Friends will have a table at the Festival. Be sure to pay a visit and help us boost our numbers during our Festival membership drive. The Friends will also be selling Friends and KCPL branded tote bags as part of our 2022 fundraising campaign.

KCPL enjoyed another successful Corporate Regatta.



Teen Services Librarian Andrew Stanley captained the Friends yacht (left) and Teen Zone LAII Megan Fowler decorated it (right).

The Regatta featured sponsored miniature yachts, powered by super-soakers, as an event to raise money for the Library. The Kiwanis Club of West Charleston donated \$3,500 to KCPL's Summer Library Club, plus the Friends yacht entry in the race was voted best design and earned the Library another \$500!

A great library needs great friends. Thank you.

Ms. Marsha H. Albert
Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Andrews
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Beckett
Mr. and Mrs. Evan Buck
Mrs. Rebecca K. Calwell
Mr. Kurtis W. Canterbury
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