

Align:

The Library. Our Donors.
Our Entire Community.



The background image shows a city skyline with several tall buildings, including one with a distinctive blue and white geometric facade. A river flows in the foreground, bordered by a rocky shore. The sky is clear and blue. A large white oval shape is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

WHERE WE WORK, LIVE, AND PLAY

We acknowledge Moh'kinsstis, the lands where the Elbow and Bow Rivers meet.

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, we recognize the ancestral territories, cultures, and oral practices of the Blackfoot people, which include the Siksika, Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations. We recognize the Iethka Stoney Nakoda Nation, including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley, and we recognize the Dene people of the Tsuut'ina First Nation. The City of Calgary is also the traditional homeland of the Historic Northwest Métis and is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

The Calgary Public Library Foundation serves the community on this traditional land, and we honour all people who share, celebrate, and steward the Treaty 7 territory of Southern Alberta.

MESSAGE FROM

Rob Van Wielingen

The past year has proven that the value of libraries cannot be overstated. Libraries are community centres that allow people from all walks of life to gather; they provide newcomers with a sense of belonging, offer refuge for families, act as a landing place for students, and welcome readers and learners of all ages. In 2021, our community needed this more than ever.

Thanks to our donors, we have enabled the Library to do even more over the past year through innovating and expanding digital offerings, piloting new programs and resources, and becoming even more responsive to our community's needs. I firmly believe that to be a world-class city, we need world-class institutions. The Calgary Public Library has a depth and breadth in our community that is unmatched, and I am passionate about helping our Library system become the best in the world.

This responsiveness has been made possible thanks to donors like you; donors who believe in the Library and the role it plays in our community. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your support of the Calgary Public Library Foundation.

Rob Van Wielingen
Chair, Calgary Public Library Foundation Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM

Tracy Johnson

If one word was to sum up 2021, it would be “alignment” — alignment with our community, alignment with our goals, and alignment with the Library.

Thank you. None of the accomplishments on the following pages would have been possible without your support. Through donations, words of encouragement, and sharing our activities, you have helped align how the Library is responding to community needs, which supports our vision of creating the best public library in the world for Calgarians.

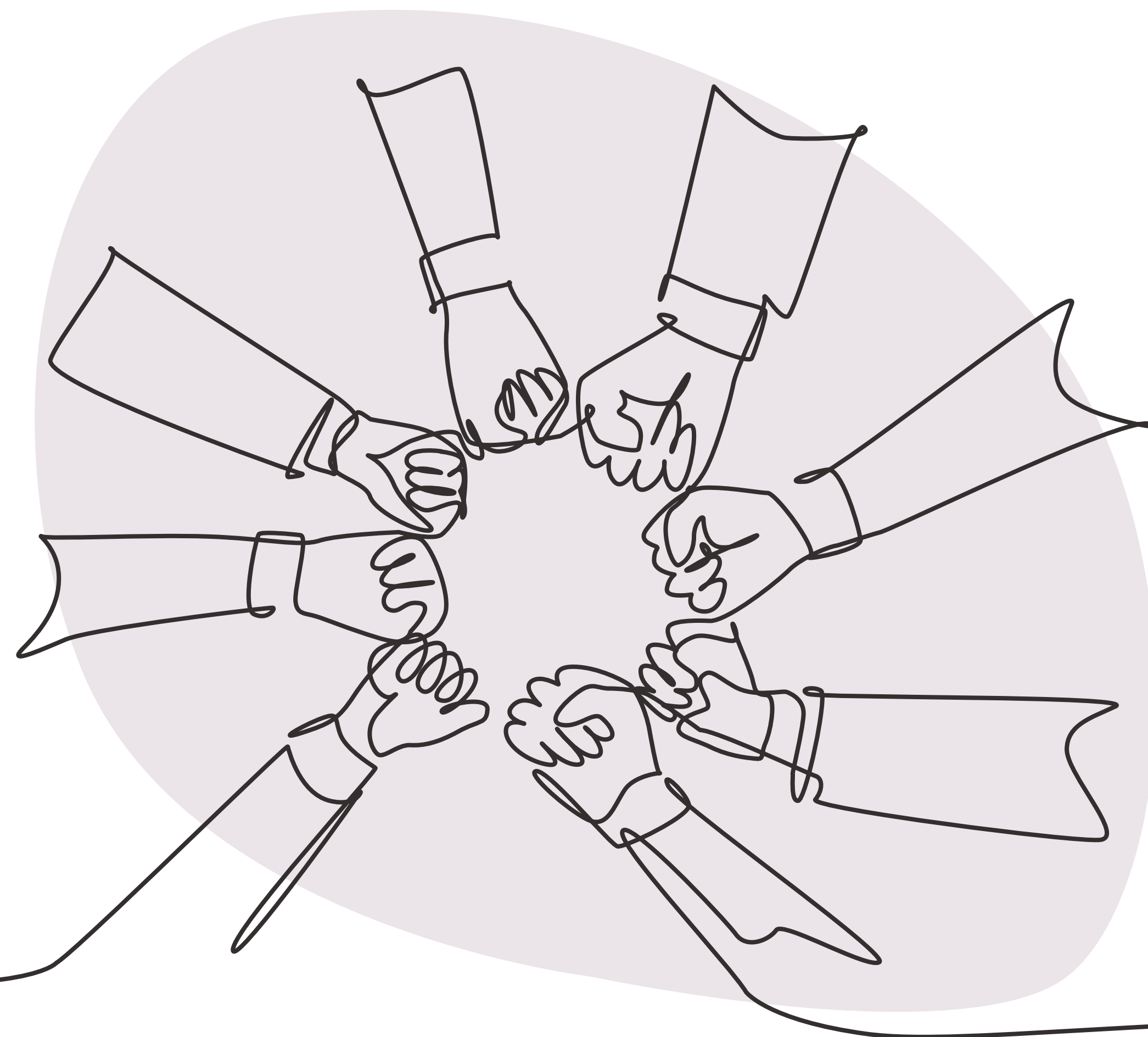
From attending our online Town Halls to learn about new Library programs and services, to trying to escape the virtual Locked Library, you showed up for us and the Calgary Public Library. You Boosted Your Buy and supported areas and programming through purchases made through Library Store, shared our updates and told us why you love the Library.


