

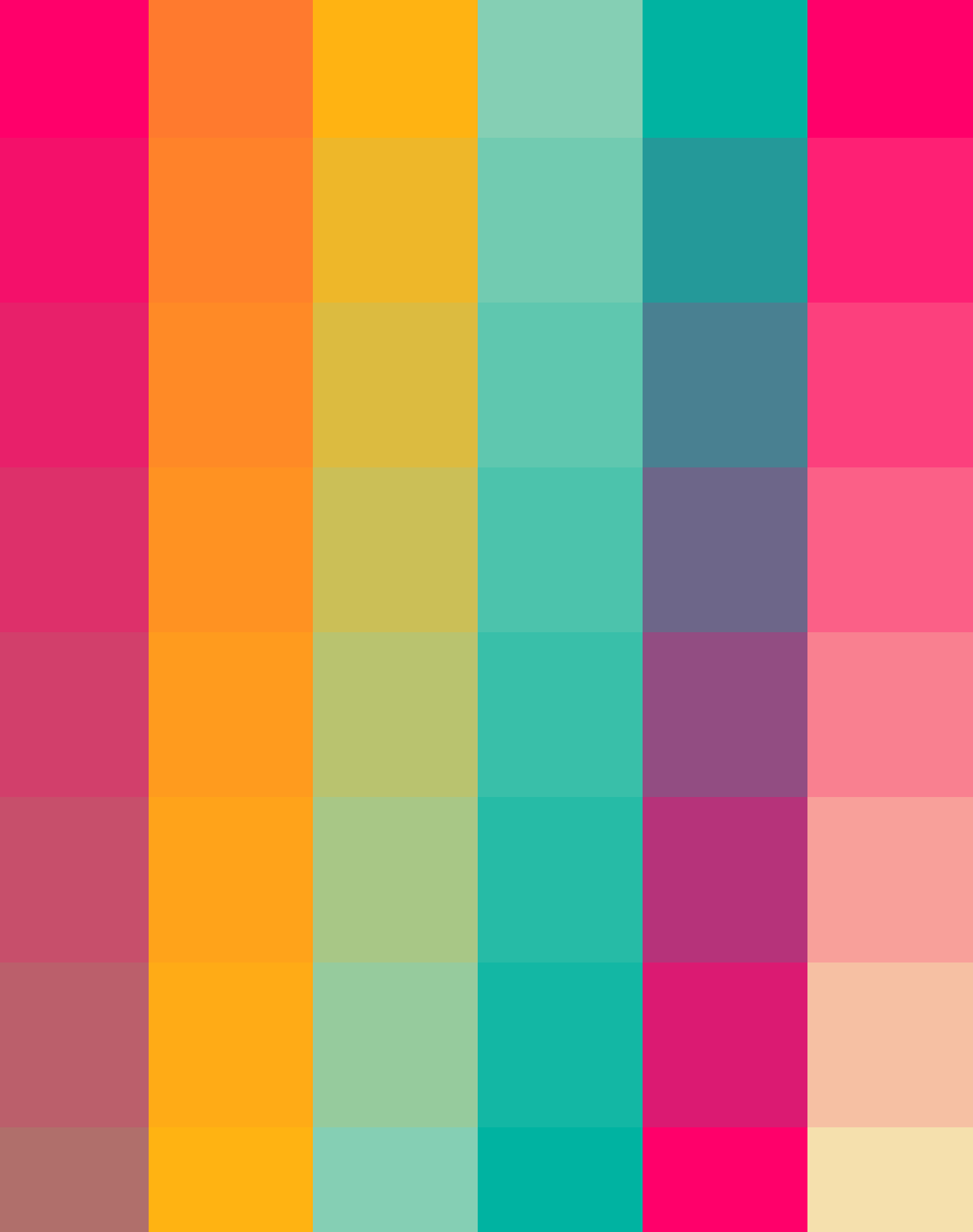


2024

A YEAR IN VIVID COLOUR



CALGARY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION





Calgary
Public Library
Foundation
donors are
creating a
community
where
curiosity is
brightly lit and
belonging is
strengthened.

