



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

CAMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY



625 NE 4th Avenue
 Camas, WA 98607
 360.834.4692
www.camaslibrary.org

A DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF CAMAS

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

Camas Public Library is the only independent, municipal library in Clark County, Washington. While its jurisdiction extends to the city limits of Camas, through reciprocal borrowing agreements the Library serves patrons throughout the region. Likewise, Camas residents enjoy borrowing privileges at most Pacific Northwest libraries. The gorgeous building is approximately 35,000 square feet and held 96,742 volumes in 2020, all of which were available via curbside delivery June - December!

The Library is governed by the City of Camas with support from the citizen-comprised Board of Trustees.



The 2020 Library Board of Trustees are:

Jessie Wimer, Chair
Julie Hill, Vice Chair
Rosemary Knapp, Secretary
Shawn High, Trustee
Jen Smith, Trustee
Bonnie Carter, Councilmember Liaison

Also pictured: Christopher Knipes, Library Administrative Support Assistant; Connie Urquhart, Library Director

2020 was an extraordinarily challenging year for our community, and the Library was not immune. We started the year fully staffed and ended it with several vacancies. Current staff include:

Connie Urquhart, Library Director
Danielle Reynolds, Technology & Collections Manager
Ellen Miles, Programming & Outreach Coordinator
Christopher Knipes, Administrative Support Assistant
John Goaring, Circulation Services Specialist
Rebel Martin, Library Associate
Vanessa Perger, Library Associate
Leah Burch, Library Associate
Elliot Stapleton, Library Associate
Nancy Renner, Library Aide
Haley Zach, Library Aide
Lindsey Zoller, Library Aide
Colleen Kawamura, Library Aide



MISSION

Our mission: We Share, Explore, Reach, Value, Enrich. We SERVE our community.

VISION

Our vision: We bring families together, make people happy, provide patrons with information, foster community connections, and welcome everyone.

VALUES

Our values: Be friendly, embrace growth, encourage collaboration, and inspire each other.

EQUITY

Our equity statement: We pledge to educate, engage, act, and change to create a race equity culture in the Library and its community. This will be filtered through our mission, vision, and decision principles.



2020 *Select Milestones*

The annual Teen Movie Marathon Lock-In is an example of business-as-usual programming at the Library.



FEB

The City of Camas starts a new helpline, staffed by Library employees. The helpline matched Camas volunteers with those who needed groceries, medicine, or other services.



APR

Staff returns to the Library to provide curbside pickup service on June 8.



JUN

During a time of social upheaval, the Library institutes its first *Read for Change*, a one book, one community initiative. The theme is racial equity.



AUG

Thanks to a grant from the Washington State Library, the Camas Library begins loaning hotspots.



OCT

The year ends both traditionally and...not. Children write letters to Hollie, our visiting North Pole Librarian, who sends her handwritten letter back digitally this year, for everyone's health.



DEC

JAN



The Library begins offering one-on-one tech help appointments.

MAR



Due to COVID-19, the Library ceases all events March 10, closes to the public March 16, and staff begin working from home March 23.

MAY



Staff are thriving in their new roles, blending the lines between social media, programming, online outreach--all successfully with the intent of engaging the community.

JUL



The Library holds its first ever virtual Summer Reading Program. Participation is roughly half of the year before.

SEP



Pernicious smoke accompanies weeks of devastating wildfires. The skies open up on September 18, clearing the smoke and bringing torrential rain. Unfortunately, too much rain makes its way to the Library basement, causing extensive damage.

NOV



Staff prepare to open once the basement remediation is complete and COVID-19 standards are met. While the building has been closed, the Library installs many new safety protocols.

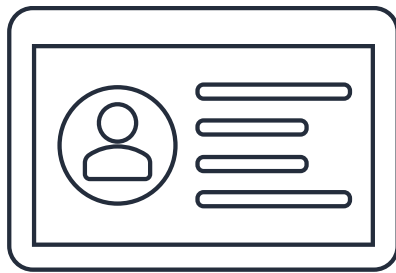


2020 BY THE NUMBERS

It's impossible to compare this year to any other.



