



ARLINGTON LIBRARIES FOUNDATION

2021 Annual Report

Investing in the libraries we love

Dear Library Supporters,

This year we experienced the joy of fully restored library access and hours at the Robbins Library and Fox Branch Library. The simple pleasure of getting lost in the stacks, or curling up with a little one and a great picture book in the Children's Room – these are cherished library routines for so many of us.

The Robbins Library and the Fox Branch Library connect us to critical resources, and in the best of times they are gathering places that connect us to each other. **With support from community members like you, each year our libraries fill these beloved spaces with fresh collections to delight and inspire, as well as sustain innovative services.** Last year this support meant:

- The introduction of a popular new format in the Children's Room called readalongs: picture books with simple built-in audio players that promote independent reading and expand accessibility.
- The exploration of pressing socially relevant topics that the Arlington community (and beyond) are debating through the new Civic Engagement series.
- The use of green screen technology to engage Summer Reading participants.

This fall, Arlington's Libraries are unveiling a new strategic plan for library operations and services for the next five years. Built on community feedback gathered through hundreds of survey results and multiple focus groups, the plan will seek to meet newly identified needs. With your support and that of the Arlington Libraries Foundation, the library will achieve new levels of service excellence.

We look forward to a continuing dialogue.

Patrick M. Hanlon

Patrick Hanlon
Chair, Arlington Libraries Foundation

A. Nicolay

Andrea Nicolay
Director of Libraries



Welcome Back!

PATRONS & CIRCULATION



ELEANOR D. MASKELL FAMILY FUND

Eleanor Maskell loved the library. Growing up in Arlington she cultivated a lifelong relationship with the Robbins Library – first on her own, and then by sharing this local treasure with her family. She especially enjoyed taking long walks to pick up books with her children and reading them together. She also believed in giving back to her community and was a volunteer in the Children’s Room at Robbins for many years.

When she passed away in July 2021, her family wanted to memorialize her love of children and the library. The Eleanor D. Maskell Family Fund was endowed with \$25,000, donated by family and friends, in support of children’s programs, resources and materials. The first installment was a \$6,000 grant for readalongs, books that kids can press play to read along with, and then switch to learning mode for literacy learning and fun. *You can read more about this generous gift and its impact under Your Gifts at Work on the following page.*

PHYSICAL MATERIALS

516,134

E-CONTENT*

190,899

TOTAL CIRCULATION

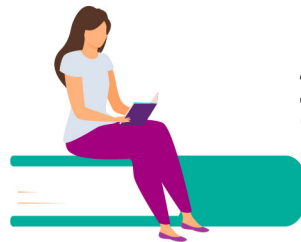
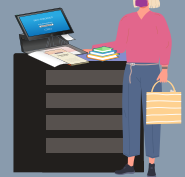
707,033

*E-CONTENT includes e-books, audiobooks, magazines, music, film TV for kids, teens & adults through OverDrive, Kanopy, Hoopla, & Acorn.



TOTAL LIBRARY
VISITS FY2021
68,189

PROCESSED
190,899
INTERLIBRARY
LOANS



PROGRAMS HOSTED

221 Children’s Programs

137 Adult & YA Programs

ANSWERED
6,686
REFERENCE
QUESTIONS



2021 YOUR GIFTS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Your generous contributions, gifted to the library in a \$70,116 grant (plus a \$5,984 carryover from FY2020), ensure that the libraries remain responsive, relevant, and competitive in today's ever changing world.

\$35,000 Downloadable E-books and Audiobooks

With downloadable content circulation doubling in FY20, and demand in Arlington still unmet, the library expanded its offerings in FY21. The result was another 30% increase in overall use of downloadable and streaming content by patrons of all ages.

\$11,200 Books and More for Children, Teens, and Adults

Each year, the library requires additional funding to ensure that all collections, at both libraries, are current and relevant to the needs and interests of our dynamic community. The collections are heavily used, and these extra funds allow for the purchase of hot summer reading titles, new graphic novels, additional early volumes in the most popular series, and multiple copies of in-demand paperbacks. Beyond books, the library uses these funds to purchase Teen Summer Reading prizes and Children's Room elements like busy boxes: manipulable, colorful and washable wooden toys that are irresistible to toddlers and pre-schoolers.

\$7,000 Acorn TV/ Hoopla

In FY21, Acorn TV offered Arlington patrons a wide array of popular British shows, and was available until May 2021 when it was phased out as a result of a merger. In response, the library enhanced Hoopla service for patrons. Hoopla offers access to 157 shows previously available through Acorn TV.

