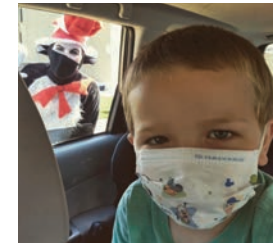




# 20 Great Things That Happened in 2020



## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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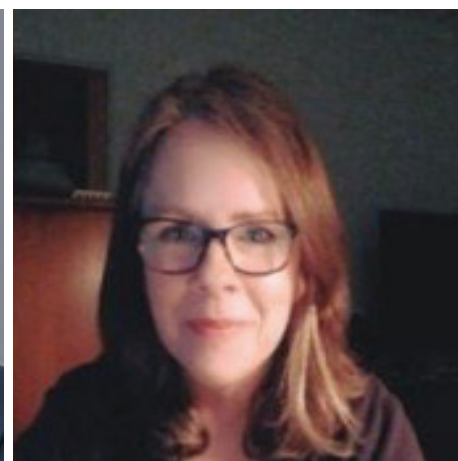
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# Executive Director

Greetings,

Where did 2020 go?

We're all going to be processing our 2020 experiences for years to come. We've worked to develop optimism in the midst of uncertainty. We've treasured small moments, faced fear and grief, and looked to the future. We've developed a new resilience for having been there and gotten (almost!) to the other side. We've endured.

Despite the trials of the year, when we reflected on all that had happened and all that we had done, it was not hard to find inspiration and even joy. Our twenty greatest things about 2020 shines a light on the ways we rose to the challenge. From the beginning, our goal was to provide services as safely as possible. We never went away, and I'm thrilled that our staff constantly looked for new and innovative ways to bring library services, community information, and programs to as many people as possible.

We resolved to help however and wherever we could. By the end of last March, we'd set up phone service from our homes, begun virtual programs like story hours, and served as a conduit to get timely and accurate information to you. In May, we began curbside delivery for materials, documents, copy services, and computers. In the summer, we premiered Bendable and installed Little Free Libraries. The fall brought outdoor story times, and in the winter we helped people sign up for health insurance.

We're looking forward to the future. The Main Library renovation and expansion kept pace through all of 2020. Our dedicated construction team implemented safeguards throughout the site with the result that work was able to continue without interruption. We're still on schedule for our most exciting project in well over a generation when the Main Library reopens later this year.

Main Library started out as a dream about having spaces that were flexible enough to grow and change as community needs changed. Activating all those new spaces with curated activities, programs, classes, and gatherings is the next step.

Even though I'm not sorry to see the end of 2020, I'm grateful for everything we learned as a community this year. I am proud of our resilience and all that we accomplished together. And with renewed optimism, I can't wait to see what 2021 brings.