We are so grateful for you and what we have accomplished, and I promise you that we will continue to grow and do more — together.

Tracy Johnson
CEO, Calgary Public Library Foundation

2021 was an exciting year for the Calgary Public Library. In addition to appointing Sarah Meilleur as CEO in October, the Library continued to look at new ways to deliver on its strategic plan and pilot initiatives to serve our community. Virtual programming evolved and became more sophisticated, and many initiatives piloted in 2020 became regular service offerings.

The following successes were made possible thanks to the generous support of our donors.





"I was suddenly unemployed, I had no computer and finding a job off your phone is not easy. This service was free, fast and reliable. I found employment and will be forever thankful to the Calgary Library for this amazing gift." — Borrow a Computer User



Thanks to
579 donors, we
raised \$83,325
in 2021.


DIGITAL ACCESS

Technology is a critical tool, yet for many vulnerable individuals in our community, the Library provides the only access.

In January 2021, the Library launched its innovative Borrow a Computer program, which loans computers to Library cardholders. In the first year of the program, 2,992 computers were borrowed.

We are currently expanding the Borrow a Computer program to offer WIFI hotspot loans, and continue to create digital learning content to meet the demand and bring the Library into Calgarians' homes.

Support technology loans for those in need and virtual programming
for our entire community. libraryfoundation.ca/digitalequity/

The background image is a soft-focus photograph. In the foreground, the back of a woman's head with curly brown hair is visible on the left. In the background, a person wearing a light blue surgical mask and a dark green vest over a white shirt is clapping their hands. The setting appears to be an indoor space with large windows and blue chairs.

*"On the first day of service,
a patron approached for
information and support to help
him deal with the recent loss of
his sister. Being able to provide
same-day support was hugely
impactful, and he returned to
thank us for our kindness and
immediate response."
— Crowfoot Library Staff*

Thanks to
35 donors, we
raised \$325,215
in 2021.




MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Mental health is an important component of overall health and wellness, and the pandemic and ongoing disruptions to daily life are resulting in increased fear, stress, anxiety, and depression. The Wellness Desk was offered virtually from December 2020 to June 2021, when in-person services resumed. In October, the Wellness Desk expanded to Crowfoot Library one day a week.

The Library also piloted Teen Wellness Kits, which contained instructions and supplies for a creative activity and one or more simple wellness activities linked to the craft. More than 45,000 kits were distributed.

