When I entered 2020 as DCPLA’s new president, I was full of hope and excitement: we had momentum with a new crop of directors ready to continue the tradition of helping our libraries through community events. In March 2020, with our signature St. Patrick’s Day luncheon ready to launch, the world halted due to the worldwide pandemic. We cancelled our luncheon and all other events for the year, and the libraries closed. We had to rethink, regroup, and re-energize. We adapted to a virtual world. Despite these challenges, through generous grants and donations, we raised over $76,000 in 2020.

As the Daly City Public Library began to open slowly with popular curbside service, we realized that our diverse community was hungering for that missed connection with our libraries and all that they offer. We donated funds toward additional Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots, as well as Playaway Launchpads focusing on the needs of young children and their families. In October we launched the Daly City Youth Poet Laureate program, the first of its kind in San Mateo County, and we planned for DCPLA’s 10th Anniversary online event set for April 2021.

Thank you to our forward-thinking Board of Directors and especially to Executive Director Victoria Magbilang, who hit her stride this year, her second year on the job. Her vision has guided us through this challenging period in bringing more awareness to how vital our libraries are.

All the best to my successor as DCPLA president, the amazing Brian Dossey. Like me, Brian grew up in Daly City and spent a lot of time at our libraries. He isn’t a very busy guy – only the City Manager of the Town of Colma. Under his capable leadership, we look forward to a stronger DCPLA in the year to come.

Our libraries are essential. With the continued support of our members, our major donors, and our partners in the business community, the DCPLA looks forward to reconnecting with you in-person.

Warmest Regards,

Rosie Tejada
2020 DCPLA Board President
While we started 2020 with plans to continue our annual St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon, by March, it became evident that the COVID-19 pandemic would force us to think of new and imaginative ways to continue to serve our community.

With all of the planning and the vast majority of the preparation completed, we made the difficult decision to postpone the luncheon days before it was scheduled to take place on March 12.

However, we were still committed to raising funds and pivoted our thinking. We tentatively rescheduled the luncheon to June 3. But as that date approached, it was obvious that a large in-person event would still not be feasible. With the help of her two teenagers, DCPLA Executive Director recorded the St. Patrick’s Day raffle drawing on June 20 in her backyard, which was shown on YouTube.

Raffle prizes included a 50” HDR Smart TV donated by Teresa Proaño and Duggan’s Serra Mortuary, an Irish tavern-themed gift basket donated by Molloy’s Tavern, a beautiful planter box donated by Two Birds Artistry and retired DCFD Fire Chief and DCPLA member Bob O’Donnell, an Apple Watch donated by Republic Services, a FitBit donated by Dan Duggan of Duggan’s Serra Mortuary, and gift cards to local restaurants donated by DCPLA Board of Directors, Daly City Library and Recreation Director Joseph Curran, and City Manager Shawnna Maltbie.

Thanks to the support of our members, donors, and sponsors, we were able to raise over $14,000 at the virtual event.

As the summer went on and the pandemic showed no signs of abating, we decided that it would be impossible to hold our second annual event, Crazy About Cars.

In-person events have traditionally been the lifeline of DCPLA, and the loss of revenue caused by the pandemic had the potential to be devastating to our operations. However, in May we were fortunate to be awarded a grant of $20,000 from the San Mateo County Strong Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation, helping us to cover our operating expenses for the near future.

We thank the foundation for recognizing the important role that our public libraries play in our community.

Without the funding opportunities provided by our traditional St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon and Crazy About Cars events, we shifted our focus to securing grants to pass along to the Library.

In February, we presented Mayor Glenn Sylvester with a check for $25,000. This generous grant from the Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation, the largest grant DCPLA has ever received, helped to fund the Public Use Computer Upgrade Project, replacing computers provided to the Library by the DCPLA in 2012, which had become outdated.

In July, we gave two more grants to the Library, $3,000 from Philanthropic Ventures Foundation for Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots and $3,500 from the Danford Fisher Hannig Foundation to go towards the Summer Learning Program.