Thanks for reading,



Debra Futa | Executive Director



# 1 Science Alive

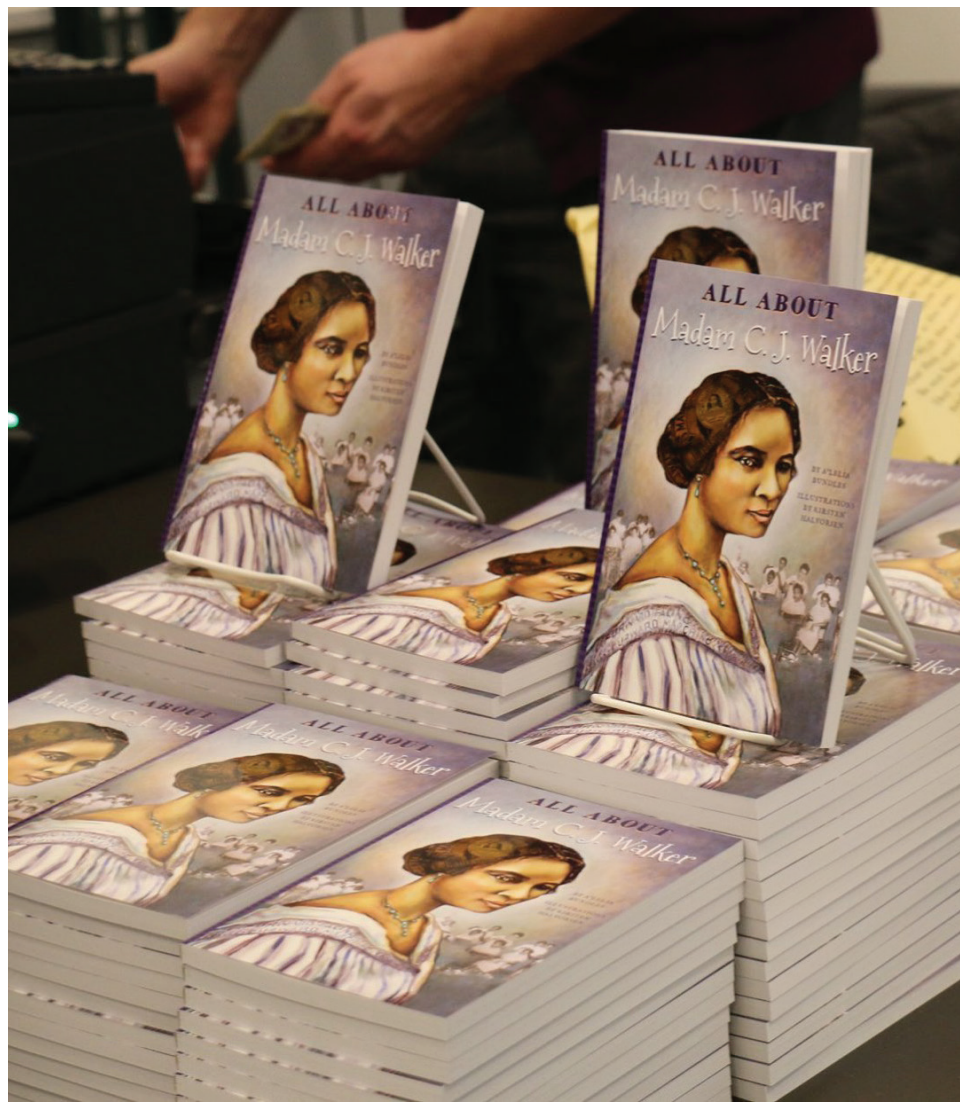
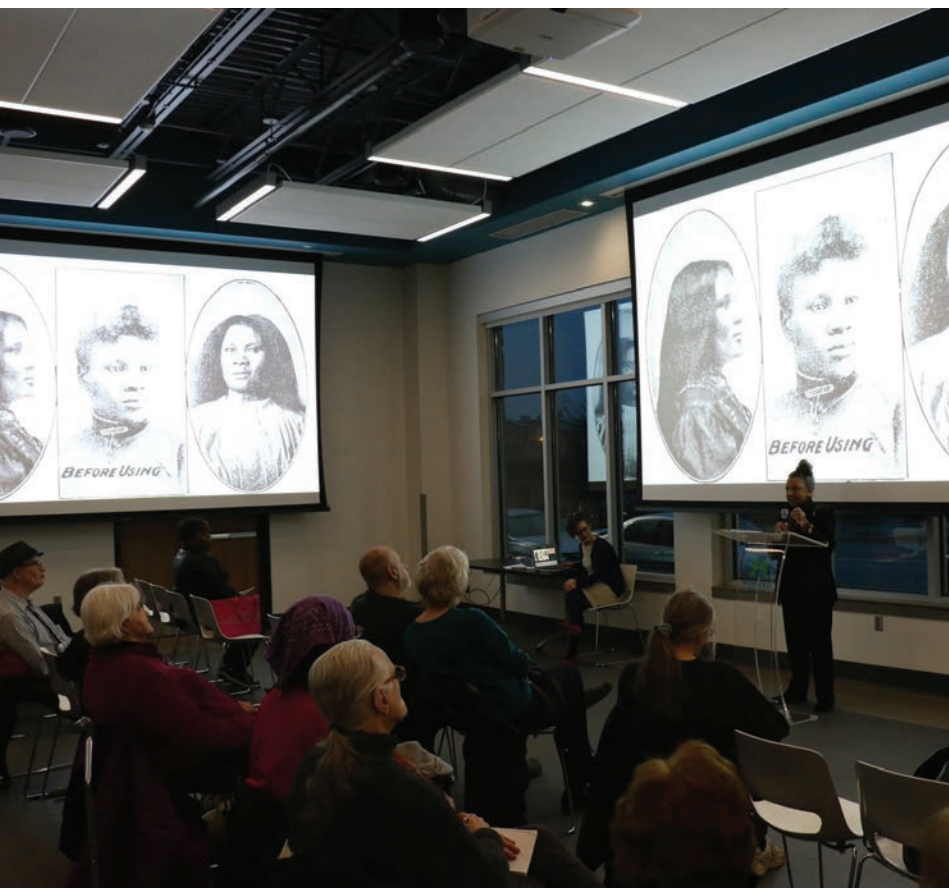
Some things change and some things stay the same. And sometimes it is a little of both. With the Main Library closed for renovation, our annual **Science Alive** was held at the Jordan Hall of Science at The University of Notre Dame. Science Alive gives families a chance to connect with local science-related organizations, and this year we had 28 partners. Children learned about ecology from St. Joseph County Parks, the chemistry of explosions from the Notre Dame Chem Demo Team, and weather systems from the WNDU 16 First Alert Weather Team.

**2,259** people joined us  
for Science Alive 2020.









# 2

## A'Lelia Bundles

For our annual Black History Month author series, we were honored to feature award-winning author and journalist A'Lelia Bundles. *On Her Own Ground*, her biography of Madam Walker is considered the most accurate account of Walker's life and times. The book won the Association of Black Women Historians 2001 Letitia Woods Brown Prize. At the in-person event, she spoke about the life and accomplishments of her remarkable family member, Madame C.J. Walker. A'Lelia brought truth, humor, and warmth to the telling of her family's stories.

**100 people attended.**



# 3

## Library Boomer Tour

In the warm weather of fall and summer, we took every opportunity to be outside. We teamed up with South Bend Venues Parks & Arts to hold a week long Library Boomer Tour. Each day of the week library branch staff hosted a neighborhood celebration at a park near their library. There were snacks, crafts, dance performances, and even an appearance from Bandit the Miniature Horse. At the end of the week, popular children's performer Jim Gill sang silly songs for 160 people at Leeper Park.

