

*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**

Because of your generous donations to the WPLF, 6,199 children enhanced their reading skills through the Library's Summer Reading Program. Your contributions helped decrease the gap in learning because of COVID and the natural gap that occurs over the summer if kids don't continue reading. The summer outdoor programs, including concerts and storytimes, helped engage more families in a safe and fun way!

### **Include the WPLF in Your Will and Continue Vital Library Programs**

By most estimates, anywhere from 50-60% of Americans have not set up a will. Many also may not understand how even a small gift to the WPLF would improve the lives of the people the Library serves. Ensure your legacy and set up your will or estate plan now. By listing the WPLF as a beneficiary, you will make sure generations to come will have access to essential Library services. Your donation will provide people free access to information, reduce the digital divide, and improve child literacy. For more information, contact Kristi Oberg at 316-204-1348 or [kristi.oberg@wpl-foundation.org](mailto:kristi.oberg@wpl-foundation.org).

### **Did You Know? The Price of Success**

Telescopes and STEAM to GO! kits for kids have proven to be so popular that waiting lists for checkout are many and long. The new Library of Things program, which includes carbon monoxide monitors and Hotspots, has an average waiting list of 100. If you are interested in helping increase the Library of Things collection, please get in touch with Kristi Oberg at 316-204-1348 or [kristi.oberg@wpl-foundation.org](mailto:kristi.oberg@wpl-foundation.org).

### **Your Library Programs**

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

**Learning Circle: The 1619 Project**, Wednesdays, Sept. 1-Oct. 6, 6 p.m. on Zoom: The 1619 Project is an ongoing initiative from The New York Times Magazine that began in August 2019, the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It aims to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the center of our national narrative. Participants will read through essays available through the 1619 Project and additional sources and discuss their topics. Registration is required. Call 316-261-8500 or register online.

**Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/WichitaPublicLibraryFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/WichitaPublicLibraryFoundation)**

**Senior Wednesday: Reflections on 9/11**, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 1:30 p.m. on Zoom: Historian Dr. Laila Ballout reflects on the impact of the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and how it still resonates today by examining the ongoing significance and international implications of this monumental event in American history. Registration is required. Call 316-261-8500 or register online.

**Sidewalk Chalk Party**, Tuesday, Sept. 21, 4-5:30 p.m. at Ronald D. Waters branch: Create a masterpiece meant to walk on. Celebrate the Library with stories and games. For ages 2-10. Registration is encouraged, and social distancing must be observed.

**Lights Out, Everybody: Mystery and Horror in the Golden Age**, Thursday, Sept. 23, 6 p.m. on Zoom: Tune in to the glory days of radio. Sound clips from some of radio's best-known mystery and horror programs (including *Escape*, *Inner Sanctum*, and *Lights Out*) will illustrate how radio could be a "theater of the mind" by using music, voices, and sounds to create "pictures." Registration required; call 316-261-8500 or go online.

**Candid Conversations: An Insider's Perspective on Criminal Justice Reform**, Saturday, Oct. 9, 2:30 p.m. on Zoom: Check online for more information.

Visit [wichitalibrary.org/events](http://wichitalibrary.org/events) for more programs and information.

## Friends of the Wichita Public Library

Schedule an appointment to shop at the Library Used Bookstore at [www.WichitaLibraryFriends.org](http://www.WichitaLibraryFriends.org). While you're there, you can drop off book donations too!

## Baseball Fans: Support your Library at the Riverfront Stadium

Head over to watch the Wichita Wind Surge and support the WPLF at Riverfront Stadium. Thanks to JP Weigand & Sons, Inc., and their donation of promotional spots, more people are learning about how the Library makes a difference in our community.

## New Board Member Spotlight

Meet Amy Williams, one of the Foundation's four new board members. Amy is helping to create a Stronger Library for a Stronger Wichita! Amy's love of the Library started at a very early age when her mom took her to the Public Library in downtown Wichita for storytime, where she got her first library card. Please welcome Amy to our team!

**MEET AMY WILLIAMS,**  
THE GLOBAL DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION LEADER AT SPIRIT AEROSYSTEMS. AMY IS A NEW BOARD MEMBER AT WPLF AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN AVID READER. AMY BELIEVES THAT READING IS A CORNERSTONE OF SUCCESS STATING THAT "OUR LOCAL LIBRARIES PROVIDE ACCESS TO SUPPORT GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. THEY ALSO SERVE AS A GREAT RESOURCE AND A COLLABORATIVE SPACE THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER AND MAKES A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE ACROSS OUR GREATER COMMUNITY."



OUR BOARD MEMBERS ARE CREATING A STRONGER FUTURE FOR WICHITA!

## Wichita Public Library Foundation

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*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.*