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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

Total Checkouts: 232,066
Down 35% from last year, but still 4% higher than 2018

ENGAGEMENTS

26k
1.5k
3.7k
13,963

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%

WORD of the year

2019 evolve
2020 pivot
2021 to be determined!
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 Spendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson
10. *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate

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

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<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Comedy podcasts</td>
<td>Talking to Kids About Race &amp; Racism</td>
<td>Let's Talk About Race &amp; Racism</td>
<td>If You Liked... Where the Crawdads Sings</td>
<td>Lucky Day</td>
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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, BEFORE & AFTER CLOSING

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

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.
# 2021 Library Work Plan

**Looking ahead**

## 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