**We visited 6 parks:** LaSalle, Keller, Potawatomi, Kennedy, Marshall, and Leeper.











# 4 Supporting readers

Reading deepens our empathy, fosters curiosity and allows us to relax in times of stress. Reading is also a cornerstone of the library's mission. This year we held three **reading challenges**: Winter Reading, Couchfest, and Summer Reading. Each had its own goal and purpose. Winter Reading motivated adults to read for fun. Couchfest was held at the height of the quarantine and promoted reading for escape and hope. Summer Reading helped build healthy reading habits.

**1,090 children, 235 teens, and 801 adults** registered for the reading challenge. Young readers racked up over **1.3 million minutes** of reading and adults logged over **5,500 books!**

# 5

## Opening up new worlds

When the library closed in mid-March, many people who were stuck at home began looking for free digital resources. A library card opens a door to information and knowledge, and we designed a new process for our digital library cards to expand access. People could now sign up for a library card and receive access in just 24 hours without ever leaving their home. And in the fall, we worked with teachers to get their students signed up for library cards.

**2,453** digital access cards &  
**645** student digital cards were created.









# 6

## Virtual Events

One of the biggest changes this year was moving from in person to virtual programs. It didn't take long before staff were turning their homes into video production studios. We also worked with amazing community partners to develop as much engaging programming as possible. With the Creative Dance Workshop, we offered a short class that increased body awareness, strength and imagination. SJCP's own award winning Miss Sandy offered pre-recorded storytime videos and monthly live virtual storytimes.

**Author Sherri Duskey Rinker gave us a heart for our *Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site* storytime video featuring our very own Main Library construction site!**



# Storybook Character Meet and Greet

Families were able to meet (from the comfort and safety of their cars) beloved storytime characters at a drive through style event at Keller Park. The Cat in the Hat, Paddington, Gandolf, Dumbledore, and Hermione were all there to say hello.

@greenawaltsarah:

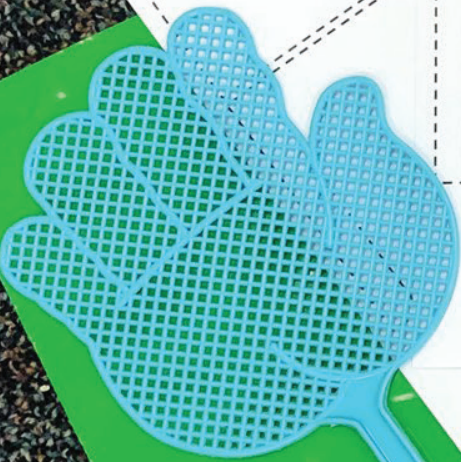
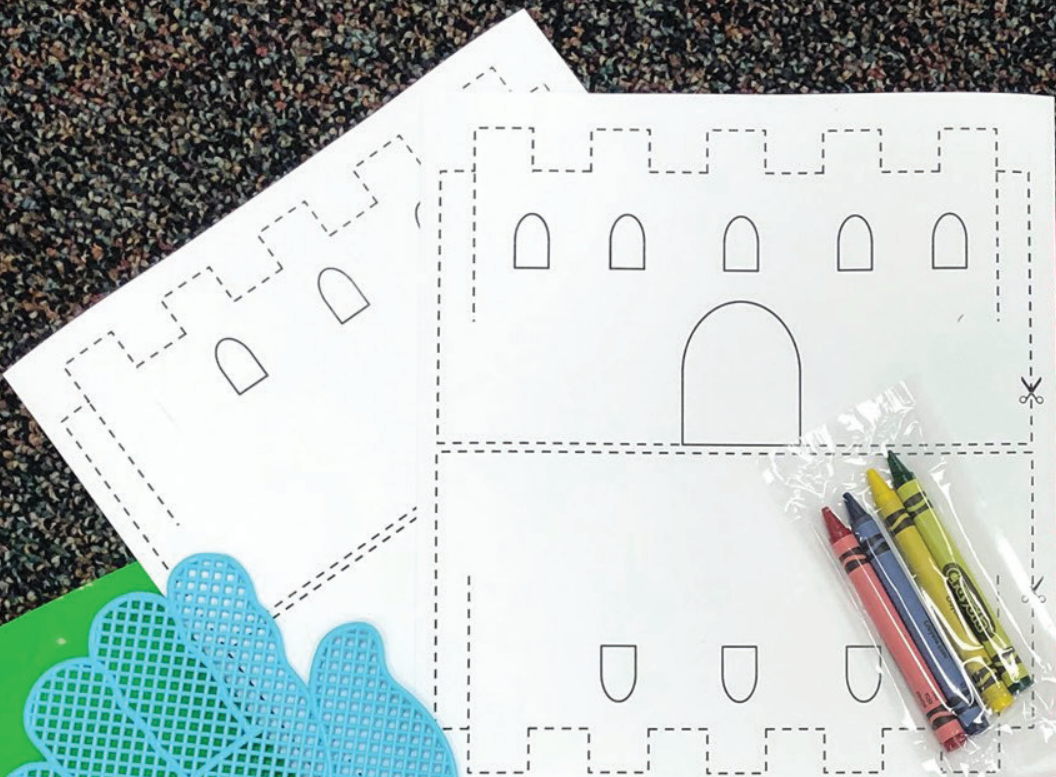
"We love @sjcpl and all the great ways they keep our kids engaged, happy and learning this summer."