Knowledge brings vivid colour to our lives.

In much the same way, it's donors who bring vivid colour to Calgary Public Library. Sometimes it's one colour in particular—take for example Engine 23's vibrant shade of fire-engine red, now a dominant addition to Fish Creek Library's palette, or the warm gold of the rising sun through the skylight at Central Library during our annual Giving Tuesday Breakfast. Sometimes it's less about the colour and more about the luminosity of gratitude, whose shades combine to give life and detail to great ideas that strengthen our community and the people who live in it.

Through the vivid colours of generosity, Calgary Public Library Foundation donors are creating a community where curiosity is brightly lit and belonging is strengthened, and where the Library is empowered to meet our community's needs in the most imaginative of ways. Sometimes it means envisioning a space where the children's books are located next to a real-life fire truck, and sometimes it means opening a Library location with no books at all (but plenty of computers—take a look at the section on Prototype: Skyview and you'll understand why). To all who make it possible for the Library to paint in big, bold strokes that add rich colour and detail to our community, thank you—you share in this success. I look forward to the vibrant picture we'll create together in 2025.

Tracy Johnson

CEO

Calgary Public Library Foundation





The generosity
of our donors
fills Calgary
Public Library
with possibility
and promise.

Calgary Public Library is a place where imagination thrives, knowledge grows, and possibilities unfold. It is a space for everyone—a cornerstone of learning, connection, and opportunity. At the heart of it all are our donors, who bring colour and vibrancy to these opportunities, shaping a future where all Calgarians can unlock their full potential.

This past year has been a testament to the transformative power of public libraries and the generosity of those who support them. Calgary Public Library Foundation serves as a bridge between donors and bold ideas that align with their passions, turning them into innovations that enhance the Library's impact. Through donor support, literacy programs, digital access, and lifelong learning initiatives continue to grow, reaching individuals and families in meaningful ways, at every age and stage of life.

As we look ahead to 2025, the Board of Directors remains deeply committed to fostering new connections between you, our donors, and the Library causes closest to your hearts. Just as a vibrant palette brings a work of art to life, the generosity of our donors fills our Library with possibility and promise.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I share my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. Your contributions make these vivid, transformative experiences possible, ensuring that the Library can continue to evolve to meet the needs of our city. As you read through this document, we hope you see the impact of your generosity reflected in the stories and successes of those who call the Library their own. I look forward with excitement to all we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Sabina Shah
Chair, Board of Directors
Calgary Public Library Foundation

818,000+
LIBRARY MEMBERS

VIVID DETAIL

In 2024, Calgary Public Library welcomed an average of 425 new Library members each day. Today, more than 818,000 Calgarians have a Library card—that's almost 60% of the city. Continued support from donors makes it possible for sector-leading Library innovations to be realized, empowering Calgarians to reach their full potential and build a community where everybody belongs.

7M
IN-PERSON VISITS

1.2M
WI-FI SESSIONS

2M+
PRINT JOBS COMPLETED

\$6.3M
RECEIVED
FOR CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

84,243
BOOKINGS ACROSS 93 MEETING ROOMS

15,098
GIFTS IN 2024

15.1 MILLION
CIRCULATIONS (DIGITAL & PHYSICAL)

559
MONTHLY DONORS

“Many beautiful and memorable moments came out of [our time in the My First Bookshelf program]. We grew into a family while reading these books together each night. Thank you to everyone who made this happen.”

— Alice, parent of My First Bookshelf program participant





2024

VIVID IMAGINATION



PROVIDING KINDERGARTEN BOOK BAGS

The Library's **Kindergarten Book Bag** initiative produced book bags complete with everything children and their families need to make the most of the transition to Kindergarten.

Kindergarten Book Bags for the 2024–2025 school year are generously supported by Imperial.

