

Connection. Collaboration. Creativity.

GOOD NEWS: A letter from the WPLF



Kristi Oberg
WPLF CEO/President
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A Stronger Library for a Stronger Wichita

At the WPLF, our primary purpose is to create a margin of excellence at the Wichita Public Library. What exactly does creating a margin of excellence mean? Examples include funding to increase the size of the Advanced Learning Library, providing more space in the children's area, and the research pavilion. Underwriting all programming across the Wichita Public Library System and providing public computers and free Wi-Fi and internet access. It means that, during the pandemic, we provided funds to increase online digital holdings and collection materials cut from the Library budget. The WPLF also underwrites youth summer reading programs every year, helping children close potential learning gaps created by the pandemic and have fun!

Because of your support, your local Library branch continues to be a cornerstone of the community. Your gifts provide opportunities to increase childhood literacy, explore individual interests, research, and continue lifelong learning. Because of your support, the WPLF provided \$552,093 to the Library during the pandemic. Thank you for ensuring library services remained available to customers during this challenging time.

Did You Know?

STEAM to GO! kits for kids are the newest addition to the Library's hands-on activities for children, thanks to one individual's generous \$20,000 donation. These kits can be checked out and taken home for hours of fun and education for



Electronics, Coding and Bots STEAM to Go Kit

the whole family in 12 subjects linked to science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Kits include a book to read and at least two projects to complete. Choose from such categories as building and design; engineering gears and mazes; everyday science; machines and contraptions; math games and trivia; fossils and rocks; and more. So much fun you'll wish you were a child again. For details, go to

www.wichitalibrary.org/steam-to-go.

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Your Library programs

The Library continues to adapt to keep customers safe and engaged. Your financial support of the WPLF makes these programs possible.



The Summer Reading Program continues through July 29. This year, children and teens explore “Tails and Tales” with fun virtual and in-person outdoor programs, including visits from Tanganyika Wildlife Park and the Great Plains Nature Center. In addition, the Library hosts a “Live! in the Park” free concert series on select Mondays at Naftzger and Clapp parks. Information about the Summer Reading Program is available at www.wichitalibrary.org/summerreading.



Children Enjoying “Live! In the Park”

“Wichita’s Diverse History of Baseball” is in full swing this summer. Explore Wichita’s history of minority baseball, including the 1925 exhibition game in which the Monroviaans of the Colored Western League played against the local Ku Klux Klan chapter at Island Park on Ackerman Island. In addition, the series includes discussions about Mexican American baseball, the NBC World Series, and more. For dates and more information, visit www.wichitalibrary.org/baseball.

The Library is excited to announce the 14th installation of the NEA Big Read: Wichita. From Feb. 12-March 27, 2022, Wichita will explore “The House on Mango Street” by Sandra Cisneros. This book tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. The story of Esperanza’s childhood is told through a series of heartbreaking and joyous vignettes and discusses childhood and self-discovery.

Wichita Public Library Foundation
Kristi Oberg / 316-204-1348 / kristi.oberg@wpl-foundation.org
711 West Second St. North / Wichita, KS 67203

The Wichita Public Library Foundation’s mission is to fund Library operational needs directly benefiting the public and not covered in the tax-supported budget. The mission directs the Foundation’s activities through private fundraising, Foundation, individual and corporate grants, and annual endowment distributions to the Library.