**imagine your story...**  
May 29-August 1



**SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**

**JOIN OUR SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**  
SICPL's annual Summer Reading Challenge offers incentives to encourage children, teens, and adults to read. Every book read is an opportunity to win a prize and to explore a new universe. Visit [sicpl.org/summer-reading](http://sicpl.org/summer-reading) to sign up. Read what you want, when you want and keep your imagination alive!

**KICK-OFF ACTIVITY KIT**  
Use this kit to launch your summer of reading and storytelling. Inside, you'll find a castle to make, puppets to make, a balloon badminton game, and a special prize. Find activity instructions below.





# 8

## Summer Reading Kits

We partnered with the South Bend Community School Corporation to provide activity kits for school summer lunch sites.

**5,000** activity kits were given out to South Bend students.

# 9 Growing our digital collection

Over the years, our digital collection has grown in popularity. COVID-19 accelerated this trend, and in response to greater need for online resources during the quarantine, we expanded our digital collection and doubled the number of items that could be checked out. The number of digital books checked out increased by 45%, and 13,528 people checked one out.

## **Most Popular 2020 eBooks:**

1. *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
2. *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes
3. *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng

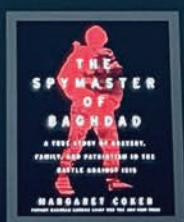
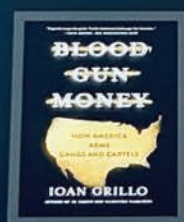




Preferences

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See what's new!  
Here are all the titles our busy librarians have been adding to our col-

Read with Kin

If you prefer to read with Kindle,

Library



Shelf



EDYTHE J. BROWN M

**KELLER PARK  
BRANCH LIBRARY**



**MONDAY-SATURDAY**  
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**Reserved  
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PICK-UP**  
PLEASE CALL  
574.282.4846  
CALL IN YOUR VEHICLE, WE'LL  
BRING YOUR BOOKS TO YOU





# 10 Curbside

Once quarantine restrictions eased, our new curbside services brought people to our parking lots rather than into our buildings. Using our contactless curbside pick-up, people could enjoy the comfort of a new book or DVD at home. People find solace in outdoor access to a laptop or printing services for submitting crucial documents to obtain food and income relief. Even after our doors opened, we continued to offer curbside services so that everyone could enjoy our resources while staying safe.

**13,430** people were served  
through curbside pickup.

# 11 Little Free Libraries

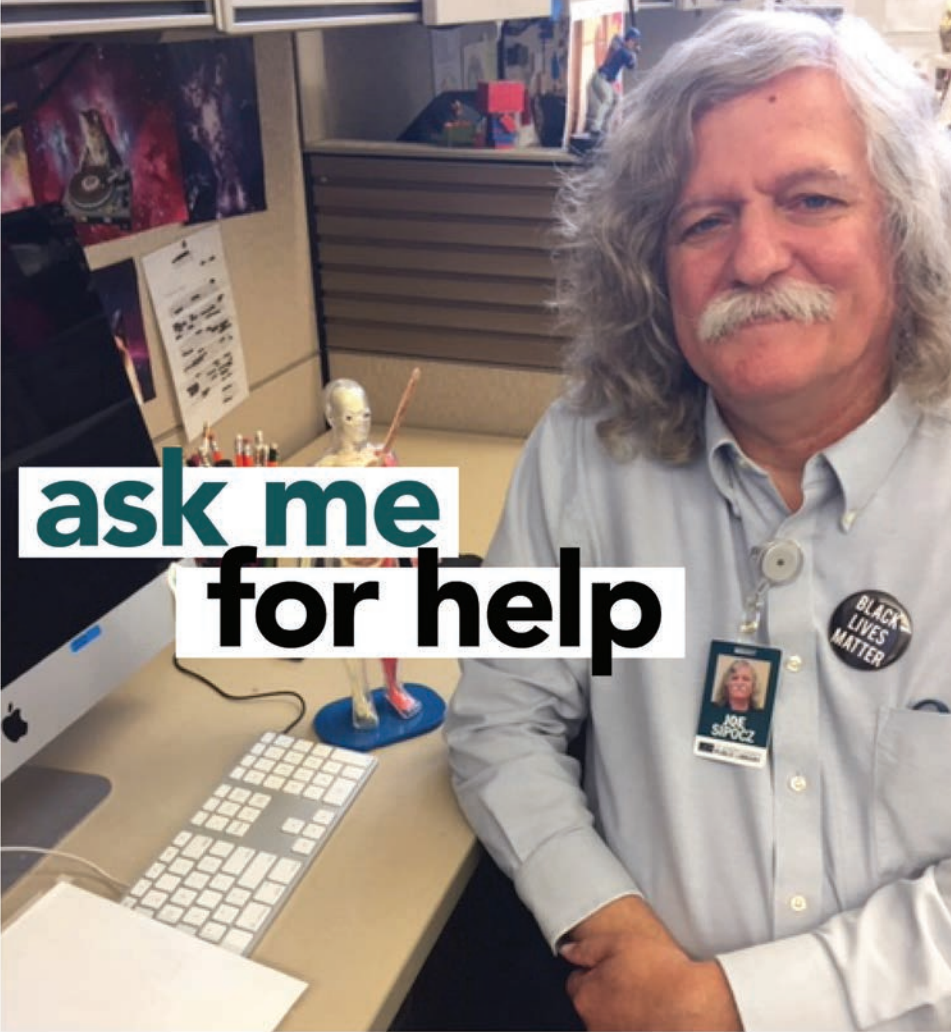
Found throughout our community, Little Free Libraries encourage neighborly generosity through the joy of sharing books. It's in this spirit that we installed Little Free Libraries at our four city branches, located on the westside and near downtown South Bend. Neighbors can stop by to find used books withdrawn from our collection, or add their own donated books. For one young girl at our LaSalle Branch, a book from the Little Free Library became the very first book that she could call her very own. She left the library hugging the book.

