

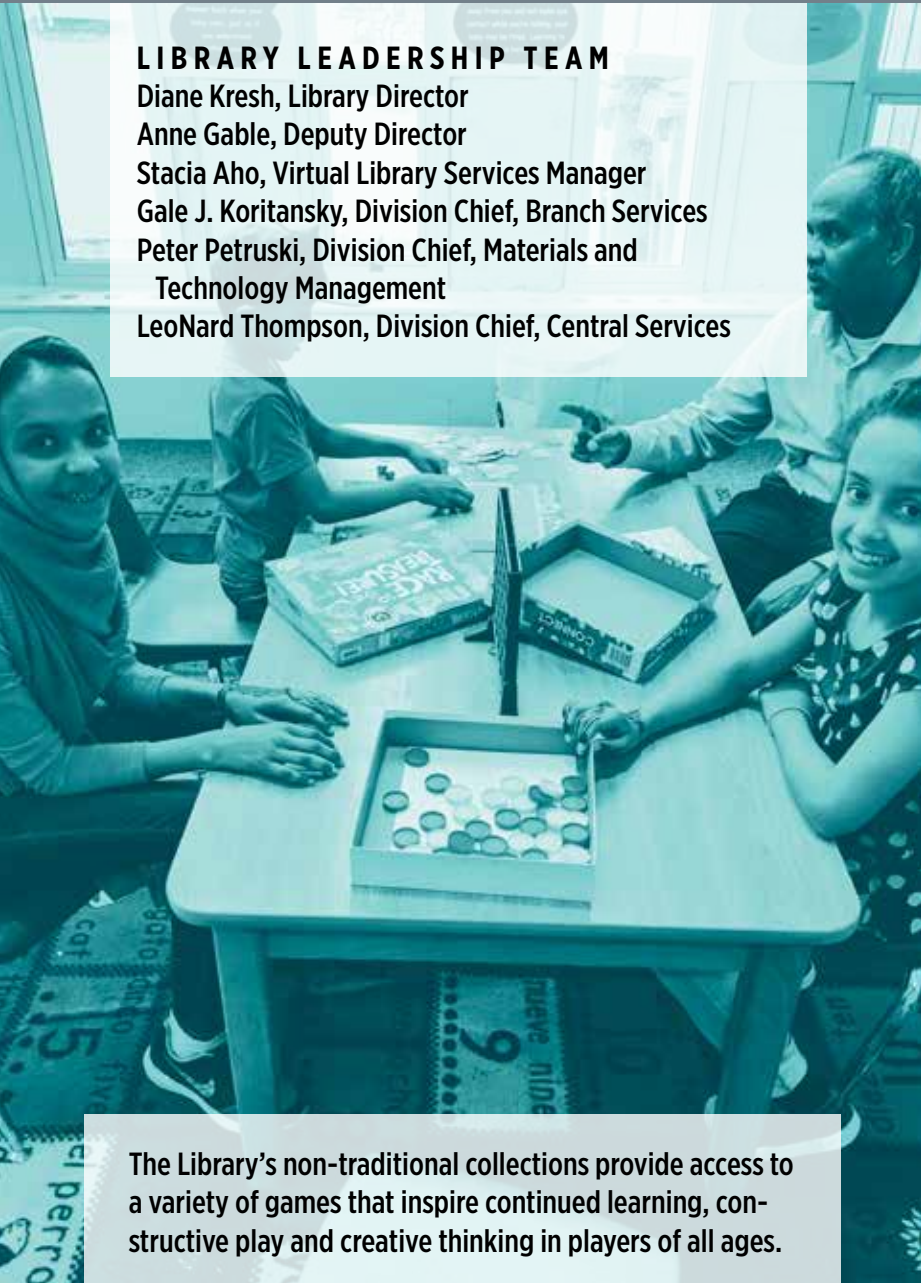
The background image shows a woman speaking at a podium in a library setting, with a large audience seated in the foreground. Bookshelves filled with books are visible in the background.

# FY2019 Impact Report

*Everyone has a story*



Arlington  
Public  
Library



**LIBRARY LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Diane Kresh, Library Director  
Anne Gable, Deputy Director  
Stacia Aho, Virtual Library Services Manager  
Gale J. Koritansky, Division Chief, Branch Services  
Peter Petruski, Division Chief, Materials and Technology Management  
LeoNard Thompson, Division Chief, Central Services

The Library’s non-traditional collections provide access to a variety of games that inspire continued learning, constructive play and creative thinking in players of all ages.

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*Cover photo: Arlington Reads featuring author Susan Orlean in conversation with Library Director Diane Kresh.  
Back cover photo: Staircase at Central Library; Photo credit Josh Brinck.*



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

# Dear Friends

**What is it about a library that keeps its patrons coming back for more, year after year? I can think of a few reasons.**

Libraries are judgement free zones — safe spaces that welcome all who enter their doors, regardless of beliefs, gender preferences, country of origin, age, income status, education or appearance.

Libraries increase our understanding of the world we live in. Whether it's the 26 square miles of our community or the nations beyond our borders, libraries keep us informed and curious.

Libraries help people find their way and those who are alone find connection and companionship.

Libraries celebrate history and culture and honor the personal stories of those who came before. Susan Orlean, author of "The Library Book," describes the library as "a gathering pool of narratives and of the people who come to find them. It is where we can glimpse immortality; in the library, we can live forever."

Library staff do what they do with empathy, generosity and creativity.

Our services are free.