In partnership with: Wood's Homes. Supported by: The Government of Alberta, Boone-Poole Family Foundation, RBC Foundation and donors of the Library Foundation

**Provide accessible mental health support
for individuals and caregivers in our community.**
<https://libraryfoundation.ca/gift/mental-health/>

A young child with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt, is looking intently at a book held by an adult. The adult's long dark hair is visible in the foreground, and their hand is holding the book. The background shows a window with bright light and greenery outside, and some colorful toys on a shelf. A white speech bubble contains a testimonial from a parent.

"In my culture, we don't read so it's a really nice change for the kids to be getting books each month. We usually buy toys instead of books but the kids are really loving it. We appreciate you letting us be a part of the program!"

— Sebele, My First Bookshelf parent

Thanks to
1,085 donors,
we raised
\$538,047
in 2021.



MY FIRST BOOKSHELF


My First Bookshelf, which delivers free books monthly by mail to children from birth to age five, is currently at capacity with 2,000 children. In 2021, 16,388 books were delivered to participants.

We are currently seeking funding to expand this program to 2,500 children, and the Library is planning to pilot a text-to-home service which will provide opportunities to share family literacy related topics directly to a family's mobile phone.

In partnership with: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Supported by: Calgary Foundation, Canada Life, The Dollywood Foundation of Canada, CBN Commercial Solutions, Leah & Ernie Hagel, J K L MacLachlan Family Fund, Barbara Killick, the McNamara Family, Lorraine and Peter Moore, Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown, Rotary Club of Calgary East, Rotary Partners of Calgary at Stampede Park, and donors of the Calgary Public Library Foundation.

Foster a love of reading and learning that will set a child up for lifelong success for as little as \$5.50 per month. <https://libraryfoundation.ca/myfirstbookshelf/>

A photograph of four young people standing in a circle, holding hands. From left to right: a person in a red long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, a person in a light blue t-shirt and dark jeans, a person in a peach-colored t-shirt and light blue jeans, and a person in a white t-shirt and light blue jeans. The person in the peach shirt has long, curly brown hair. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A white circular callout box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing a testimonial.

"I'm 14, and I live in Saskatoon where there are very few Jewish people. Judaism is so little discussed, that I have barely learned anything about the Holocaust in school. But this discussion was so beautiful and really moving to witness, as it was a reminder that I'm not alone. Thank you."
— Event Participant

Thanks to
10 donors,
we raised
\$203,500
in 2021.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

In Fall 2021, Calgary Public Library and Edmonton Public Library launched a new initiative to raise awareness and engage Albertans in critical dialogue about Human Rights and Holocaust Education.