INTRODUCING READERS AND LEADERS

One of the Library's longest-running donor-supported outreach programs was reinvented for the 2024–2025 school year. Formerly known as It's a Crime Not to Read, **Readers and Leaders** builds excitement around reading through visits from firefighters, police officers, EMTs, and 911 operators, who lead storytimes and activities that help students become familiar with first responders and the roles they play in our community.

Readers and Leaders is generously supported by James and Patricia Burns and the BURNSWEST Corporation, Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park, Rotary Partners of Calgary at Stampede Park, and donors to Calgary Public Library Foundation.

7,000

KINDERGARTEN BOOK
BAGS DISTRIBUTED

543

ENGINE 23 BRICKS

101

FIRST RESPONDERS
VISITED READERS
AND LEADERS



VIVID IMAGINATION

ENGINE 23 RIDES AGAIN

Just over a year after the Library Foundation launched the Ladder Up on Literacy campaign to return **Engine 23** to service, the dynamic play-and-learn educational installation reopened to the community in Fish Creek Library in April. In the days and weeks following Engine 23's grand opening, visits to this Library increased by 40%. The redeveloped Early Learning Centre, with Engine 23 at its heart, applies the Library's cutting-edge design thinking to an environment where children can engage in play-based learning, learn about fire safety, and become familiar with the role first responders play in our community.

Donor support was instrumental in completing this project, including gifts made by supporters of the **Brick-buy-Brick initiative**, with inscribed messages on 539 vinyl "bricks" now displayed on the community donor wall in Fish Creek Library's Early Learning Centre.

Engine 23 is supported by Firehouse Subs, Troy Life & Fire Safety, the Walker family, DRB Mechanical, and donors to Calgary Public Library Foundation.



2024

VIVID DREAMS

*Service Delivery Staff Sehaab Babar and Armaan Pandher
at Prototype: Skyview. Photo credit Marcus Fryia.*



“[At Prototype: Skyview], seating areas have been consistently occupied by community members, including several medical professionals who are new to Canada. What began as one person in a room or at a table has grown into a group of people enjoying a space together, sharing information and connecting over their journey to continue practicing medicine in North America.”

— Sarah Meilleur, Calgary Public Library CEO, on Prototype: Skyview’s immediate impact on the community

4

LOCATIONS WITH
NEWCOMERS DESKS

27,846+

ENGLISH CONVERSATION
GROUP REGISTRANTS

1

DIGITAL-FIRST
LIBRARY SPACE

*Newcomer support at
Calgary Public Library is
generously supported by
Linda and Gordon Hoy,
RBC Foundation, and
donors to Calgary Public
Library Foundation.*





VIVID DREAMS


A BLUEPRINT FOR LOOKING UPWARD— PROTOTYPE: SKYVIEW

The Library's newest innovation occupies a simple storefront in the Skyview Ranch neighbourhood, but, to borrow a phrase from our friends in the Collections department, don't judge a book by its cover. **Prototype: Skyview** is a brand-new service-delivery solution, one developed with support for newcomers and everyday digital needs at the forefront. This temporary location provides residents of Skyview and the surrounding communities with technology and gathering spaces as plans take shape for the area's full-service Library location.

The flexibility of unrestricted gifts enables the Library to respond in innovative ways to emerging community needs, such as the needs of newcomers to Calgary. Donor support for Prototype: Skyview will be crucial in 2025 and beyond as the Library continues to provide much-needed digital resources while planning ways to reach Calgary's newest communities.

CALLING CANADA HOME

Because the Library offers free access to a wealth of resources to help make the settlement experience as easy as possible, it's often a first stop for many newcomers to Calgary. Through Library initiatives that connect newcomers to the city's settlement agencies, develop their English-language skills, or provide access to resources like free Wi-Fi, printing, and computers, donors are helping new Calgarians build a sense of belonging in their new community.



“In my time supporting Wellness Desk clients, I have learned that what they all have in common is that they are looking for connections of some kind. And whether it’s connection to ideas, stories, thoughts, feelings or to people, libraries are safe spaces to grow connection and to learn.”

