What is your vision for the KHL?

Strategic planning process begins

Carolyn Brennan, Co-Director

We are excited to announce that we have begun working on the Library’s latest strategic plan. As I write, there are early conversations happening at the state level about transitioning from pandemic to endemic. This is a pivotal time for the Library to position ourselves to serve our supporting communities in innovative and exciting ways. Over the next several months we will be seeking extensive community feedback to help us inform the services we offer, the focus of our collections and to affirm and expand our institutional commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Libraries are at once historic cornerstone institutions in our communities, but have changed rapidly, transforming into lively, multipurpose community hubs where people connect and content is created as well as consumed. We honor information and knowledge building with the understanding that knowledge is built not only by reading or watching, but by collaboration, crafting and conversation.

We will build our vision for the Library over the next six months or so, with an expected completion date in late summer or early fall of 2022. We invite everyone, whether they use the Library or not, to contribute. You can find out more about how to get involved at kellogghubbard.org/strategic-plan.

Young patrons work on an engineering and design challenge at the Children’s Library.
Adult Programming & Outreach

Michelle Singer, Adult Programs Coordinator

Adult programming has remained flexible as pandemic life continues to make twists and turns. In the fall, we offered hybrid events and people showed up in person or logged in via Zoom. As the winter set in and Omicron arrived, programs went fully remote. In all, we hosted 40 events with 700 participants. We tried some new programs like trivia and musical bingo and enjoyed author roundtables, gentle movement classes, and lectures from First Wednesdays and the League of Women Voters of Vermont. Many of our programs are recorded and can be found on the Adult Programs page of our website and on the library’s YouTube channel.

Our book group met (on Zoom) to discuss *Afterlife* by Julia Alvarez and *We Contain Multitudes* by Sarah Henstra. The group is open to all and the schedule of upcoming reads can be found on the Adult Programs page of the library’s website.

The library also makes home deliveries to homebound patrons every week and brings books out into the community with Give-A-Book Take-A-Book shelves at the Berlin Mall, East Calais store, Maple Corner Store, and the Capitol City Laundromat. We also offer community book delivery at sites in member towns. Visit kellogghubbard.org/outreach-and-home-delivery for more information.

PoemCity 2022 will display hundreds of poems by Vermonters in downtown Montpelier and offer poetry programming for the entire month of April. This is PoemCity’s 13th year and one patron says, “It’s right up there with the Valentine Phantom in community morale-boosting, not to mention displays of creativity and talent.” Visit kellogghubbard.org/poemcity for more information.

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**Summer Reading 2022**

The possibilities for Summer Reading fun are endless this summer at the Children’s Library. A registration party kicks off the program in June with a bag of special treats. We’ll host a dog agility demonstration with an award-winning Australian cattle dog, then kids can run the obstacle course themselves! We’ll have guest appearances from two popular local authors, Christy Mihaly and Carolyn Scoppettone. Christy will take kids on an imaginary deep dive into local waters and Carolyn will lead a literary ramble in a local park. Come enjoy crafts, storytimes, I Spy windows, a magical tea party, and a big messy tie dye extravaganza at summer’s end. All kids who complete their Summer Reading Challenge will receive a book.

This year, we’re expanding our offerings even more for our member towns - kids of all ages can enjoy storytimes with Miss Meliss, StoryWalks, and drop-in crafty noons. In May, pick up a brochure or look for it online and then mark your calendars for a summer with oceans of possibilities.

All activities outdoors unless otherwise noted.

—Meliss Bunce, Youth Services Librarian

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**Kellogg-Hubbard Library Book Sale**

*New perpetual format!*

*Always open during Library hours.*

*Books restocked weekly.*

*Check back often!*

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Taking in a Ukrainian-inspired art exhibit at the library.
Nonprofit News

Jessie Lynn, Co-Director

2021 was a good year for the nonprofit side of the Library, despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. Though many of you regularly interact with our librarians at the desk, there is also a crew of dedicated staff supporting the work of the nonprofit: Katelynn Averyt, our Development Coordinator, Jason Kass, our Building & Grounds Assistant and Sarah Wisner, our Nonprofit Clerk. We are also very fortunate to have the skills of Rich Horchler as Project Manager for the Give the Library a Lift! campaign as well as the hard work of our custodial crew, 802 Clean Sweep. There are a few dozen regular contractors that help us maintain this beautiful 18,000 square foot building, including an HVAC company, fire & sprinkler company, elevator company, security company, lawn and garden maintenance, snow shoveling, and more. We are an independent nonprofit, so we manage everything in-house ourselves, including our building maintenance, our finances, human resources and fundraising. This crew of fabulous staff and contractors makes all of that happen.

In 2021 we had a very successful audit of our finances and we also negotiated an updated collective bargaining agreement with our staff. With the support of our Board and Finance Committee, we have been working diligently over the years to strengthen the financial stability of the library. From 2019-2021, over 200 donors supported us in funding much-needed repairs to our building through the Give the Library a Lift! campaign. Of the 26 projects in that campaign, we have completed 15 to-date, have 5 currently in the works and hope to complete the full list in 2022. Donors continue to be incredibly generous to the library, with fabulous support for our initiative to go fine-free in 2021.

It’s been a tough couple of years for everyone, but so many of you have continued to demonstrate that public libraries are important ports in the storm. Truly, we can’t thank you all enough for helping us to thrive and not just survive during these tough pandemic years.

To see behind the scenes on our Give the Library a Lift! projects, check out our Instagram page: @gllkellogghubbard.

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FUNDRAISING

Thank you to everyone for your donations during our annual donation drive. With your incredible support, we met not one, but two match challenges during the month of November! It takes a community to create a place as special as the Kellogg-Hubbard Library and your donations go a long way towards keeping this vital and vibrant space available and accessible to everyone.

Although we were saddened to cancel our 2021 An Evening at the Library event, we are extremely grateful for the extraordinary support we received through our online auction. With your help, the Library raised more than $10,000! Your gifts, donations, sponsorships and auction purchases help keep our essential resources and programs running all year long and we simply can’t do it without you. Thank you!

While COVID safety remains our top priority, we are looking forward to hosting a special spring event at the library. We can’t wait to once again celebrate with friends, family and neighbors and invite you to watch our website for more information about dates and tickets.

Thank you so much for your strong community spirit, and for your love and support of this incredible place.

— Katelynn Averyt, Development Coordinator

Upgraded stairs, thanks to the Give the Library a Lift! campaign.
The Kellogg-Hubbard Library is more than books!

The KHL is a friendly place to relax, visit with friends, meet a tutor, video conference, reserve meeting rooms, and find public restrooms and a water bottle filler. We’re not a “silent” library!

Free WiFi inside and out; computers with headphones; printing, scanning, and copying; and Individual technology help (call to sign up!).

Library apps Libby, Flipster, and Kanopy offer ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and streaming video. Children get unlimited streaming with Kanopy Kids!

The Children’s Library has takeaway craft kits, museum passes, movies, games, graphic novels, and Storytime!

Also: DVDs, audio courses and audiobooks, federal tax forms, community bulletin boards, research assistance, test prep, career help and free online classes.

Find our book exchanges at the East Calais Store, Berlin Mail, Elm Street Laundromat, and Maple Corner Store. We offer delivery to housebound patrons and Wednesday community deliveries. Call for details!

SEEKING LOCAL ARTISTS

The Kellogg-Hubbard Library is proud to support the work of local artists. Each month we host an exhibit from an adult artist in the Kitzmiller Room on the second floor of the Library and an exhibit from a youth artist or art class in the Children’s Library. Email info@kellogghubbard.org for more information.