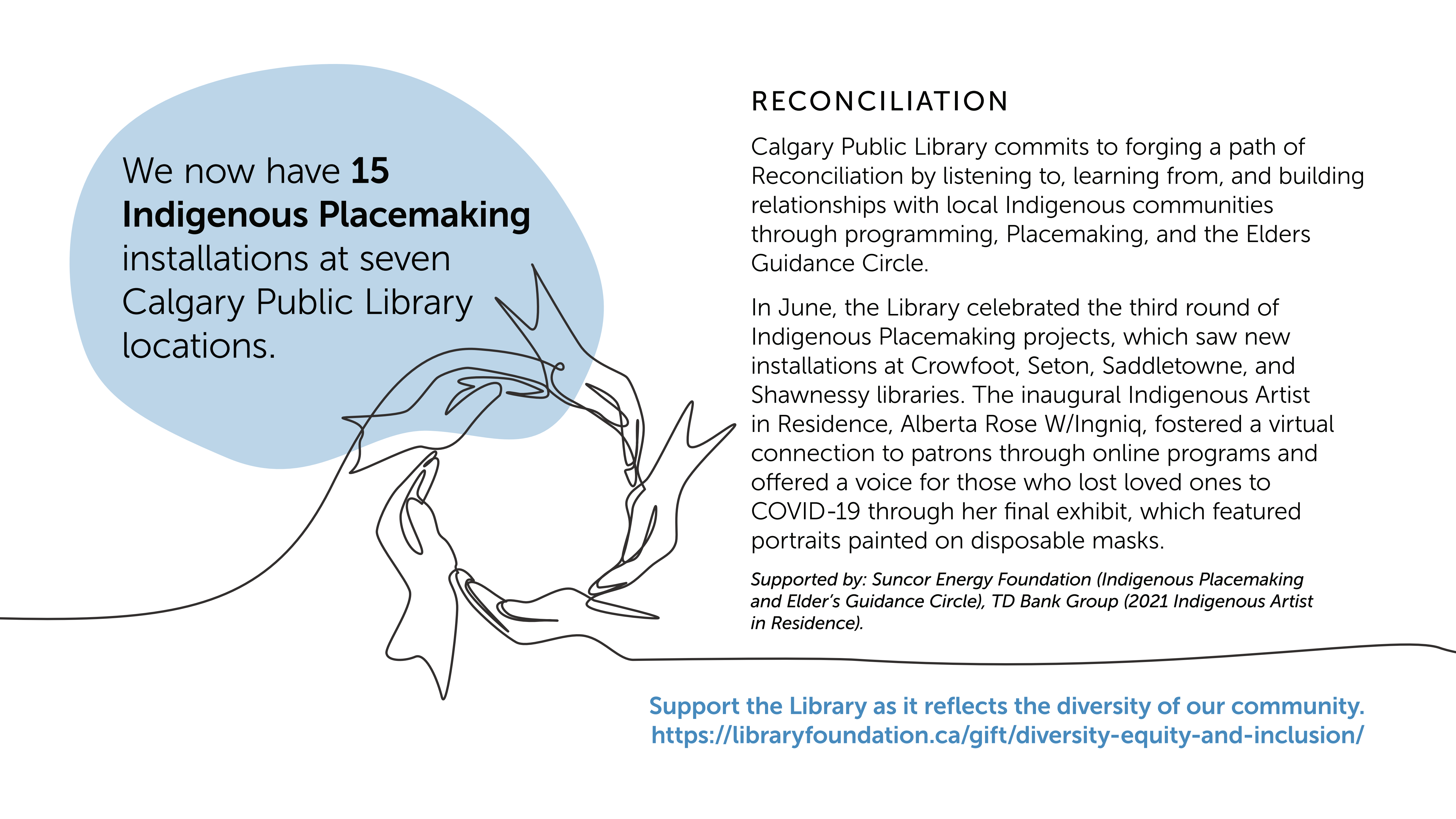
Three virtual programs were held in 2021, including a sneak peek of the National Library of Israel and an opportunity for Grade 11 students across the province to hear from a Holocaust Survivor as part of the Holocaust Education Symposium. These, and other Holocaust Education programming, are held in partnership with the Calgary Jewish Federation.

Supported by: Isadore and Florence Burstyn Memorial Fund, KSW Calgary Holocaust Education & Commemoration Endowment Fund, Viewpoint Foundation, and donors to the Human Rights and Holocaust Education Fund at the Calgary Public Library Foundation.

Raise awareness and engage Albertans in critical dialogue.
<https://libraryfoundation.ca/hrhe/>

"Last fall, a Blackfoot woman was looking for Siskikatsapi books for her great-grandchildren, and found her son's novel in the Great Reading Room. When she stepped into the Elder's Guidance Circle, she said, 'I'm home.'" — Library Staff





We now have **15**
Indigenous Placemaking
installations at seven
Calgary Public Library
locations.

RECONCILIATION

Calgary Public Library commits to forging a path of Reconciliation by listening to, learning from, and building relationships with local Indigenous communities through programming, Placemaking, and the Elders Guidance Circle.

In June, the Library celebrated the third round of Indigenous Placemaking projects, which saw new installations at Crowfoot, Seton, Saddletowne, and Shawnessy libraries. The inaugural Indigenous Artist in Residence, Alberta Rose W/Ingniq, fostered a virtual connection to patrons through online programs and offered a voice for those who lost loved ones to COVID-19 through her final exhibit, which featured portraits painted on disposable masks.

