

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Pictured: A group of volunteers from BECU, Microsoft, and KCLS assemble hygiene kits. These kits will be distributed to individuals experiencing housing instability.

Invest in Yourself - Economic Resilience: The King County Library System is uniquely poised to provide equitable opportunities for economic resilience in our communities. This project supports economic justice in the areas of small business, jobs, personal finance, and the digital skills needed to support all three.

Peers in Libraries: This program connects patrons who have barriers to getting their basic needs met with services, supports, and resources to move toward stability and improved health. Peers use their lived experience to provide individualized support, participate in community meetings, and build relationships with community partners.

Expanding Services to People Experiencing Homelessness: This program increases access for people who experience barriers to utilizing library buildings and programs due to housing instability. We bring KCLS resources, programs, and staff to community locations such as tent cities, shelters, day centers, treatment clinics, food banks, and subsidized housing.

The King County Library System Foundation advances literacy, learning, and libraries for everyone in our communities.

ADVOCACY

We are champions for our libraries and advocates for advancing literacy and learning.

FUNDRAISING

We enable KCLS to inspire and empower more people by generating financial support beyond what public funding provides.

GRANT-MAKING

We make possible library programs, outreach and innovations that bring the life-changing benefits of knowledge and literacy to more people and especially those who are in underserved and vulnerable populations.



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KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM FOUNDATION 2023 FUNDING PRIORITIES

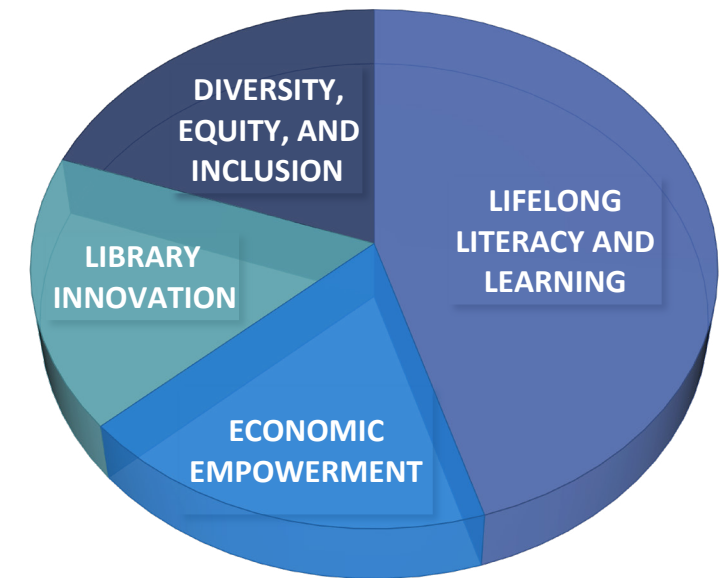
2023 Program Grants by Type

Lifelong Literacy and Learning: \$644,010

Economic Empowerment: \$258,250

Library Innovation: \$242,328

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: \$277,780



Total Funding Granted to KCLS: \$1,422,368



OUR SHARED VISION WITH KCLS

A world where knowledge allows diverse communities to prosper and grow.

MISSION

The King County Library System Foundation promotes literacy, learning, and libraries by providing support beyond public funding for initiatives and resources that enable the King County Library System to better serve community needs.

LIFELONG LITERACY AND LEARNING



Pictured: A group of teens share the projects they created at a KCLS Makerspace.

Raising A Reader: A nationally recognized caregiver engagement and book delivery program, which is built upon research that shows that children's literacy increases when families are engaged in a regular reading routine and have access to high-interest books that are developmentally appropriate with diverse representation.

Community Creators: This project builds opportunities for people to visibly influence library services and impact their communities. Community Creators aims to amplify community voices through close, responsive, and transparent collaboration with librarian partners. The local librarian team will select one or more ideas, then partner with the creators (aka Community Creators) to bring their ideas to life.



Pictured: A child and caregiver play and learn together at a KCLS library.

Expansion of Services to Patrons Experiencing Food Insecurity: This is an expansion of a pilot program that started with the Issaquah Food Bank. An additional five food bank locations will be selected to receive books for kids and teens to give to client families, as well as programs such as story times, food literacy, and community resource navigation.

Supporting Grade Level Reading: OTTER & Sasquatch Award: This program helps reluctant and eager readers alike develop and strengthen their love of reading by offering fun books, engaging activities, and the voice to vote for their favorite books of the year.

Pandemic Response for Older Adults: Older adults have been the most impacted age group with COVID-19, and will likely be among the last to return to in-person library activities as caution and variants abound. This is an important initiative to promote communities of inclusion and belonging in our senior population.

All Ages Summer Reading Program 2023: For low-income youth, simple access to books is the main barrier to reading engagement. This annual summer program provides books for all ages and focuses on habituating reading through challenges, incentives, and programs.

Ready, Set, Kindergarten!: This program provides children and their caregivers early learning experiences through everyday tools, methods, and activities in a participatory environment that also seeks to build relationships among the families attending. The program is designed to build on families' strengths and celebrate their child's transition into Kindergarten online and in-person.

Youth-led Participatory Action Research: This is a program where young people are trained to conduct systematic research. Groups of teens across KCLS will engage with librarians and community partners to leverage their lived experience and bring to light the issues impacting their communities and work to identify resources and community members and/or groups to help address those issues, whether through a library program or service or through connecting with community partners.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSIVITY

The Welcoming Center: This program's goal is facilitating connections and creating communities of belonging among immigrants, refugees, and new arrivals. Currently in Bellevue and Kent libraries, *The Welcoming Center* is a point of connection, a suite of wrap-around services, and a resolution that all libraries are places of belonging.

Writers of Color Author Series: A series of online programs featuring high-profile BIPOC authors. A BIPOC community leader from King County moderates each event. The goal of the series is for adult readers from across King County to see themselves and their lives reflected in KCLS's author programs.

Connect: Wi-Fi Hotspots and Laptops: Since 2020, King County Library System has been making connectivity available to people who would not otherwise be able to access the internet. The audience for these laptops and hotspots is partner agencies who serve people who are experiencing housing insecurity, as well as low income seniors, immigrants, refugees, and students.



Pictured: A group of individuals who received service from The Welcoming Center are sworn in as American Citizens

LIBRARY INNOVATION

Lean Library Project: The goal of the Lean Library Project is to reduce turnaround time of materials and to add flexibility to our processes. The reduced turnaround time will enable our system to better serve all patrons. With greater flexibility, we can focus on services for our underserved and underrepresented populations.

Patron Engagement Data, Measurement and Experimentation Enablement: KCLS will further its position as a leader in patron engagement and library data science by helping fund BiblioCommons' shared patron engagement data model and measurement system for public libraries. KCLS will immediately benefit from this project as BiblioCommons will use the data model to improve patron engagement through their suite of products we utilize.

Data Engineer: This project funds a full-time Data Engineer position for two years who will focus on expansion of the KCLS data warehouse with the goals of: onboarding all KCLS data sources, onboarding relevant external datasets, documenting processes and best practices, testing and validating data, and ensuring the data is available for staff use for reporting and analytics.



Pictured: A group of teens form a huddle at a KCLS Makerspace.