**We've given away 1,573 books through our Little Free Libraries.**











# 102

## Ask a Librarian

Our librarians are here to help when you need them the most. During the pandemic, many people in our community struggled with hardships that went beyond adjusting to a new normal. They faced the loss of a job, lack of food, or mental health difficulties. We introduced “Ask a Librarian” to answer the many questions that arose about where to find help. Our librarians were at the ready for one-on-one appointments to connect those struggling with resources for unemployment, food assistance, mental health assistance, and other social services.

We helped **102** people access important resources, like unemployment benefits and rental assistance.

# 13 Social Media Highlights

We posted about the census, voting, and masks. We shared stories about working from home and navigating eLearning. We talked about community events and showed you our bookshelves. Our top three social media posts in 2020 were:

**Facebook:** Special guest Sadaf Iqbal-Ansari read *The Lion and the Mouse* in Urdu, the national language of Pakistan, while her son, Hamza Ansari, translated the tale in English.

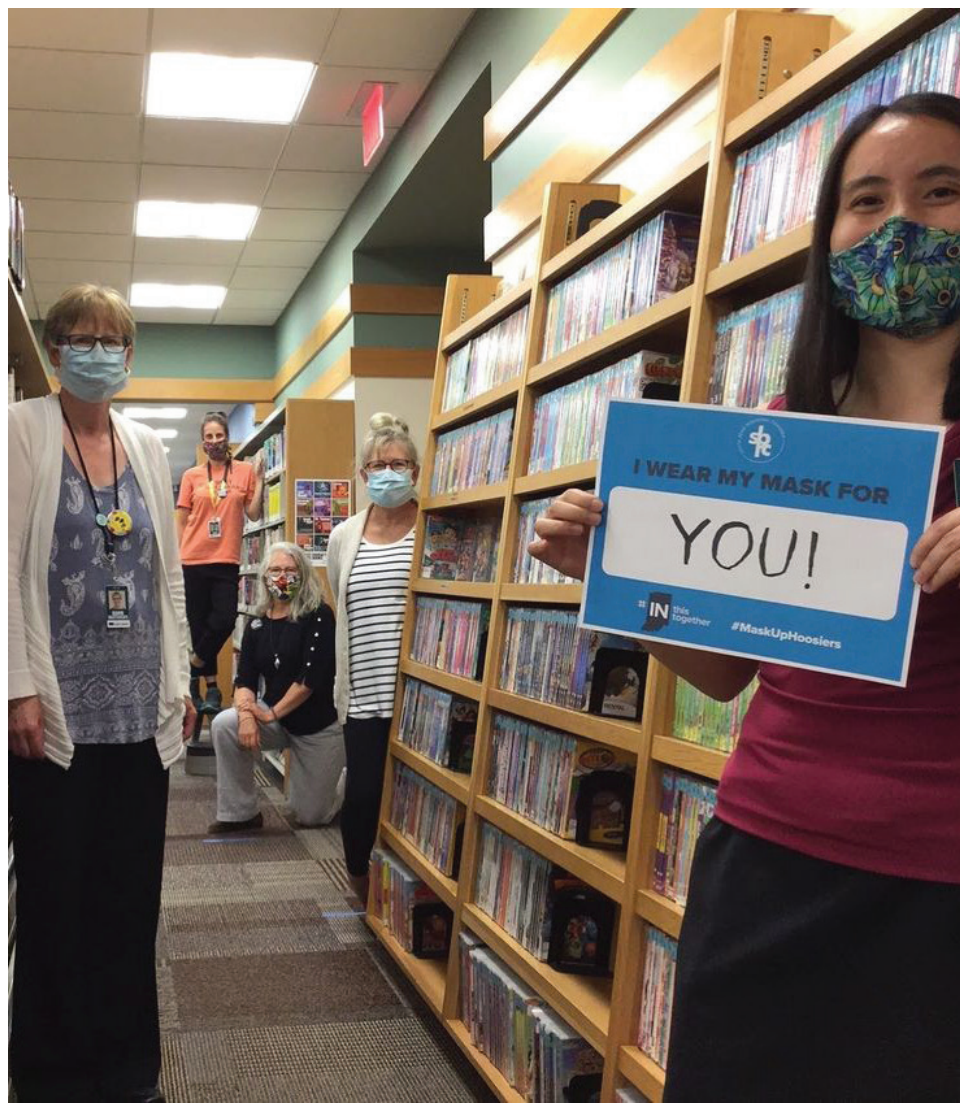
**Instagram:** Staff member Amy Retartha reconstructed *The Old Guitarist* by Pablo Picasso for #GettyChallenge.