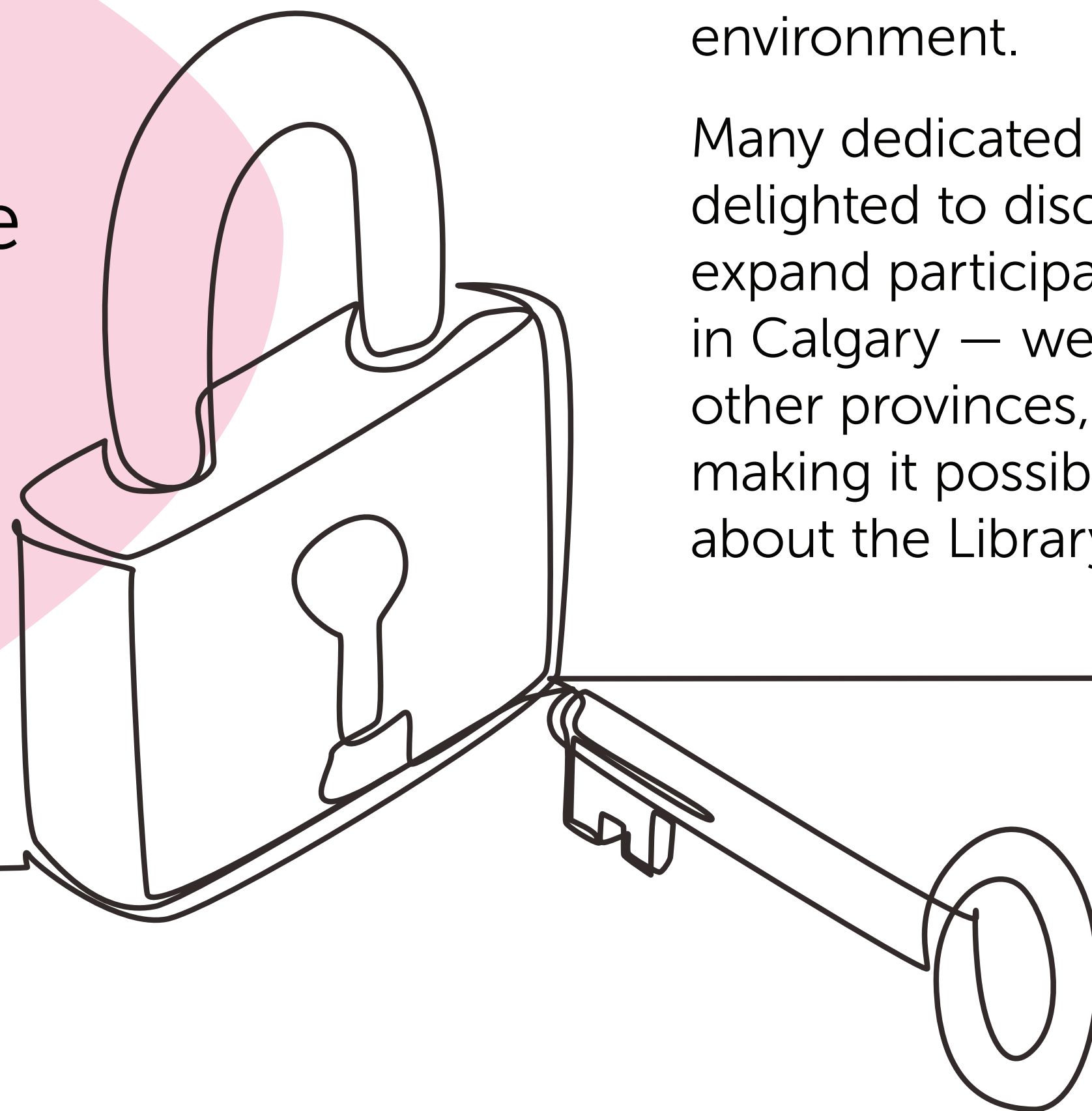
Supported by: Suncor Energy Foundation (Indigenous Placemaking and Elder's Guidance Circle), TD Bank Group (2021 Indigenous Artist in Residence).

Support the Library as it reflects the diversity of our community.
<https://libraryfoundation.ca/gift/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/>



Thanks to the generous support
of Hopewell Residential,
young minds will soar at the
**Hopewell
Early
Learning
Centre.**
Hopewell®

Thanks to
805 teams, we
raised \$33,810
in 2021.



VIRTUAL LOCKED LIBRARIES

While in-person events continued to be restricted, we pivoted our popular Locked Library series to an online environment.

Many dedicated puzzlers returned, and we were delighted to discover that virtual events allowed us to expand participation beyond those who are physically in Calgary — we had a number of attendees from other provinces, including a few international players — making it possible for people across the world to learn about the Library and its impact.