New patrons welcomed: 1,632

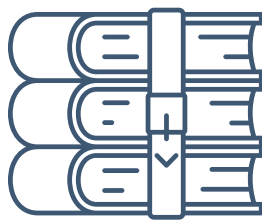


Total borrowers: 18,823

Curbside pickups: 7,225



Online help chats: 602



Book Bundles custom curated: 74



Curbside pickup offered: 142 days

When the Library closed on March 16, we had to find ways to serve patrons remotely. We had no idea we'd be closed for the rest of the year, or in other words,

244 days we would normally be open.

WORD of the year

2019
evolve

2020
pivot

2021
to be determined!

Total Checkouts: 232,066

Down 35% from last year, but still 4% higher than 2018

ENGAGEMENTS



26k



1.5k



Helpline Calls
See breakout



3.7k



13,963
Newsletter subscribers

HELPLINE CALLS

| | |
|--|-----|
| Calls to Volunteer | 26% |
| Information for Economic/Financial Help | 19% |
| Grocery or Prescription Assistance | 15% |
| Non-Health, COVID-19-related Information | 15% |
| Medical-related Information | 11% |
| Birthday Caravan Requests | 7% |
| General Information | 7% |

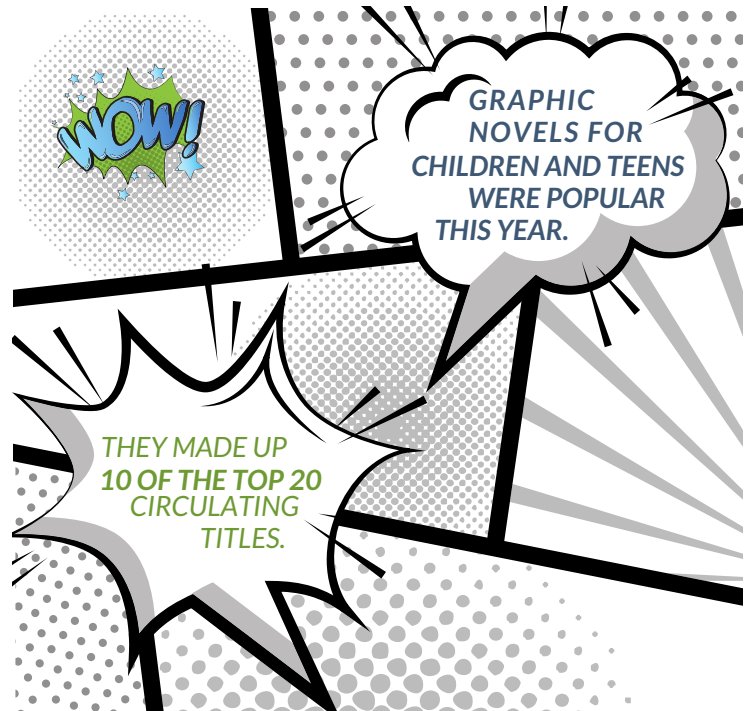


What were you reading during the pandemic?

FROM OUR DIGITAL COLLECTION

Top 10 books borrowed

1. Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng
2. The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes
3. Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
4. Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate
5. How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi
6. Untamed by Glennon Doyle
7. White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
8. The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
9. The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson
10. The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate



kids

1. Picture Books (HC)
2. Nonfiction (HC)
3. Fiction (HC)

teens

1. Fiction (D)
2. Fiction (HC)
3. Graphic Novels (HC)

adults

1. Fiction (D)
2. Nonfiction (HC)
3. Fiction (HC)

ACROSS AUDIENCE & FORMAT

Top 5 checkout areas

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1. Adult Fiction | 54,641 |
| 2. Picture Books | 31,563 |
| 3. Adult Nonfiction | 30,904 |
| 4. Children's Fiction | 26,154 |
| 5. Children's Nonfiction | 19,763 |