**Twitter:** Drones captured spectacular pictures of progress at the Main Library construction site.











# 14 Local Partners

We created many new partnerships this year and strengthened existing relationships. We teamed with Mask Up Michiana to provide treat bags for our Halloween book giveaways at LaSalle, Western, Tutt, River Park and Lakeville branches. The bags contained 3-5 masks and some Halloween treats. We partnered with Free Your Wings Youth Mentoring Inc. in June. This non-profit empowers underserved youth and contributes to their health and well-being by providing strength-based advising and community-based education. Together, we provided a pop-up event in our Tutt Branch parking lot to share local resources, all while giving away over 200 masks and hand sanitizers.

**Library staff reached out to 180 partners during the COVID-19 quarantine.**

# 15

## Supporting students and teachers

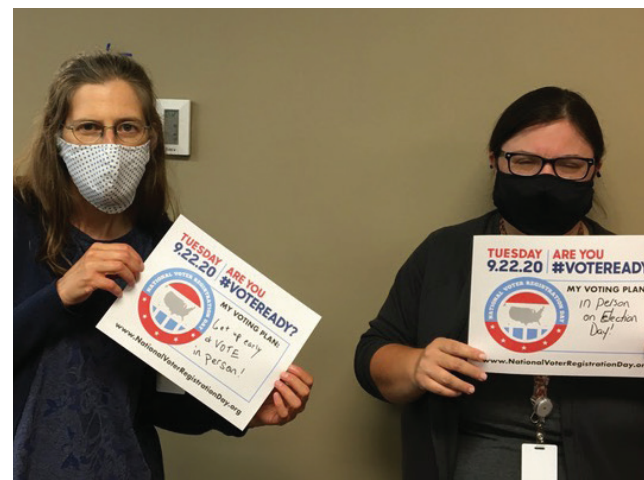
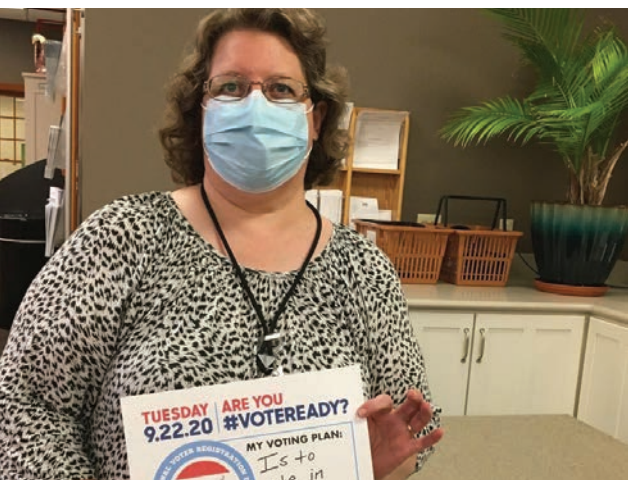
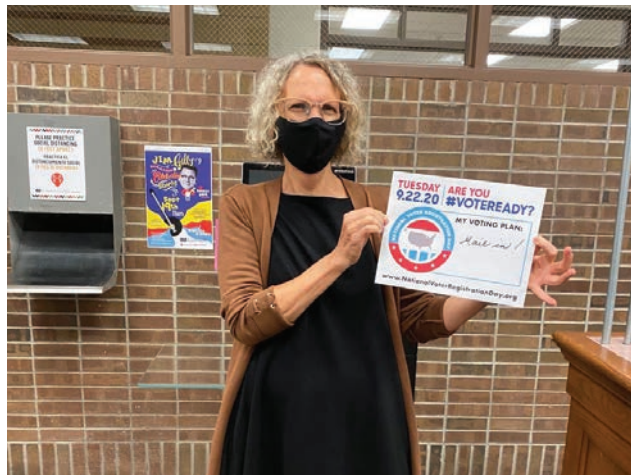
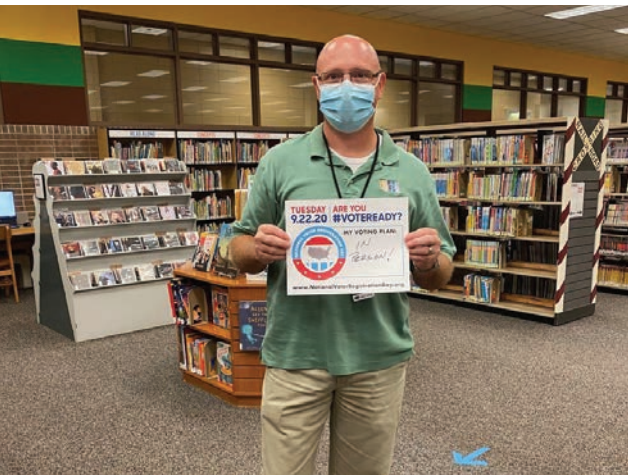
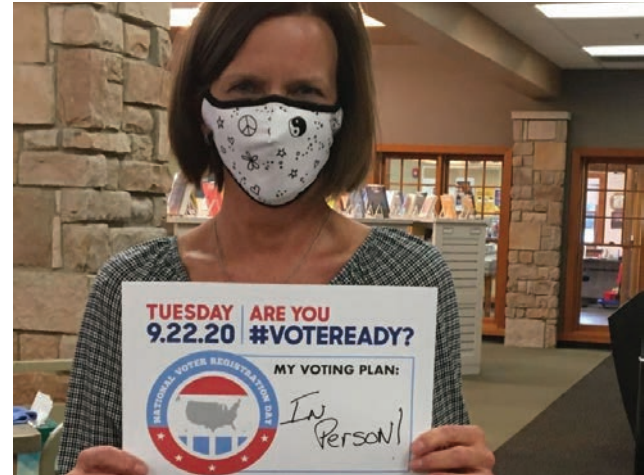
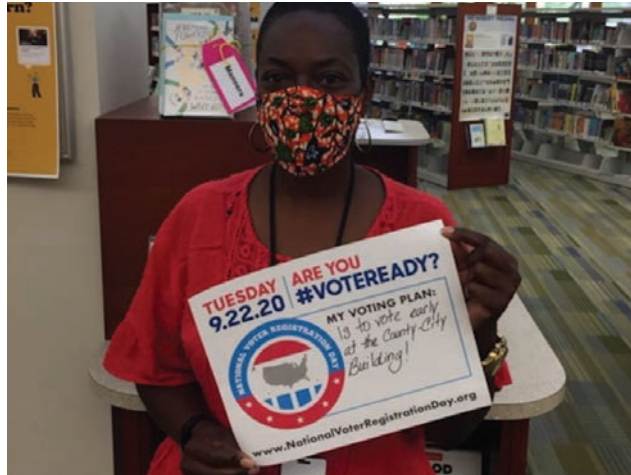
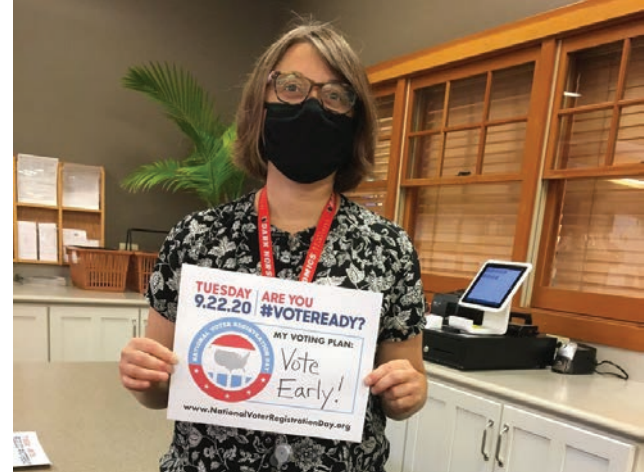
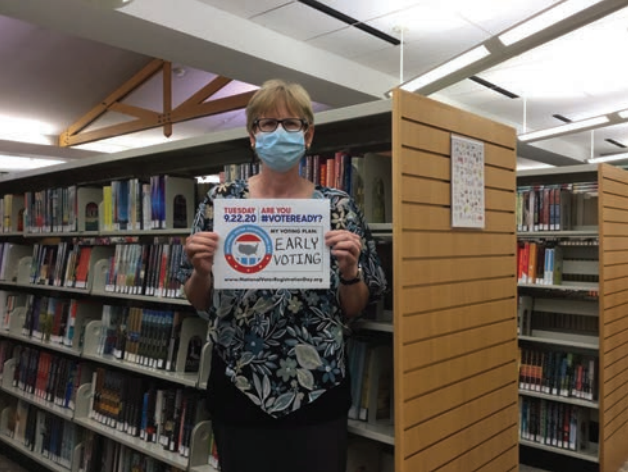
Our lives went almost entirely online during the pandemic. For most, attending school and work depended on a computer and internet connection. Those without basic internet connectivity at home found themselves left behind. The digital divide is a major community issue that we have worked to bridge for many years. In 2020, we devoted even more resources toward this issue and became a lifeline for some area students. We provided free hotspots to students in need at Riley High School and the South Bend Community School Corporation's Adult Education program. These students were then able to attend classes and complete schoolwork so they could continue reaching their academic goals.