“Thank you for organizing this, it was a blast! Could you please give us the answers so we can pat each other on the back for trying, and laugh at ourselves a little while longer.” — Marta

The **jackpot**
reached \$85,720
through 1,857
donations.

50/50 RAFFLE

In June, we launched our first 50/50 Raffle, which allowed donors and individuals an opportunity to support the Calgary Public Library and a chance to win the jackpot! The 50/50 Cash Raffle was supported by Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink, which matched all ticket purchases by up to 50%.

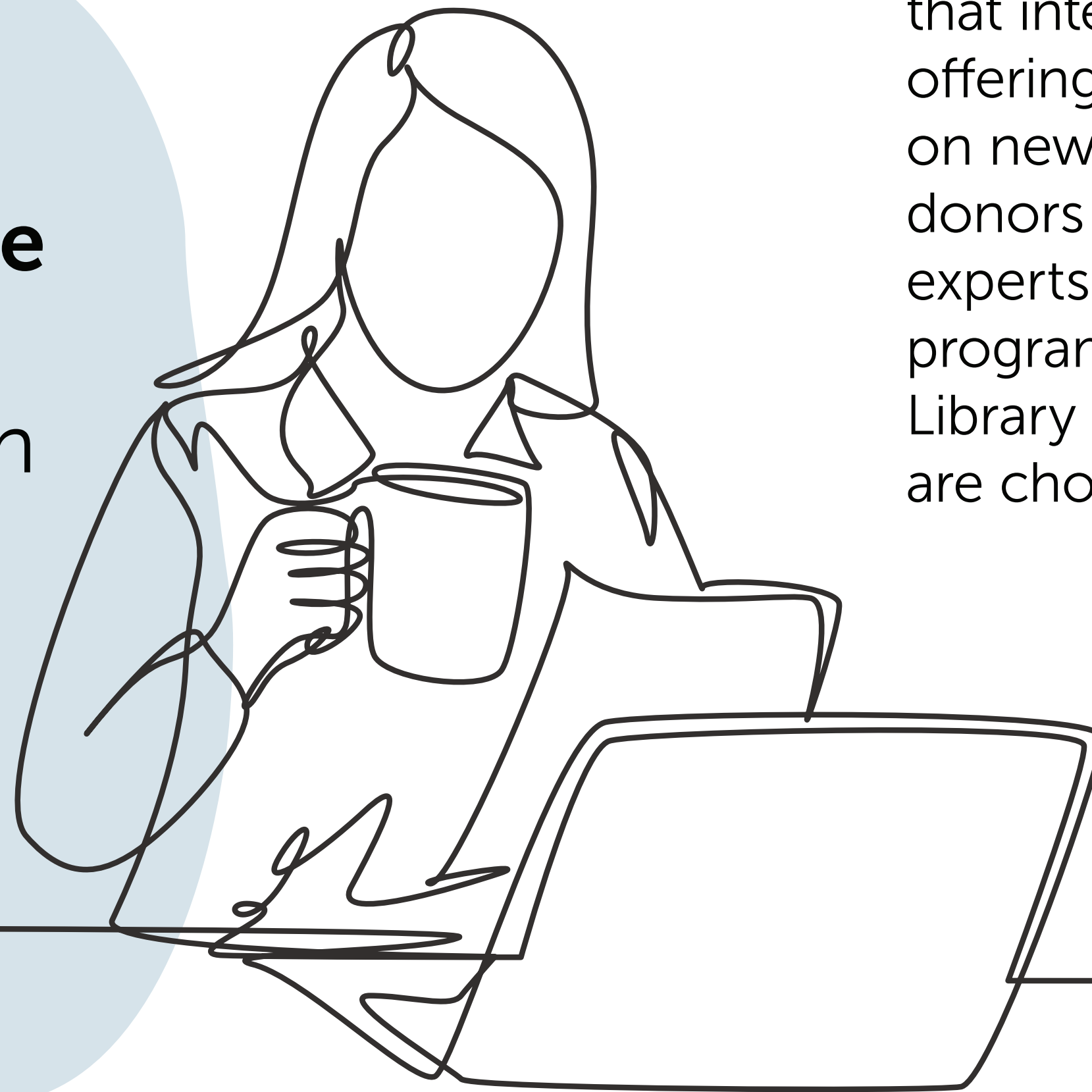


“Our Fish Creek Library was especially important to us during the pandemic shutdown. I’ve read more library books than ever before.” — Susan B., 50/50 Winner and a Calgary Public Library card holder for nearly 35 years

Welcome
to Story Truck!