In September, we provided additional Summer Learning Program funding with a grant of $1,750 from Kaiser Permanente along with funds from DCPLA reserves.

Our last grant of the year was in November, when we presented a check for $10,220 to the Library. $5,220 was due to a generous donation from the Town of Colma to purchase additional Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots for checkout by library card holders. To expand upon the ongoing Circulating Technology Grant, DCPLA also donated $5,000 to the Library to purchase Playaway Launchpads. Funding for this grant was thanks to the support of our members, donors, and sponsors.

With communication to our members and other donors during the pandemic mostly limited to online technology, we expanded our social media outreach, which already included Facebook, with new Instagram and Nextdoor accounts.

Victoria and Eden Magbilang recording the St. Patrick’s Day raffle in their garden, with a view of Daly City in the background.
Not only is social media a great way to keep in touch with our supporters, but it also provides an opportunity for fundraising through campaigns such as Giving Tuesday and Facebook birthday fundraisers. Thank you to our supporters who designated us as their nonprofit to receive funds from their birthday fundraisers, to all who donated to the Giving Tuesday fundraisers, and to Facebook for providing these vehicles for fundraising.

We also took this opportunity to update and redesign our website. The Board of Directors would like to thank Matt Sedik, who generously donated his time to redesign and build our new website.

While brainstorming ways to continue to be active in our community even while sheltered in place, we came across the National Youth Post Laureate Program, created by Urban Word NY. We realized that, by starting our own competition to name the first Daly City Poet Laureate, we would also set a precedent by hosting the first Youth Poet Laureate program in all of San Mateo County. We are excited about this opportunity to engage Daly City teens and appreciate our partnership with Urban Word and our Daly City Public Libraries in providing this beneficial program to our community.

As part of the program, we held a free Zoom poetry workshop, hosted by San Mateo County Poet Laureate Aileen Cassinetto. The workshop was open to any teens who were interested in learning more about the craft of poetry and received a very good turnout.

2020 may go down in history as a stressful and tumultuous year, but we will also remember it as one where our community showed what we’re made of by banding together to support each other and to keep our citizens safe.

DCPLA Launches Program to Choose the First Daly City Youth Poet Laureate

We are proud to announce the launch of our Daly City Youth Poet Laureate program. In partnership with the National Youth Poet Laureate Program by Urban Word and Daly City Public Library, the program celebrates teen poets who live or attend school in Daly City and exhibit a commitment to artistic excellence, civic engagement, leadership, and social justice.

The Youth Poet Laureate receives:
- $5,000 award
- VIP status to represent Daly City at community events between May 2021 and May 2022
- Publication of 5 poems in the National Youth Poet Laureate annual anthology

Applicants must meet the following criteria:
- Reside OR attend school in Daly City
- Be between the ages of 13 and 18 years old by the application deadline
- Serve as Laureate for the program year, May 2021–May 2022

For additional information, email Victoria Magbilang at info@dcpla.org or call (415) 596-8194.

Grant Spotlight: Playaway Launchpad

Playaway Launchpad is a pre-loaded tablet that is built for circulation. Launchpads are curated with collections of learning apps, videos, and comics grouped by age and ready to play right off the shelf. With a one-touch reset feature and universal accessibility, they are the easiest way for libraries to circulate digital media.
THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 DONORS!
We owe our success to the generous support of our community.

**$5,000 and above**
- Town of Colma
- Gellert Foundation
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation

**$2,000–$4,999**
- Danford Fisher Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente
- Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

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Ways to Support DCPLA

**Become a member:** www.dcpla.org
**Mail a check, made out to “DCPLA”:** PO Box 3283, Daly City, CA 94015

**Donate or renew your membership:** paypal.me/dcpla

**Choose us as your charity, and Amazon will automatically donate 0.5% of your purchases, with no extra cost to you.**
**Sign up at:** smile.amazon.com

DCPLA is a recognized public charity with non-profit 501(c)(3) status. Federal tax ID# 27-3262898

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