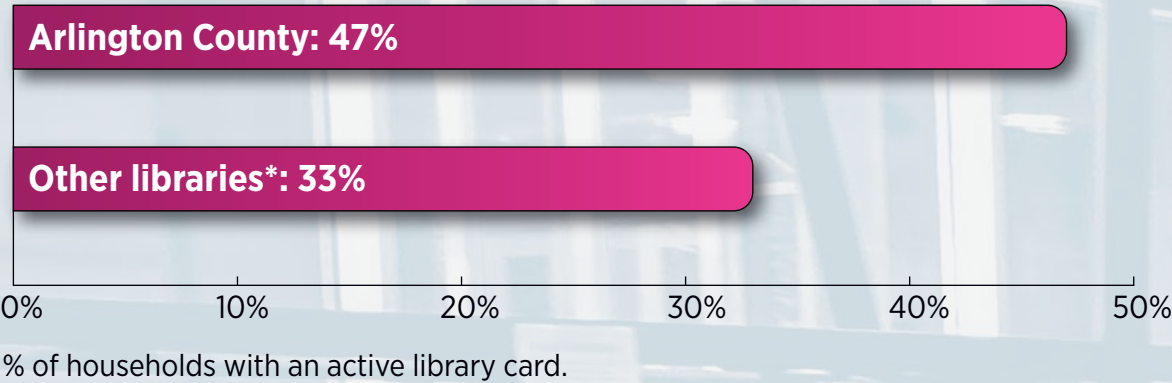
These are a few of our reasons. We bet you can name others.

Thank you for giving Arlington Public Library many reasons to be.



*Diane Kresh, Director, Arlington Public Library*

## Market Reach

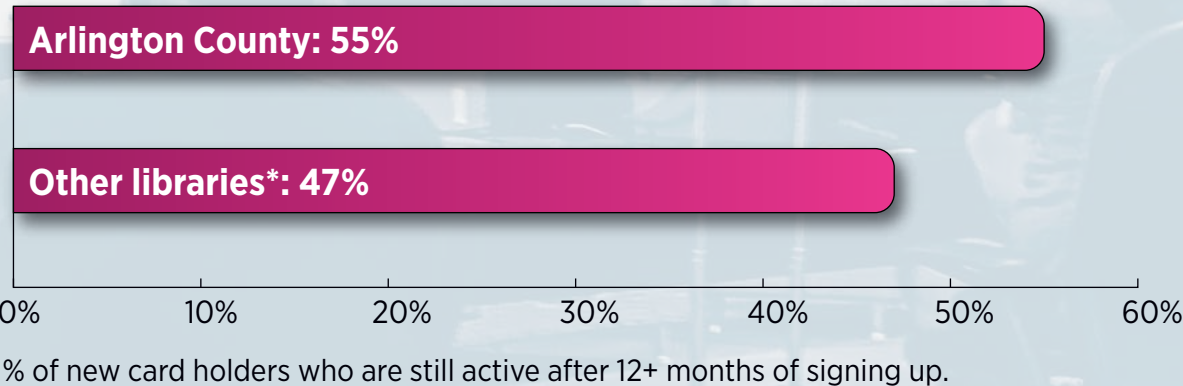


Arlington County households\*\*: 106,900  
Arlington County households with active library cards: 50,243

*\* Data from 40 other national library systems, which have either a similar budget or population value as Arlington Public Library.*

*\*\* Arlington County Profile 2019*

## New Cardholder Retention Rate





Library Impact Statistics FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)			
COLLECTIONS		EVENTS	
Library items circulated (physical)	2,400,000	Number of free events at all branches	4,000
Catalog searches	1,600,000	Program attendees***	150,000
Library items available for checkout	440,000	Summer Reading Challenge Participants	6,500
Electronic titles circulated	515,000	DIGITAL	
Average \$ of savings by active card holder*	\$523	Website visits	2,000,000
PATRONS		Wi-Fi log-ins	280,000
Active cardholders (Nov. 1, 2019)	84,700	App sessions	380,000
COMMUNITY		ADMINISTRATION & BUDGET	
% of Arlington Households Reached (Nov. 1 2019)	47%	FY19 Adopted budget total expenditures	\$14,524,515
Facilities open hours	25,800	Permanent FTEs	120.66
Meeting room usage in hours	23,400	Number of facilities	8 + 1 Pop-Up Library
Volunteer hours	13,000	Programming support provided by FOAL****	\$230,000
Pounds of food donated to AFAC**	7,750	Collections Support Provided by FOAL****	\$90,000

**2.8 million** ☐ **COLLECTIONS**  
physical & digital library items circulated

**50,000** ☐ **MARKET REACH**  
Arlington households have an active library card

**150,000** ☐ **PROGRAMS**  
patrons attended 4,000 free events

\* Average value for free library checkouts and online resources from the American Library Association.  
\*\* Garden produce and non-perishable food donations to the Arlington Food Assistance Center  
\*\*\* Combined attendance of youth and adult participants  
\*\*\*\* Friends of the Arlington Public Library



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72,000

---

□ **STORYTIME**  
*children and adults attended  
1,300 preschool programs*

---

23,000

---

□ **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*K-12 students participated in 190 book  
talks, meetings and programs*

---

6,500

---

□ **SUMMER READING**  
*youth and adults completed  
the challenge*

---

1,300

---

□ **PAWS TO READ**  
*K-5 students attended 120 programs*

---

360

---

□ **COLLEGE**  
*parents and teens participated in 8  
college preparation and Virginia529  
programs*



Over 1,000 **storytimes** offer a wide range of high-quality picture books, songs, poetry and STEM crafts.

**Summer Reading** brings thousands of children (and adults) together to learn and share stories, experiences and ideas.

**Paws to Read** helps new readers gain confidence and improve their reading skills by reading aloud to patient, non-judgmental dogs.