— Wellness Desk counsellor



2024
VIVID SELF





839

WELLNESS DESK
VISITORS IN 2024

74%

INCREASE IN
WELLNESS DESK HOURS
OVER 2023

22

LIBRARY LOCATIONS
PROVIDING FREE
PERIOD PRODUCTS IN
RESTROOMS



VIVID SELF

SUPPORTING MENTAL WELL-BEING

In April, we joined with representatives from BMO Financial Group to celebrate and share our gratitude for their generous gift in support of the Library's wellness initiatives, including the **Wellness Desk**. The celebration took place, fittingly, in the BMO Community Room at Central Library, and marks a new development in a yearslong partnership that includes BMO Financial Group's support of the Add In Campaign for Central Library.

The Wellness Desk is operated in partnership with Wood's Homes and is generously supported by BMO Financial Group, Boone-Poole Family Foundation, The City of Calgary, and donors to Calgary Public Library Foundation.

REDUCING PERIOD POVERTY

In November, Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health extended their support for the **Free. Period.** initiative. This gift enabled the Library to complete its goal to increase access to a basic health care need. Now, period products are available for free in restroom facilities at every Library location in Calgary.

The Free. Period. initiative is generously supported by Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health and donors to Calgary Public Library Foundation.



*“I am so glad that
Calgary Public
Library continues
to stand up for all
people regardless
of ethnicity, religion,
and income levels.
[The Library] truly
creates a community
of acceptance and
I hope this never
changes.”*

*— attendee, International
Holocaust Remembrance
Day 2024*



2024
VIVID INSIGHT

VIVID INSIGHT

INSIGHT THROUGH AWARENESS

The Library's **Human Rights and Holocaust Education** program provides opportunities to raise awareness and engage in critical dialogue about the contemporary state of human rights and the historical impact and legacy of The Holocaust. The program's 2023-2024 slate included 14 events that attracted more than 5,700 participants and attendees.

2023-2024 Human Rights and Holocaust Education programming is supported by the Isadore and Florence Burstyn Memorial Fund for Human Rights & Holocaust Education, KSW Calgary Holocaust Education & Commemoration Endowment Fund, and donors to the Human Rights and Holocaust Education Fund at Calgary Public Library Foundation.

2024-2025 Human Rights and Holocaust Education programming is supported by the Balaban Family, the Krell Family, Viewpoint Foundation, and donors to the Human Rights and Holocaust Education Fund at Calgary Public Library Foundation.

INSIGHT THROUGH CONNECTION

Through the **Job Desk**, Calgarians are connected to resources for job-seekers and strategies for career planning and transition. In 2024, the Job Desk served almost 4,000 Calgarians with a high level of satisfaction: 98% of Job Desk users rate their experience using the resource as very good or excellent.

The Job Desk is operated in partnership with Bow Valley College and supported by the Government of Alberta.





5,700

ATTENDED HOLOCAUST
AND HUMAN RIGHTS
EDUCATION EVENTS

4,000+

CALGARIANS SERVED
THROUGH JOB DESK


98%

RATED JOB DESK
EXPERIENCE AS VERY
GOOD OR EXCELLENT



2024

VIVID CHARACTERS



*“The Library is the
one institution that is
there for everyone all
the time, and in so
many ways.”*

*— Susan, Calgary Public
Library Foundation
volunteer*



118

**LIBRARY FOUNDATION
VOLUNTEERS**

**THANK YOU TO THE 2024 CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Naim Ali, Secretary
Jordan Balaban
Shashi Behl
Pamela Draper
Thu Duncan-Nguyen
Jason Jogia
Dean Koeller
Evan Legate
James Pettigrew, Treasurer
Don Sewell
Sabina Shah, Chair
Rob Van Wielingen
Rachel Wade
Margaret Wu
Patricia Moore, O.C. (member emerita)

1,424

**LIBRARY FOUNDATION
VOLUNTEER HOURS
CONTRIBUTED**

1,100

**VOLUNTEERS
ONBOARDED AT
CALGARY PUBLIC
LIBRARY IN 2024**

VIVID CHARACTERS

ACTS OF SERVICE

Last year, **118 Library Foundation volunteers** contributed 1,424 hours of service, supporting events, filling LibraryStore.ca orders, and advancing the cause of Library philanthropy in our community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

