is the heart of our city, and you are the heart of our Library. More than just a place for books, though we have plenty of those, we are a connection point to help our community learn, grow, and thrive.
Long before the onset of COVID-19, the staff at Nashville Public Library (NPL) worked tirelessly to provide the modern, inclusive library that our city deserves. From tools for digital inclusion to resources for young and adult learners to develop literacy, language, STEAM, and other skills, our library constantly evolved to meet the needs of the modern day.

With the pandemic, we, like so many others across the world, had to try new things in order to continue moving forward. And we were pleasantly surprised at just how good things turned out. While we had already determined that we needed to provide our popular programs virtually, the pandemic accelerated that plan. Not long after suspending walk-in services in March 2020, we had transitioned many of our programs online culminating in what we now call NPL Universe. This ensured that longtime fans wouldn’t miss our events, while others who were never able to attend in person had the opportunity to do so now. Over the course of this year, nearly 200,000 people tuned in to nearly 5,000 of our virtual offerings.

Then, inspired by what restaurants and other businesses were doing, we implemented our curbside service in June 2020. It’s been immensely popular with more than 200,000 customers checking out more than 770,000 items this year. Even as we restore walk-in services, we’ll continue offering curbside pick-up so that people can access our materials safely and without ever having to get out of their car.

While COVID-19 may have provided the “bump” we needed to get these things off of the ground, none of them would have been possible without the fiscal and moral support of our city. Thankfully, Nashville is a city that loves its library dearly, and it shows.

In July, Mayor John Cooper and the Metro Council implemented the city’s budget for the 2021–2022 fiscal year with overwhelmingly strong support for NPL. These allocations allow us to bring in additional staff, enhance existing programs and services, offer Friday hours at multiple NPL locations, and equip us to continue our curbside service. To Mayor Cooper and the Metro Council, I’d like to extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued support of our library.

A major thanks is reserved for you — the private donors who give through the Nashville Public Library Foundation to support us. Motivated by nothing more than generosity and a desire to see your fellow humans excel, your donations have allowed us to continue delivering high quality services at a time when Nashville needs them most. Your contributions allow us to make a meaningful impact on our city and their significance cannot be overstated. Words do not express the depth of gratitude I have for what you do for NPL and for Nashville.

Through hard work, ingenuity, and both public and private support, we’ve been able to achieve things this year we weren’t sure were possible and deliver services to our customers in completely new ways. Even as we continue to do so, we’re already looking to the future to ensure that we don’t just “return to normal” — we want to be even better than before.

And with your continued support, I know we will.

Sincerely,

Kent Oliver
Director, Nashville Public Library
It’s been a tremendous year for all of us. Our world changed dramatically and continues to change. One thing that has not changed is your dedication to the Nashville Public Library Foundation. You stayed with us. You trusted us. And with your continued support and generous gifts, you allowed us to give more than $60 million to the Library since our founding.

These funds allowed the Library to pivot quickly and respond in real time to our community’s needs. This looked like,

- **Adapting critical programming to the take place virtually** ensuring the patron’s safety while continuing the Library’s great work.
- **Developing curbside service** to ensure that patrons could pick up materials safely.
- **Expanding our e-materials** to give patrons everywhere access to materials.

The past year also called upon us as a Foundation to think creatively about our work. This looked like moving our Gala and Picnic with the Library to virtual formats. Our virtual Gala celebrated the life-changing work of the Library and the individuals who make that work happen. Picnic with the Library, which raised the most funds ever this past year, celebrated our award winning Wishing Chair Productions while highlighting the critical work our Library does to support our youngest patrons.

We also made changes to the way we communicate with our donors and supporters to ensure that even if we could not be together, you were still aware of all of the happenings in the Library. We are excited not to see last year as a blip but to instead incorporate our lessons learned into a new way of operating.

All this to say though, we’ve missed seeing you. We are so excited that as of the end of October 2021, all 21 of our branches are physically open to the public again. We are looking forward to those face-to-face interactions and for your continued support of our city’s greatest treasure: Nashville Public Library.

Gratefully,

Shawn Bakker
President, Nashville Public Library Foundation
Our Library helps Nashville grow together.
Financials

As a department of Metro Nashville, Nashville Public Library receives the majority of its funding directly from the city. The Nashville Public Library Foundation was created in 1997 to enhance the library’s programs, facilities and collections beyond the city’s budget. We are pleased to share our joint fiscal story and showcase how a thriving partnership between local government funding and private philanthropy makes a difference for library patrons and the city of Nashville.

NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCIALS

**CAPITAL BUDGET**
The capital budget funds the library’s physical footprint and uses bond proceeds to support construction, renovation and large library maintenance equipment.

| Library Maintenance and Upgrades | 338,400 |
| New Donelson Library Site / Planning | 1,022,100 |
| Richland Park Planning | 455,000 |
| Materials and Equipment Purchases | 2,346,035 |

**TOTAL FY21 CAPITAL BUDGET** $4,161,535

**OPERATING BUDGET**
The operating budget is the annual amount approved by Metro Council to operate the Nashville Public Library System. This includes General Fund Appropriations (personnel, utilities, repairs and other costs associated with operating NPL facilities) as well as support from the Nashville Public Library Foundation and State and Federal Grants.

| Operating Budget | 31,765,300 |
| Additional Funding | 261,056 |
| Nashville Public Library Foundation Direct Funding to NPL | 492,671* |

**TOTAL FY21 NON-CAPITAL BUDGET** $32,519,027

*The Nashville Public Library Foundation provided an additional $1,941,747 on behalf of NPL and in total contributed $2.4 million towards library programs, collections and facilities.

NPLF FINANCIALS

The Nashville Public Library Foundation is supported by generous community members dedicated to building a brighter future by empowering one of our city’s greatest resources - Nashville Public Library.

| Revenue | $3,449,437 |

**REVENUE**

| Contributions and Support | 2,823,638 |
| Special Events net of expenses | 630,915 |
| Earned Income | 122,072 |
| Investment Earnings net of expenses | 3,166,363 |

**TOTAL REVENUE** $6,742,988

**EXPENSES**

| Children | 288,218 |
| Teens | 383,886 |
| Lifelong Learning | 562,699 |
| Community Engagement | 114,752 |
| General Programming | 153,566 |
| Collections | 907,280 |
| Library Operations | 24,017 |
| NPLF Operations | 1,015,019 |

**TOTAL EXPENSES** $3,449,437

**SURPLUS** $3,293,551
Donors

Generosity is at the heart of what we do. Nashville Public Library and the Nashville Public Library Foundation thank our donors for their support.

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^ Deceased
* Denotes membership in the Carnegie Society
+ Through the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
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