The Library conducts regular visits and programs at **Arlington Public Schools** and offers college planning classes to both students and their parents.

*Fifth-grade student in front of the new books section at Central Library.*

## LANGUAGE CONVERSATION CLASSES

# A cross road for culture and connection

Arlington County is home to a vibrant mix of cultures with a quarter of residents speaking either Asian, Indo-European, Pacific Island or Spanish languages\*.

At Arlington Public Library, we offer inclusive spaces and programs for everyone. Throughout the year, the Library offers hundreds of conversation classes in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Italian and Spanish at four branch locations.

Patrons improve their fluency and knowledge of a specific language and culture while learning a deeper understanding and acceptance of others.

According to a French conversation class participant, “language classes expand our understanding of the world.”

From learning a second (or third) language for a new job, or picking up a hobby in retirement, language programs are for anyone and everyone.

To learn more about the program, visit [library.arlingtonva.us/language-conversation-classes](http://library.arlingtonva.us/language-conversation-classes).

*\*Source: Arlington County 2019 Profile*



***“Coming to this class and meeting people from different countries is very exciting. I get to learn formal words and new expressions that I did not know before.”***

*— Language conversation class participant*



# New Archival Gems Tell Arlington's Story

The Center for Local History (CLH) received over 60 donations from businesses, groups and individuals including three large acquisitions of historic materials from the Library of Virginia, the Lomax AME Zion Church and the H-B Woodlawn School.

These collections are housed at the Community Archives, an off-site storage facility, which collects and preserves materials that illustrate the history and culture of Arlington County.

Once the new records are processed and cataloged, they will be made available to the public. Over time, records will be digitized as part of an ongoing effort to increase public access to government records and archival materials.

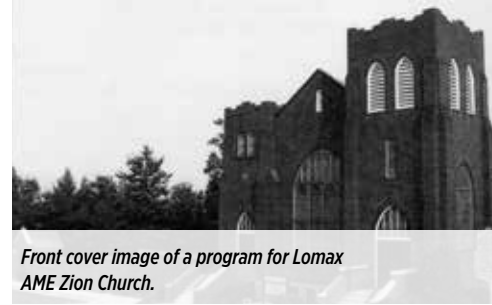


*Boxes, housed at the Community Archives, containing thousands of historic materials from the Library of Virginia.*

## The Library of Virginia Records

The Library of Virginia transferred back thousands of historic materials which include personal property tax records dating back to the late 1840's, teacher registers from the early 1900's and election papers. These are the oldest records in the Center for Local History's permanent collection to date.

A gold mine for genealogical research, these documents provide a window into Arlington's social, economic and agricultural history.



*Front cover image of a program for Lomax AME Zion Church.*

## The Lomax AME Zion Church Collection

The CLH staff worked with church members for several years to plan for this important donation.

Originally founded in Freedman's Village, the church is over 150 years old, and its records are an important resource for anyone doing research into Arlington's African American community.



*Students sitting on top of desks and filing cabinets at H-B Woodlawn School.*

## The H-B Woodlawn School Collection

Ray Anderson, the visionary behind this alternative school and its first principal, donated the H-B Woodlawn School Collection to the CLH. In the early 1970s, Mr. Anderson saw the need for a new school model using unconventional teaching methods to reach students who preferred an alternative educational system rather than the traditional, rigid education model used at the time. The system he proposed, and which eventually became the H-B Woodlawn Secondary School, is based on self-governance and self-directed learning.



***A snapshot of a time we know little about***

***“The returned records from the Library of Virginia represent a snapshot of a time in Arlington we know little about.”***

*— Diane Kresh, Director, Arlington Public Library*

*Page detail of a voter registration book from the Library of Virginia acquisition.*

## WOMEN'S WORK

# Three New Stories About Arlington Trailblazers

Two years in the making, Arlington Public Library presented the stories of women trailblazers and their far-reaching impact on politics, education, business, social activism and public libraries.

The curated digital collection contains stories, photographs, letters and memorabilia and spotlights both individuals and groups of Arlington women who dedicated their work to improve the lives of others.

In 2019, the CLH added three new profiles to its online exhibition Women's Work. Visitors to the site can now explore the stories of community activist Carrie Johnson, desegregation champion and entrepreneur Elizabeth Campbell and the trio of Eleanor Lee Templeman, C.B. Rose, Jr. and Ann "Nan" Netherton who helped research and write the history of Arlington.



*2010 Groundbreaking Ceremony for Long Bridge Park. From left to right: Carrie Johnson, former County Board Chairman Jay Fisette and Committee Chairman Tobin Smith.*

### Carrie Johnson

In 1979, a young woman from Milwaukee moved to Arlington. She had a job writing speeches for Washington Post owner Katherine Graham while doing her own freelance writing.

Eventually, she started working for the Arlington County Democratic Committee, where she was known as the "List Lady," and later for the Arlington Planning Commission, where she was called the "Michael Jordan of planning."



*Portrait of Elizabeth Campbell*

### Elizabeth Campbell

Campbell's belief in the value of education drove her life's work.

Her legacy includes campaigning to desegregate Arlington County Public Schools after the Supreme Court's 1954 and 1955 Brown v. Board of Education decisions, to founding WETA (Washington Educational Television Association) in 1961.



*Photograph of C.B. Rose, Jr. giving a speech*

### Eleanor Lee Templeman, C.B. Rose, Jr. and Ann "Nan" Netherton

The history of Arlington County has been largely written by these three women.

Each had a different approach but together they are responsible for researching and writing much of what we know about Arlington's past, its development and issues.