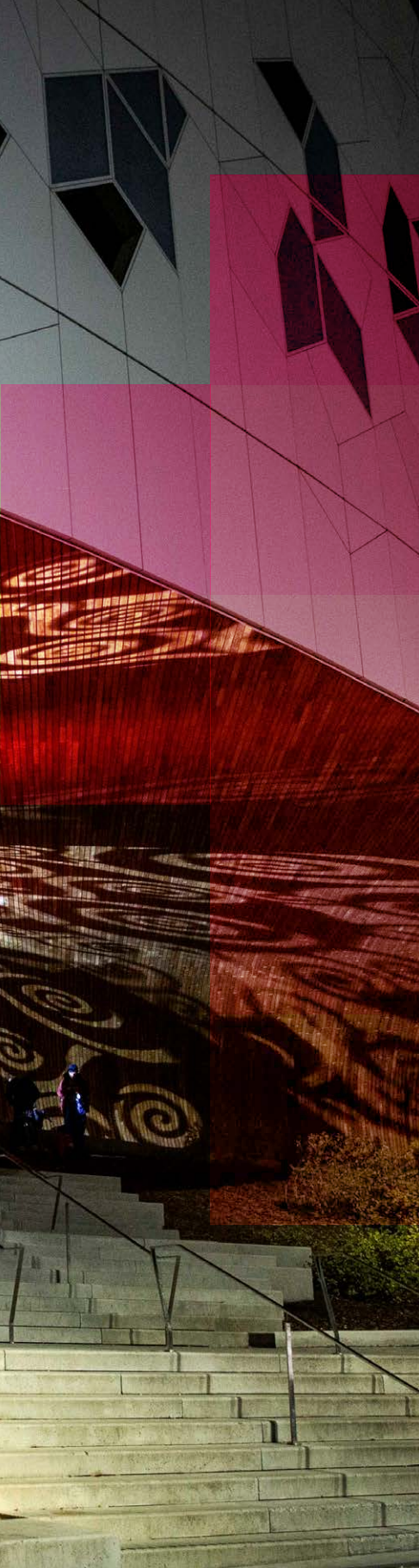
As dedicated volunteers themselves, Calgary Public Library Foundation's Board of Directors plays a vital role in shaping our mission. Their generosity extends beyond leadership—they give their time, expertise, and passion year-round. From facilitating meaningful connections and sharing their insights on our committees to championing the Library's work in our community, our Board members are invaluable ambassadors.

It takes many skilled hands to provide steady leadership. Last year, Sabina Shah succeeded Rob Van Wielingen as Chair of the Library Foundation's Board of Directors. We extend our deepest gratitude to him for his tireless advocacy and support during his tenure as Board Chair. Thanks, Rob, for everything!

In 2024, the Board of Directors reaffirmed a vivid commitment to our community, developing new mission and vision statements that guide the Library Foundation's work. These statements describe the Library Foundation's deeply-held belief that through the Library, everyone in our community can access knowledge, potential, and opportunity.



2024
VIVID SCENES



*“The libraries in
Calgary are magical
spaces where
people from all
walks of life can
connect, make
friends, and learn
in safe and healthy
ways. We love the
Library!”*

*— Taylor, Calgary Public
Library patron*



VIVID SCENES

AFTER DARK AND AT DAWN

In 2024, the Library Foundation community came together to raise support and awareness for the Library's highest-priority needs. Across a full slate of events, including **LIT GALA: ONCE**, three **Locked Library** challenges, the **Epilogue Society Tea** and legacy planning webinars, and our annual **Giving Tuesday Fundraising Breakfast**, close to 3,000 people joined us in celebration to help sustain the future of the Library.