**1,045 people
registered**
for our seven
town hall
events.



TOWN HALL EVENTS

Donors are very passionate about projects and areas that interest them at the Library, and this year we began offering regular Town Hall events to provide information on new initiatives and demonstrate the impact that donors have on the Library and our community. Library experts shared details about the new My First Bookshelf program, the pilot Wellness Desk service, what the Library is doing to address the Digital Divide, how items are chosen for the Collection, and more.

Recordings of our Town Hall events can be viewed here:
<https://vimeo.com/user9676825>.

Boost Your Buy directed **more than \$18,000** towards Calgary Public Library programs and services.



BOOST YOUR BUY

Boost Your Buy was launched in February 2021 and, with the generous support of an anonymous donor, enabled us to match the proceeds of a Library Store product in support of an area or project at the Library.

Shop for a cause at librarystore.ca. All proceeds bring the Library's programs, services and collection items to the people who need them.

"Six months after moving to Calgary, my son was fluent in English and has already started to read chapter books, sometimes a whole book in a day. For our family, a trip to the Library once a week is a ritual we cannot miss!"

— Safaa, Owner of Geeky Candles and Library Store partner



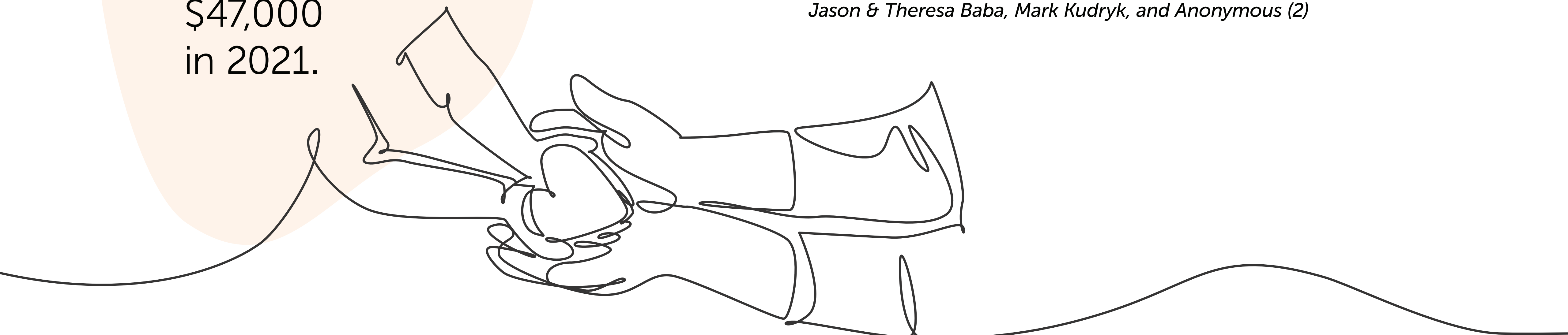
Thanks to
223 donors,
we raised
\$47,000
in 2021.

PAY IT FORWARD

In celebration of the one-year anniversary of the Library removing late fines, more than 200 donors stepped up to pay their love for the Library forward, allowing the Library to remove barriers to make vital resources and life-enriching services accessible to even more people in our community.

Supported by: Judith Umbach, Glen & Nancy Charitable Gift Fund, Jason & Theresa Baba, Mark Kudryk, and Anonymous (2)

Show your love for our Library. libraryfoundation.ca/fine-free-yyc



333 donors
raised \$38,880
in support of
the Library in
December.



ENDING THE YEAR ON A STRONG NOTE

In December, the Nicholls Family offered to match all donations made before the end of the year, and donors stepped up with their support. On December 31, a generous donor added an additional incentive by tripling all donations.