# WOMEN'S W • O • R • K

*To learn more about the online exhibition, visit [arlingtonwomenshistory.org](http://arlingtonwomenshistory.org).*

*Between 1917 and 1919, 33-year old Gertrude Crocker (sixth from the right) from Arlington, Virginia became a 3-time political prisoner for the right to vote.*

The Library houses a true gem for history buffs, story seekers and anyone who loves Arlington.

The Center for Local History (CLH) collects, preserves and shares historical documents that narrate the history of Arlington County, its citizens, organizations, businesses and social issues.

The CLH operates the Research Room at Central Library and the Community Archives program.



*The Research Room is located on the first floor of Central Library.*

### **The Research Room**

The Research Room provides a central reference service and repository for the County's historical resources as well as published materials for the region and state. Also included is a large oral history collection as well as 2500 maps, atlases, and aerial photos.

The CLH has an ongoing relationship with the Arlington Historical Society and the Black Heritage Museum, and frequently works with various civic associations and other community groups.



*The Community Archives hold archival materials which are delivered to the Research Room by request for public use.*

### **The Community Archives**

The recently renovated and expanded Arlington Community Archives is located off-site at the Woodmont Center on 2422 N. Fillmore St. in Arlington, VA 22207; this facility includes storage areas and a workroom.

The facility is not open to the public. Instead, archival materials are delivered to the Research Room by request for public use.

Included in the Arlington Community Archives are thousands of documents as well as print and digital photos.

Collections range in diversity from the Arlington Coalition on Transportation, to the Arlington Food Assistance Center, to the Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia.



## ***Did you know?***

*The Skydome Lounge, DoubleTree By Hilton Washington DC – Crystal City, is one of only a few dozen regularly operating rotating restaurants in the United States.*

*Photo Credit: DoubleTree By Hilton Washington DC – Crystal City*

## GRAB & GO

# Read More, Wait Less

Arlington Public Library launched a new express book collection, “Grab & Go,” which grants library patrons quick access to the most popular books and eBooks without having to wait.

The express collection contains both bestselling adult fiction and nonfiction titles such as “The Nickel Boys” by Colson Whitehead, “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens and “Fleishman is in Trouble” by Taffy Brodesser-Akner.

“We want our patrons to have access to the books they want, when they want them,” said Library Director Diane Kresh. “Visit any branch and get them while they are hot.”

Visitors to all library branches will discover popular Grab & Go titles, ready to be checked out immediately, and digital readers will receive instant access to favorite eAudiobooks and eBook titles from Overdrive.

The Grab & Go collection does not display in the library catalog, which makes this an exclusive treat to Arlington residents and library patrons. Titles can be checked out for two weeks and no holds can be placed.

This new initiative was made possible through an increase in the FY2020 collections budget.



## Did you know?

The top five adult book titles circulated in 2019 are:

1. “Educated: A Memoir” by Tara Westover
2. “Becoming” by Michelle Obama
3. “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng
4. “Nine Perfect Strangers” by Liane Moriarty
5. “Fear: Trump in the White House” by Bob Woodward.

Peter Petruski, Division Chief, Materials and Technology Management and Diane Kresh, Director, Arlington Public Library stand next to a Grab & Go book shelf.



LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

# Digital Content on the Rise

According to the digital distribution platform Rakuten OverDrive, libraries nation-wide served over 274 million digital books to card holders in 2018, a 22% increase over the previous year. Arlington is no exception to that trend.

“Our circulation numbers have gone up steadily — by 80,000 for eAudiobooks and by 50,000 for eBooks compared to the previous year,” said Peter Petruski, Division Chief for Materials and Technology Management. “Digital books match the lifestyles of our Arlington readers. They love the convenience and expedience of 24/7 accessible digital content.”

According to Arlington Public Library’s data, a record-breaking 15% of all active library users

favor digital content compared to 9.5% of other national library systems with similar size budgets and populations.\* “Arlington is a mobile, tech-savvy community, and our users are avid readers who embrace digital content,” Petruski continued.

During the last 12 months, Arlington Public Library gained 5,000 new active digital content users. Here is what they read and listen to:

**Top eBook titles include**

“Educated: A Memoir” by Tara Westover, “Crazy Rich Asians” by Kevin Kwan and “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng.

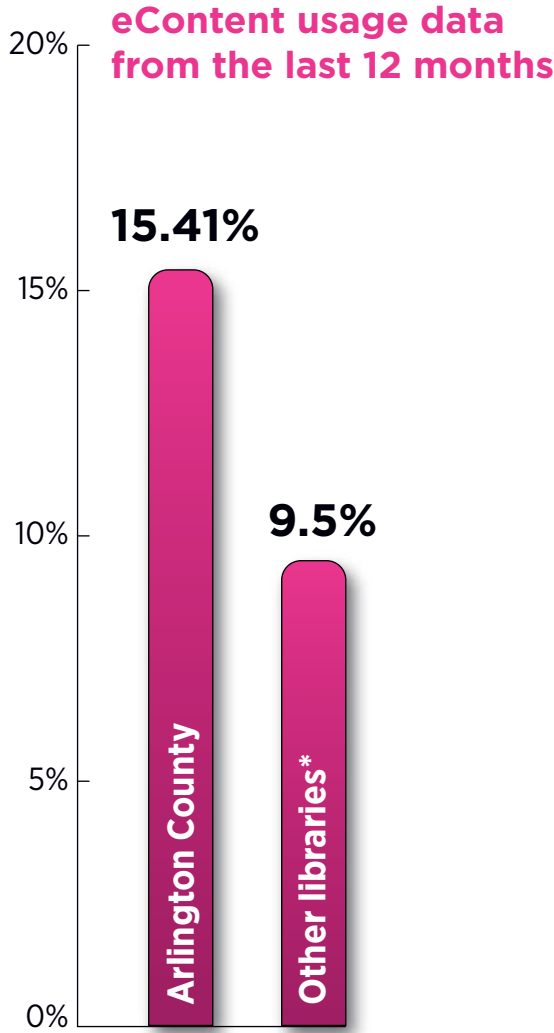
**Top eAudio titles include**

“You are a Badass: How to Stop Doubting Your Greatness and Start Living an Awesome Life”

by Jen Sincero, “Astrophysics for People in a Hurry” by Neil DeGrasse Tyson and “The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up” by Marie Kondo.