We loaned WiFi hotspots to **28** students at Riley High School and **22** students in the Adult Education program.











# 16

## Getting out the vote

In our role as a civic institution, we support civic education and engagement for all in our community. It was more important than ever to ensure that everyone was well-informed about their voting rights. We made an online push to get the word out with Lisa Plencner's informative Community Collection in Bendable and our #VoteReady social media campaign. And when the need arose, our Centre Township Branch became a voting location.

**1417** voters cast their ballot  
at Centre Township Branch.



# 17

## Donating for digital equity

Organizations throughout the area are helping residents access digital resources, especially as needs rose during the pandemic. To support these local digital equity initiatives, we donated our used computers so these amazing organizations could serve their populations better. Computers went to assist Our Lady of the Road's homeless program, the Boys & Girls Club Youth Dream Builders program, and the City of South Bend's westside daycare initiative.

**13 Computers were donated to organizations serving local individuals and families.**











# 18

## Early literacy

Our reading program 1,000 Books before Kindergarten is going strong. The program encourages and supports young children and their parents to read 1,000 books before they begin school. Building a habit of reading as a child can lead to success later in life. 329 kids are enrolled and 38 little readers successfully finished the program.

Over **38,000** books were read by little readers.

It's never too early to start reading! Sekani Taylor was only 4 weeks old when his parents signed up for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. Way to go, Taylor family!