(D)= Digital (HC) = Hard Copy

TOP 5 MOST VIEWED CATALOG LISTS

Curated by
Camas Library Staff

1

COMEDY
PODCASTS

2

TALKING TO KIDS
ABOUT RACE & RACISM

3

LET'S TALK ABOUT
RACE & RACISM

4

IF YOU LIKED...
WHERE THE CRAWDAD SINGS

5

LUCKY
DAY



Community Engagement

HOW WE CONNECTED WITH YOU DURING A PANDEMIC



Take & Make crafts, videos, mystery seed packs, and any other little surprise we could think of to enrich your mind and brighten your day.



Reading this summer was more important than ever. That's why we took the Summer Reading Program online, with prize pickups curbside.



The Library Art Walk provided a way for families to express themselves together in a creative outlet, outside in the fresh air.



Our first annual Read for Change community conversation initiative focused on racial equity. Next year's theme will be chosen by you!

EVENTS WITH HIGHEST ATTENDANCE AFTER THE BUILDING CLOSED

Children's events are usually the most well-attended, but all of the top 5 were for adults.

- 1  Using and Preparing Wild Edibles
- 2  Vegetables A to Z
- 3  Herbal Distillation
- 4  Equality on Trial
- 5  Race as a Social Construct

EVENTS, BEFORE & AFTER CLOSING

| Jan-Feb | Mar-Dec |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| TOTAL EVENTS OFFERED | |
| 292 | 134 |
| STORYTIMES | |
| 92 | 52 |
| VOLUNTEER-LED EVENTS | |
| 70 | 76 |
| EVENTS HOSTED VIA ZOOM | |
| 0 | 123 |
| ATTENDANCE | |
| 5,387 | 1,256 |

WAYS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT 2020 AT THE CAMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Monthly Director's Reports (archived on our website).
- 2020 Half-Yearly Report (archived on our website).
- Scroll through our Instagram and Facebook accounts.
- Reach out to staff or a Trustee.



Looking ahead



2021 LIBRARY WORK PLAN

MEET THE
COMMUNITY'S VALUES
& NEEDS

SPECIAL PROJECT / QUARTER

- LAUNCH LIBRARY ROAD TRIP SERIES / Q1
- EXPLORE POST-COVID-19 DESIGN IN PRACTICE / Q1-Q2
(IMPLICATIONS SEEN ELSEWHERE WITHIN THIS WORK PLAN)
- EARLY LEARNING CENTER POST-COVID-19 / Q3

CULTIVATE A
SERVICE CULTURE

SPECIAL PROJECT / QUARTER

- PRODUCTION SPACE FOR VIRTUAL PROGRAMS / Q1
- TEEN ROOM PHASE 1 POST-COVID-19 / Q2
- GROUNDS FACELIFT (ROSES, BEE AREA) / Q3
- HVAC REPLACEMENT PHASE 1 / Q4

BRIDGE TRADITION WITH
INNOVATION

SPECIAL PROJECT / QUARTER

- LAUNCH STEM KIT COLLECTION / Q1
- REPLACE RFID HARD/SOFTWARE / Q2
- INVENTORY, AUTHORITY REMEDIATION, CATALOG CLEANUP / CONTINUOUS
- REVIEW & REFRESH VARIOUS COLLECTIONS (AUDIOBOOKS, GRAPHIC NOVELS, TEEN) / CONTINUOUS

PROVIDE
OPPORTUNITIES TO
GIVE BACK

SPECIAL PROJECT / QUARTER

- NEXT STEPS FOR SECOND STORY GALLERY / Q2
- LONG-RANGE PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR FFCL / Q2
- EXPLORE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR POSITION / Q3