Over the month, 333 donors supported early learners, school-aged children, teens, seniors, digital resources, newcomers to Canada, mental health resources, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Supported by: The Nicholls Family and an Anonymous Donor

"Thank you for yet another year of ingenuity and creativity as we continue to navigate around COVID's curveballs. We appreciate the normalcy the library provides for us and our community." — Donor



BY THE NUMBERS

\$5,505,735

in revenue

15,489

gifts

723,633

Library members

13,973,498

items checked out

507

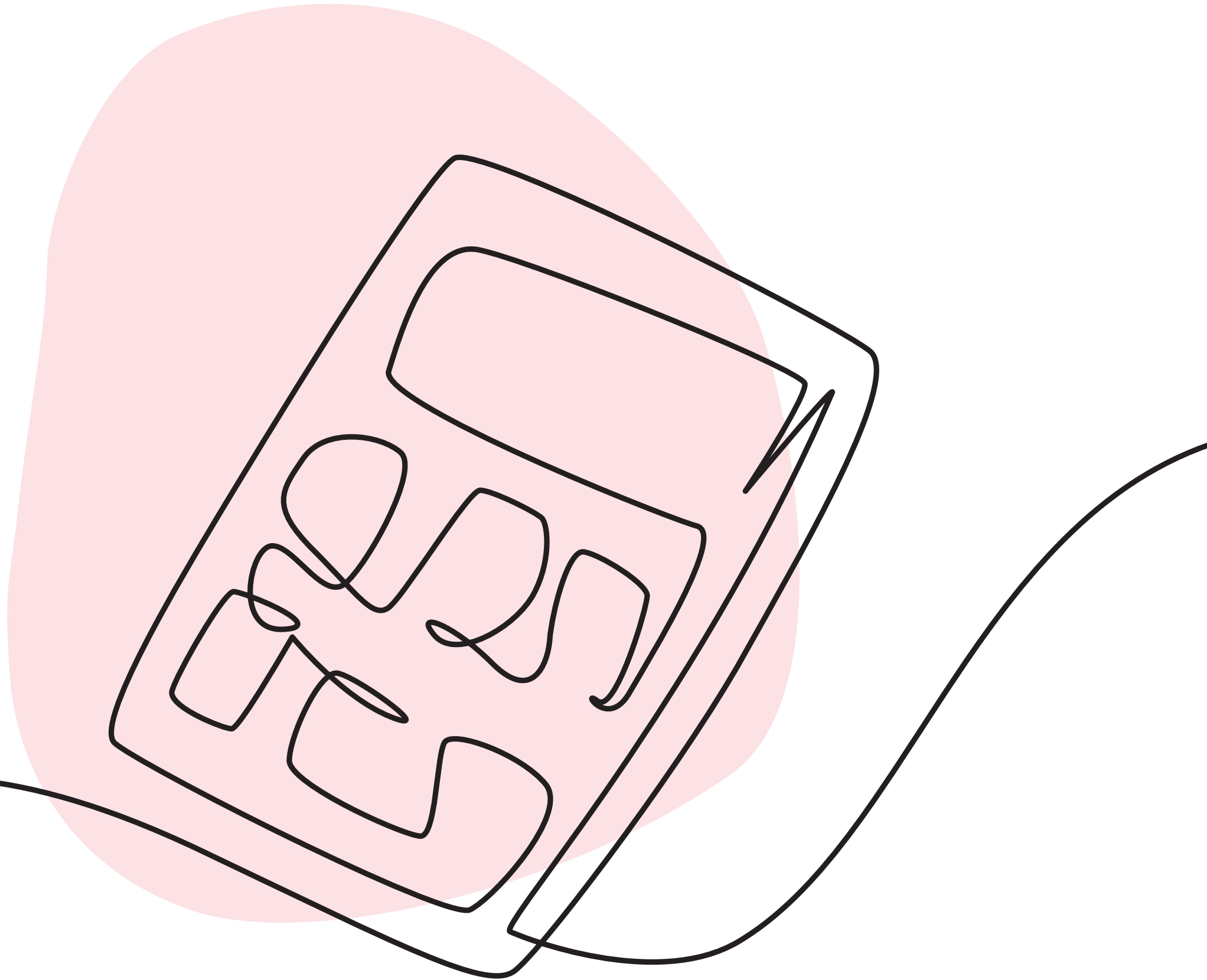
donors supported the Library every month

147,891

hotline questions

557,208

wireless sessions



“I don’t live in Calgary anymore — but I loved the library. I lived in our Bowness branch, and my son made one of his first ‘outside the house’ trips to that branch when he was three weeks old! Keep being wonderful!” — Sarah



Thank you

You have helped the Calgary Public Library support our community through two of the most challenging years in recent history.

With your support, we will continue to enhance and align the Library's programs, services, and resources with the critical needs of our community.

Support your Library at libraryfoundation.ca.



2021 CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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