Curious about downloading your own eAudiobook or eBook for your morning commute or next vacation?

Visit [library.arlingtonva.us/ecollection](http://library.arlingtonva.us/ecollection) and discover popular fiction and nonfiction authors from our eCollection.



*\* Data from 40 other national library systems, which have either a similar budget or similar population value as Arlington Public Library.*



*Author and aging-solutions advocate Elizabeth White.*

ARLINGTON READS

# Our Stories, Ourselves

Arlington Reads, a community engagement program, is sponsored by the Friends of the Arlington Public Library.

The 2019 Arlington Reads signature author series featured eight authors who gave captivating talks about hope, despair and the healing power of stories.

The spring 2019 series featured five women writers whose diverse voices and experiences remind us that everyone has a story: Jacqueline Woodson, National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature; New York Times-bestselling memoirist Mary Karr; acclaimed journalist Susan Orlean; two-term poet laureate of the United States Tracy K. Smith; and commentator and columnist Marion Winik.

During the fall, the library hosted three authors whose work capture the zeitgeist of our times: aging-solutions advocate Elizabeth White; bestselling author Tommy Orange; and memoirist and economic justice advocate Stephanie Land.



*Author Jacqueline Woodson reads from one of her children’s books “The Day You Begin.” Photo credit Josh Brick.*



*Author Stephanie Land signs her book “Maid.”*



*Tracy K. Smith, two-term poet laureate of the United States. Photo credit Josh Brick.*





*Author Tommy Orange with Arlington Reads audience members. Photo credit Betsy Withycombe.*

Since its inception in 2006, the program has reached thousands of avid readers and has featured 31 national and international fiction and non-fiction authors and cultural icons, such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Wendell Berry, Matthew Desmond, Anthony Doerr, Richard Ford, Colum McCann, Tim O'Brien, Ann Patchett, Viet Thanh Nguyen and Zadie Smith.





*Arlington Reads audiences listened to a conversation between author Susan Orlean and Library Director Diane Kresh; Photo credit Josh Brick.*



A photograph of two women seated on a stage for a panel discussion. The woman on the left, with red hair and wearing a black top and a blue and black skirt, is speaking into a microphone. The woman on the right, with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, is listening. Between them is a small table with two water bottles and a potted orchid. The background is dark with some foliage.

**“Arlington Reads brings authors and readers together to talk about the important topics of our time.”**  
**— Diane Kresh, Library Director**

## BANNED BOOKS WEEK

# Celebrate your Freedom to Read

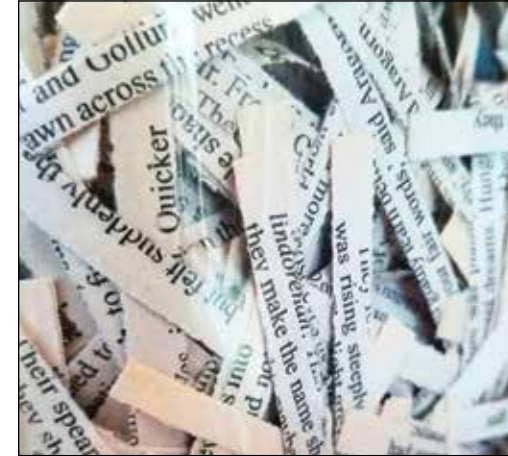
Each September, libraries and bookstores across the country observe the annual Banned Books Week. Launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries, Banned Books Week is a national celebration of our freedom to read.

Banned Books Week encourages readers to examine challenged literary works and promotes free and open access to ideas and information.

At Arlington Public Library, we embrace inclusion and diverse points of view, as well as create opportunities for an increased understanding of our world, our community and each other.

According to Library Director Diane Kresh, “Books are change agents. They challenge our beliefs and biases, help us learn to think for ourselves, and expose us to different experiences and cultures.”

In Virginia, over 28 books have been challenged or banned since 2015. Some of those books include “Eleanor and Park” by Rainbow Rowell, “Dope Sick” by Walter Dean Myers and “Tyrell” by Coe Booth.



*Banned Books displays at Central Library.*




## ***Did you know?***

*Banned Books Week is an annual awareness campaign, promoted by the American Library Association and libraries nation-wide, that celebrates the freedom to read and draws attention to banned and challenged books.*



*Librarians read passages of banned or challenged books to patrons on the lawn of Quincy Park in front of Central Library.*





**Job fair visitors met with over 30 Arlington and Washington Metropolitan area-based businesses. Participants connected with employers looking to hire experienced workers.**

## HUMAN SERVICES AND THE LIBRARY

# Partnering for an Equitable Arlington

In 2019, the Arlington Public Library and the Department of Human Services teamed up on two brand new initiatives, “Health Week” and “AC Works!,” featuring workshops, conversations and presentations to support a more equitable and inclusive Arlington.

According to Library Director Diane Kresh, “The Library provides quality information to all. We equip Arlington residents with the knowledge and resources they need to make their own choices, which is part and parcel of our charge.”