\$6,500 Arlington Reads Together Author Event

Each March, the Arlington Libraries Foundation makes it possible for the library to bring notable speakers to Arlington as part of the library's community read program. In 2021, the Arlington Education Foundation co-sponsored a keynote presentation by Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, world-renowned educator and author of the 2021 selection *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*. Dr. Tatum's talk would become the most-watched library video of the year, with over 4,000 views. Other Arlington Reads Together partners include Envision Arlington's Diversity Task Group and the Friends of the Robbins Library.



\$6,000 Readalong Audiobooks for Children

A starter collection of 142 readalongs, picture books with a built-in audio player, quickly flew off the shelves and into the homes of the library's youngest patrons. Kids love being read to, and parents love that their kids can read independently with these audio-enhanced picture books. The impact: children's playaway/ readalong circulation increased by a whopping 187% in 2021!

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum shared her lived experience and expertise on race and racism in a conversation with Dr. Roderick MacNeal, assistant superintendent to the Arlington Schools.

\$2,200 Digital Display / Recording Equipment

Large-screen scrolling displays in the checkout areas of both libraries feature upcoming programs and make it easy to see all the latest library news. Funds for recording equipment for virtual programming supported the purchase of an iPad, lights, stands, and a green screen, all of which dramatically improved the quality of our virtual programs.

\$1,200 Civic Engagement Series

Libraries are trusted sources of non-partisan information. This newly created free series connects Arlington with opportunities to learn about the structure and function of the civic organizations that make our society work. Given the density of universities and thought leaders in our region, last year the library found eminent speakers for topics on expanding access and removing barriers to voting, the role of the Supreme Court, and the state of the U.S. Postal Service.

\$7,000 Sunday Children's Librarian

These funds make it possible to schedule a second Children's Librarian in the Children's Room on Sundays at Robbins when the library is typically open 2-5 pm, October through May. While Sunday hours were suspended last spring, these funds are set aside to support Sunday hours when they resume in October 2021.

2021 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INSIGHTS

- The majority of the \$134,853 in revenue was designated as Unrestricted Donations. These funds are granted to the Arlington Libraries to support initiatives the library leadership deems most appropriate beyond the municipal allocation.
- In FY2021, the Foundation received \$25,000 in donations to establish the Eleanor D. Maskell Family Fund, in memory of Eleanor D. Maskell, a longtime volunteer at the Robbins Library. \$6,000 from this Fund was used to procure children's readalong books in FY2021.
- In FY2021, expenses were comprised of a \$70,116 grant to the libraries and operating expenses of \$25,630, which were primarily for the design, printing, and fulfillment of marketing materials, software purchases and general business operating expenses. The Foundation operates with a volunteer board.
- Financial assets of the Foundation typically peak at fiscal year-end ahead of the grant made to the Library early in the following fiscal year (i.e., FY2022 grant was completed in September 2021, within the 2022 fiscal year).
- In FY2021, the Foundation's endowed funds, which are invested in a mix of equity and bonds, achieved growth of approximately \$10,000 due to market gains as well as a \$550 gift.
- The Foundation keeps a cash reserve above and beyond its grant to the libraries to support strategic investments being made in the Foundation's grant-making capacity, and to enable a capital campaign for renovations of the libraries in the coming years.

Printed by Swifty Printing of Arlington

REVENUE

Unrestricted Donations	\$96,362
Eleanor D. Maskell Family Fund Donations	\$25,000
Endowed Funds	\$550
Unrealized Investment Income	\$8,634
Realized Investment Income	\$1,347
In Kind Donations	\$2,960
TOTAL	\$134,853

EXPENSES

Grants to Libraries	\$70,116
Misc fees/business expenses	\$3,207
Printing/Mailing	\$10,708
Marketing Investments	\$8,756
Other Marketing	\$2,960
TOTAL	\$95,747

YEAR END ASSETS

Cash Accounts	\$135,721
Duffy-Rodriguez Fund	\$64,830
Eleanor D. Maskell Family Fund	\$19,000
TOTAL	\$219,551

SUPPORT OUR LIBRARIES

Make your tax-deductible contribution online by credit card or mail a check to the Foundation directly. Legacy gifts or in-memoriam gifts are welcome.

CONTACT US

Arlington Libraries Foundation
700 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

781-316-3290

info@arlingtonlibrariesfoundation.org
www.arlingtonlibrariesfoundation.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Patrick Hanlon, *Chair*
Jeffrey Miller, *Treasurer*
Lynne Gardham, *Recording Secretary*
Michèle Meagher, *Corresponding Secretary*
Karin Varnik Barrett
Marian Hanley
J.B. Maxwell
Usha Pasi
Karin Turer

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Andrea Nicolay, *Director of Libraries*
Heather Calvin, *Library Board of Trustees Liaison*
Jourdan Hafen, *Friends of Robbins Liaison*
Scott Weaver, *Friends of Fox Liaison*

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Ethel Doyle
Richard Duffy
Melissa King
Maryellen Loud
Charlotte Pierce