\$600K

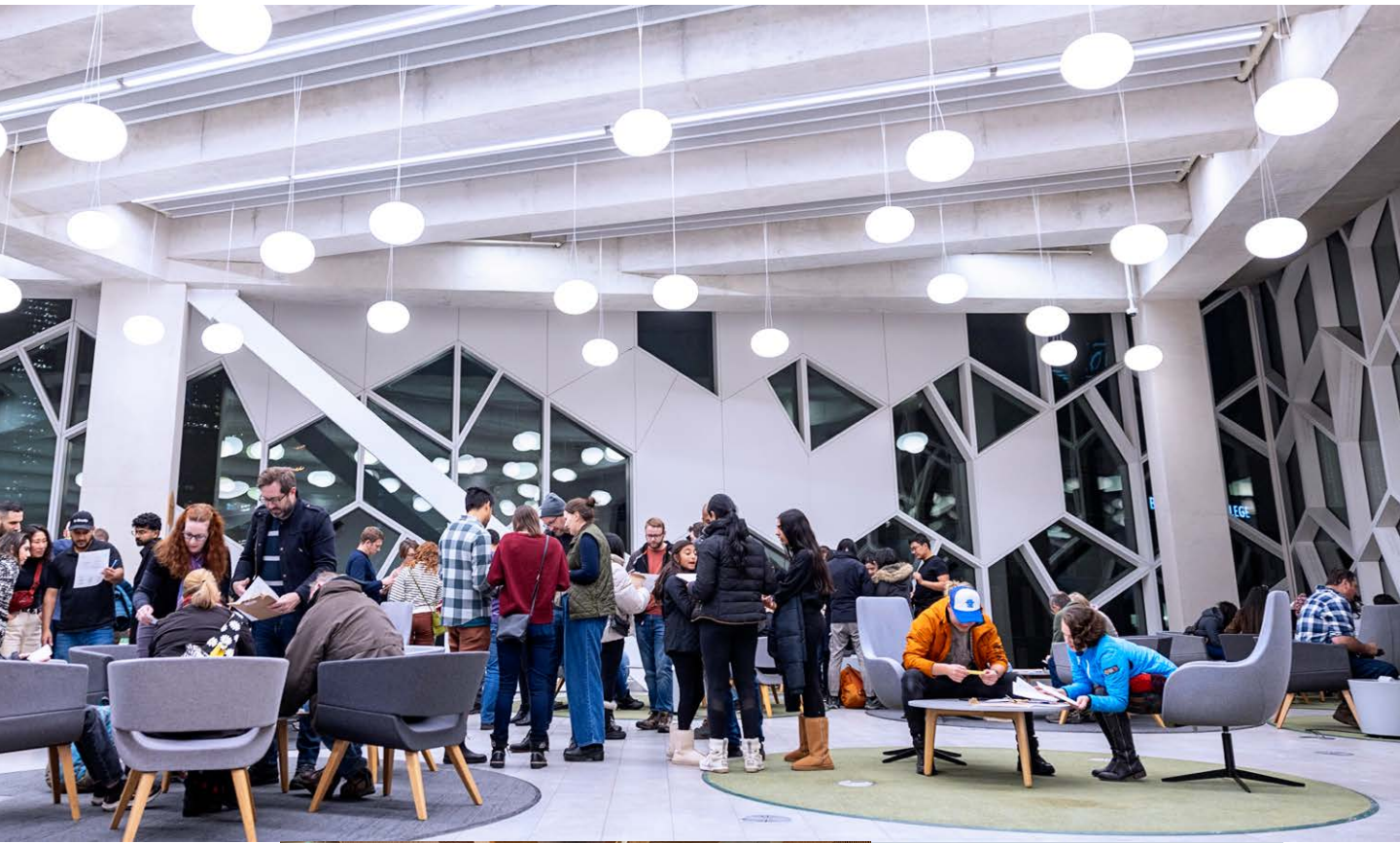
RAISED AT
LIT GALA: ONCE

1,892

LOCKED LIBRARY
PLAYERS

4

EPILOGUE SOCIETY
WEBINARS HELD





2025
VIVID FUTURE



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P 403 221 2002 libraryfoundation.ca

Charitable Registration Number: 87292-3537-RR-0001