*Over 250 attendees participated in the job fair for workers age 50+ at Central Library.*



*The Library and its partners, the Arlington Employment Center, provided attendees with the practical steps and the latest resources to help guide them through the next phase of their careers.*



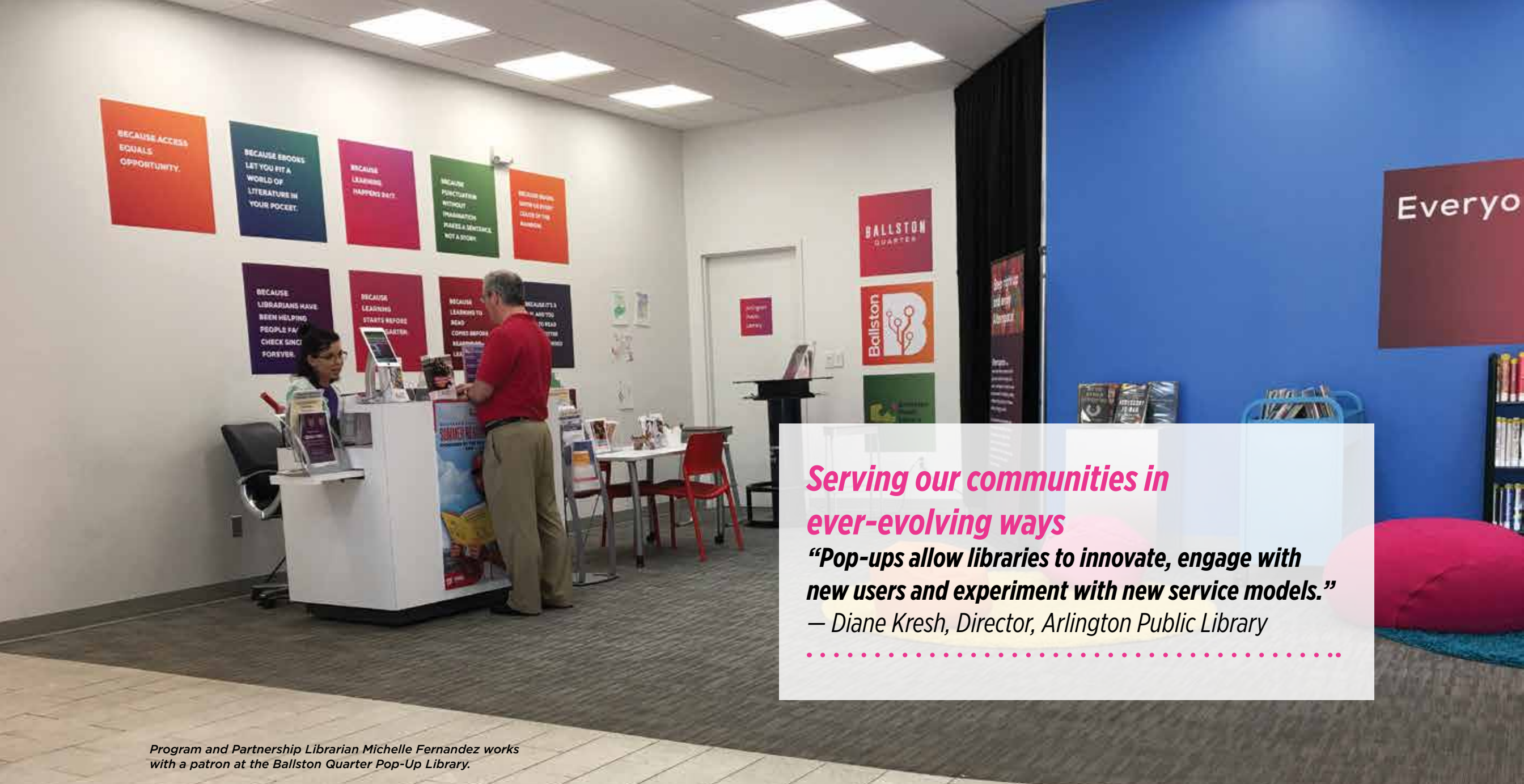
## Health Week

Celebrated during the last week of May, “Health Week” focused on a different theme each day, ranging from brain and family health to mental and heart health. Over the course of the week the Library hosted 13 events and welcomed over 500 visitors, connecting patrons and program participants with the resources they need for optimal well-being.

## AC Works!

800 people attended 15 events during the month-long job and financial literacy series AC Works!, which focused on experienced workers. In partnership with the Arlington Employment Center, the Library hosted workshops, lectures and trainings, ranging from sharpening networking skills to the latest job search techniques, to prepare participants for the County’s first job fair for workers age 50+.





## *Serving our communities in ever-evolving ways*

***“Pop-ups allow libraries to innovate, engage with new users and experiment with new service models.”***

***— Diane Kresh, Director, Arlington Public Library***

*Program and Partnership Librarian Michelle Fernandez works with a patron at the Ballston Quarter Pop-Up Library.*

## IN THE COMMUNITY

## Ballston Quarter Pop-Up Library

Recognizing the needs of a fast-growing urban community, the Library meets its patrons where they live and work through temporary community spaces, innovative partnerships and special events. One creative way to reach new library users is through pop-up libraries.