# 19

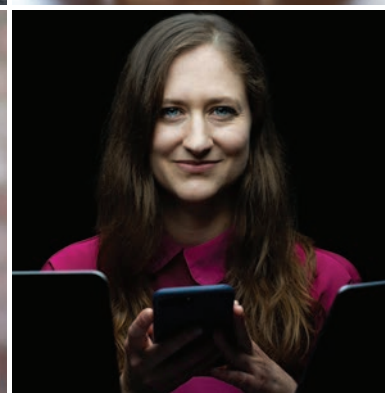
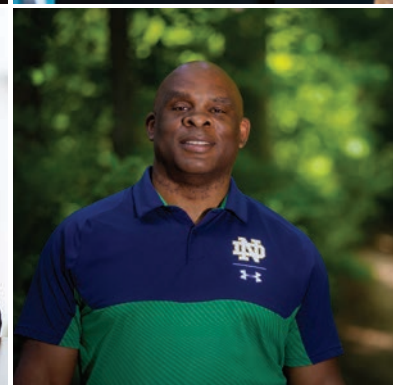
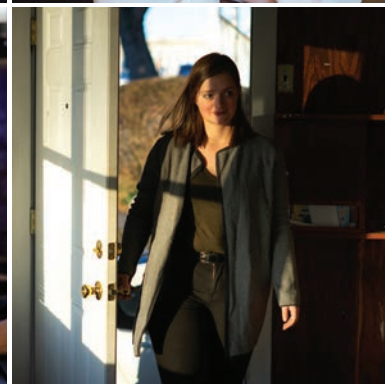
## Introducing Bendable

Bendable is the result of a 2-year collaboration between the library, the Drucker Institute and the international design firm IDEO. Launched in June, 11,000 residents visited the site in the first 6 months.

Bendable has been used to provide badging for SBCSC teachers and to help get youth interns at VPA career ready. Learners have taken classes on world religion, Spanish, and coding. Bendable is more than a learning platform, and through Community Collections, local individuals have a voice to share their knowledge and experience.

**29** community members created  
their own Community Collections.











# 20 Building for the future

On a cold February morning, we gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Main Library Block Project. Representatives from the Library, the City, the County, and the Community Foundation spoke about the promise of the new Main Library and Community Learning Center. Throughout the year, construction crews worked diligently to build a library to enrich future generations.

For more updates visit  
[sjcpl.org/renovation](http://sjcpl.org/renovation)



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Douglas Hunt  
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Penny Brazo in honor of Millie Miller  
Kasey Buckles in honor of Myla Blazejewski  
Deborah Craft in honor of The Crafingers  
Kimberly Dortman in honor of Sara Pence  
Kathleen Matsumura in honor of Jack Mann  
Scott Milliman in honor of Local & Family History  
Philip Moss in honor of Sara Moss  
Jeffrey and Ilene New in honor of Arnold Valencia  
Donald C. Newman, Jr. in honor of Don Napoli, Deb Futa, Nancy Korpall, and Connie Nicely  
Cheryl A. Nix in honor of Carrie Bowie and Pastor Scott  
Sandra Redden in honor of Mardy Grzegorek  
Tami Schmitz in honor of Mary Reader  
Colleen M. Sharkey in honor of Mary Sharkey  
Jack Quimby in honor of Angie Claxton  
Nicole Youngs in honor of Luke Noland

## In Memory of:

Gary Greg Annis in memory of Julette Annis  
Denise Berscheit in memory of Millie Miller  
Corey Brazo in memory of Millie Miller  
Suzanne E. Cierzniak in memory of Connie Pomeroy  
Sandra Dials in memory of Cynthia Walker  
Nancy Elmes in memory of Larry Guyton  
Timothy and Susan Fowler in memory of Joann Fowler  
Gregory Howe in memory of Sara Pence  
MaryAnne Hurst in memory of Harvey Hurst  
J.C. Johnson in the memory of Larry Guyton  
Norma J. Juarez in memory of Joseph Juarez  
Shobha P. Kamat in memory of Sudha Kamat  
Laderer & Fischer PC in memory of Alberta Hoyt  
Diana Heidt in memory of Brent, Brian, & Nikki Heidt  
Lori J. Landsberg in memory of Betty Seeley  
Susan Milmoie in memory of Connie Pomeroy  
Germana Nijim in memory of Basheer Nijim  
Carol Norris in memory of Christine Voorde  
Jerrienne and Steven Rain in memory of Joann McClure  
Jean Roumell in memory of Susan Bergen  
Kenneth and Margaret Schaller in memory of Jack Samuels  
Donna L. Sheridan in memory of Johanna Larson  
Brandon Woodcox in memory of Dave Woodcox



# Financials

## Revenues

Local Government	\$11,572,513
State Government	\$1,153,185
Federal Government	\$253,356
Fines & Fees	\$151,531
Donations and Grants	\$143,986
Other income	\$309,520
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,584,091</b>

## Expenses

Personnel	\$6,980,189
Collection	\$2,589,527
Other	\$3,163,858
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,733,574</b>



# Thank You

Thank you to the many contributors who joined our fundraising efforts in 2020. Your support of our Renovation Project, Annual Fund, Science Alive, Explore-A-Story, and Summer Reading Challenge is greatly appreciated.

For any errors or omissions  
please contact us at 574.282.4646.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020