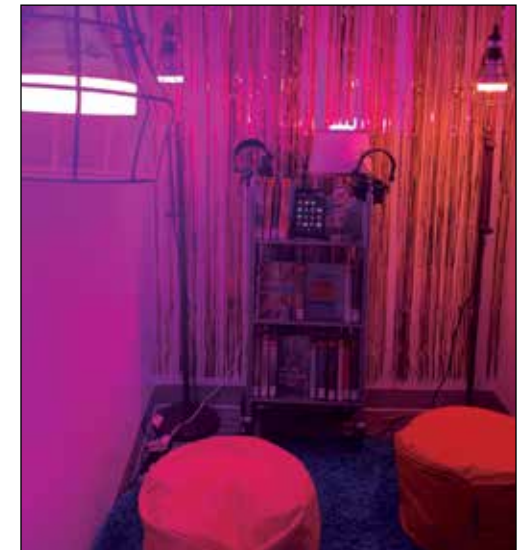
In partnership with the Ballston BID and Ballston Quarter, Arlington Public Library hosted an experimental pop-up library at the newly renovated Ballston Quarter this July.

The one-month pop-up invited the public to interact with the Library in traditional and non-traditional ways. Patrons could talk to a librarian, register for a Library card, browse new books, and learn about library programs and services.

The pop-up also featured Alterspace, an immersive interactive reading nook. Using technology developed by a team from Harvard University, Alterspace gave visitors control over light, color and sound to create their ideal environment for enjoying the Library.

## IN 30 DAYS...

**2,700** patrons visited the pop-up  
**78** new cardholders were registered.



*The Ballston Quarter Pop-Up Library featured Alterspace, a user-controlled space for enjoying the Library.*

## EQUITY BY THE NUMBERS

# Inclusive, tolerant spaces



*Librarians Jennifer Odum and Michelle Fernandez served ice cream to seniors at Walter Reed Senior Center to celebrate the 2019 senior Summer Reading Challenge.*

### **Free Wi-Fi and facility space**

*Public libraries are an essential force in providing free internet access for individuals without home or mobile access of their own.*

- ▶ Library users logged into our free Wi-Fi network 280,000 times.
- ▶ Eight facilities and one pop-up provided 25,800 open facility hours.

### **Bridging the “digital divide.”**

*We ensure that Arlington residents, regardless of age and background, have the tools and know-how to navigate our digital world.*

- ▶ 340 one-on-one technology appointments.
- ▶ 6075 participants attended 97 technology training classes.
- ▶ 165,000 public computer sessions.

### **Senior citizens and homebound residents**

*The Library conducts bimonthly visits and holds a monthly book club at two assisted living centers, thus making the collection available to patrons who cannot otherwise get to the Library.*

- ▶ 830 Library items circulated to homebound patrons.
- ▶ 9,450 Talking Books check-outs by patrons, who are blind or print disabled.

### **Immigrant population**

*The Library offers a variety of services ranging from conversation classes, and job search assistance to information about County services.*

- ▶ 4,800 K-12 students attended 453 English Learners (EL) programs across four branches (Central, Aurora Hills, Columbia Pike and Shirlington).



**Career help**

*The Library offers resources to help residents advance in their careers, find college information or hone their job-search skills.*

- ▶ 644 people attended 110 job and career programs.
- ▶ 96 people attended one-on-one career and resume review appointments.
- ▶ 358 parents and teens participated in 8 college preparation and Virginia529 programs.

**Tax help**

*Free tax assistance is offered February through April at Central and Columbia Pike Library.*

- ▶ 1,300 residents received tax assistance.
- ▶ 1,163 eReturns were accepted by the IRS.

- ▶ 30 senior citizens took advantage of tax service day at Culpepper Garden Senior Center.

**50+**

*The Library offered AC Works!, a month long employment and financial literacy series.*

- ▶ 250 workers, aged 50+, attended the job fair

**LGBTQIA+**

*Arlington Public Library recognizes and celebrates LGBTQIA+ culture every day.*

- ▶ The Library celebrated and recognized Pride Month in June, National Coming Out Day on October 11 and National Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20.
- ▶ 19 LGBTQIA+ programs reached by 162 patrons.

- ▶ Staff training for “Building Safe and Inclusive Services.”
- ▶ The collection features hundreds of LGBTQIA+ titles.
- ▶ All branches feature welcoming signage and the pride flag is displayed in front of Central Library.



*Librarian Clea Counts at Westover Library.*



*Library assistant Arya Sharma at Plaza Library.*

## FRIENDS OF THE ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Used Books and New Friends

Twice a year, the Friends of the Arlington Public Library (FOAL) hold a massive used book sale for all ages at the Central Library parking garage. With tens of thousands of books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, LPs, games and puzzles, all offered at bargain prices, everyone is sure to find a few new treasures.

“The sale dates back to the late 1980’s and has been a cherished community event for years,” said Kelly Fado, President, Friends of the Arlington Public Library.” The supersized 4-day sale also allows time for connections and interaction. “Volunteering for the book sale is a great way to make new friends and support a good cause,” said Fado.

All proceed support a wide array of library programs and services such as collections, author talks, storytime and Summer Reading.

Mark your calendar for the 2020 spring book sale and consider volunteering. You might find new books, and new friends!

For more information, visit [arlingtonlibraryfriends.org](http://arlingtonlibraryfriends.org).



**The sale dates back to the late 1980’s and has been a cherished community event for years.**



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# Ann Gray

Westover Branch volunteer Ann Gray is a devoted lover of libraries. As a holds-shelver for the past five and a half years, Gray has spent a lot of time in local libraries.

“Over the years, I have come to realize just how useful a library is. Libraries have been there for me through the bad times and the good times. The good times have been amazing, as libraries introduced me to the person I would eventually marry.”

Gray, who was raised in Arlington, enjoys getting out of the house and staying active in her community. “I consider volunteering each week at the Westover branch as a payback for all that the library provides,” Gray continued.

When she is not volunteering, Gray keeps busy with crossword puzzles, baking cookies (peanut butter particularly) and is an active member of her church community.

Her advice to young volunteers who want to make a difference: “Keep your eyes and ears open. Don’t be afraid to try something new and stick with it. It isn’t always easy, but it will help you find coping skills, and who knows what it might lead to.”



*Volunteer Ann Gray at Westover Library.*



# The Shop

*Where People & Ideas Connect*

**The Shop features tools ranging from 3-D printers, vinyl and paper cutters, sewing and embroidery, tablets and audiovisual digitization equipment.**



## THE SHOP

# Where People and Ideas Connect

This past spring, Arlington Public Library opened the doors to The Shop, a new, free Makerspace in Arlington, which offers weekly classes ranging from crafts, to 3-D design and fabrication, one-on-one tutoring and open lab time for beginning and advanced Makers.

“We are excited to promote the Maker movement and offer collaborative spaces to meet the evolving needs of our community,” said Library Director Diane Kresh. “The Shop provides access to tools and software and is staffed with Maker mentors to help you get your project off the ground.”

In the first 6 months, over 1,000 Shop participants attended Maker programs or used the Open Lab hours for their creative projects ranging from 3-D

printing, sewing, vinyl cutting to assembling circuitry kits.

According to Maker Librarian Katelyn Attanasio, “The Shop is a space where people can learn from one another, be a part of a community, pick up a new skill for work or for fun, and where everyone has equal access to the tools and technology. We believe that everyone has a story, and we’re here to provide the tools to tell it.”

Library patron John, who attended one of the “Home Movie Preservation” programs, couldn’t agree more. “Absolutely amazing. I’m about to embark on a digitization project and this was immensely useful. This is why I love living in Arlington!”

The new Makerspace is located on the second floor of

Central Library and is part of last year’s building upgrade along with new meeting rooms, redesigned public PC stations, reading and study areas, updated furniture and media shelving and modernized reference stations, all designed to enhance patron use of the Central Library, “an everyday destination for many Arlingtonians,” according to Kresh.



*The Shop is open to beginning and advanced Makers for classes, one-on-one tutoring and open lab time.*

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**DURING FY2019,**  
**10,000** participants attended 630 Maker programs



**Nats players Aníbal Sánchez and Kurt Suzuki read to their fans during storytime.**



## PARTNERSHIPS

# The Ultimate Summer Reading Challenge

Arlington Public Library, in partnership with the Washington Nationals and the Friends of the Arlington Public Library, presented an exciting summer lineup for all ages which resulted in a 23% increase in participation over the previous year.

Highlights included the Summer Reading kickoff with Washington Nationals pitcher and player ambassador Aníbal Sánchez; dozens of free activities and programs for both adults and youth; and 6,000 redeemed Nationals tickets.

Each year, FOAL donates \$1 to a charitable cause for every person who completes the Summer Reading Challenge.

This year, FOAL raised over \$6,500 to provide books for the Arlington County Children's Advocacy Center, which promotes the safety and well-being of children in Arlington County.



*Nats players Aníbal Sánchez and Kurt Suzuki with FOAL members Kelly Fado, Judith Kindell and Kate Summers.*

## FOAL RAISED

**\$6,533** for the Arlington County Children's Advocacy Center



*Arlington Art Truck project, artists Lorenzo Cardim, Charlene Wallace and Angela Latson taught participants at Central Library how to sew a button while building community connections. Colorful buttons of all shapes and sizes display the map of Arlington County.*



*Arlington Sports Hall of Fame exhibition at Central Library.*



*Department of Human Services Director Anita Friedman and Arlington Public Library Director Diane Kresh serving spaghetti during the Buckingham Neighborhood Fair at K.W. Barrett Elementary School.*



*Truck and Bus Day at Columbia Pike Library involves many County and community partners from the Department of Environmental Services, the fire and police departments, to Arlington Transit and Car Free Day.*



## PARTNERSHIPS

# Together we are stronger

Arlington Public Library strives to provide inclusive resources and programs that enrich the lives of our diverse community.

We value our partners' expertise and are pleased to collaborate with them on a wide array of programs and topics ranging from health and wellness, housing, personal growth and development, and creative exploration.

**AARP Virginia**

**Arlington Arts of Arlington Economic Development**

**Arlington County Child & Family Services**

**Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation**

**Arlington County Department of Human Services (new)**

**Arlington County Public Schools**

**Arlington Education & Employment Program (REEP)**

**Arlington Employment Center (new)**

**Arlington Food Assistance Center's Plot**

**Against Hunger (AFAC)**

**Arlington Independent Media**

**Arlington Master Naturalists**

**Arlington Neighborhood Village**

**Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH)**

**Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families (APCYF)**

**BizLaunch**

**BU-GATA (new)**

**Candid**

**Capital Bikeshare**

**Capital Caring Health**

**Community Progress Network (new)**

**Encore Learning**

**Hooray for Books!**

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (new)**

**Northern Virginia Family Service**

**One More Page Books**

**P.A.L. – People Animals Love**

**Project PEACE (new)**

**Signature Theatre**

**Synetic Theater**

**U.S. Small Business Administration's SCORE**

**Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners**

**Virginia Hospital Center (new)**

**Washington Nationals (new)**

**Wesley Housing Development Corporation**

**WETA**

**And many more**



### ***Vision***

*Arlington Public Library is the heart of a thoughtful, inclusive and dynamic community where people and ideas connect.*

### ***Mission***

*We champion the power of stories, information and ideas.*

*We create space for culture and connection.*

*We embrace inclusion and diverse points of view.*



**Arlington  
Public  
Library**

*Everyone has a story*