Dear Friends and Supporters of the Newberry,

Although the past 20 months have been unlike any in the Newberry’s 134 year history, we have done much more than just weather the pandemic. Our staff and Trustees together have advanced many projects and established a solid foundation for the library’s future. We are especially proud that, despite all the necessary energy required to respond to rapidly changing public health conditions, the Newberry is thriving.

COVID-19 presented many challenges in 2020–21, but our doors on Walton Street remained open to the public for the majority of the year. Newberry staff creatively and effectively executed the library’s mission and found innovative ways to remain engaged with you. We prioritized safely accommodating individual researchers, fellows, and exhibition visitors on site, while all library programming, classes, and seminars were held virtually, attracting audiences from across the United States as well as many foreign countries. In the following pages, you’ll read stories that demonstrate how each area of the library found ways to flourish in these unusual times.

Time and time again, we were reminded of the strength and dedication of the Newberry’s community. Whether in our building or on our computer screens, Newberrians like you gathered to share discoveries made in our collection, exchange insights on a wide range of topics, and deepen each other’s understanding of our past and present. We were heartened by the enthusiasm with which long-standing and new audiences embraced the Newberry’s virtual offerings. We enjoyed seeing how eagerly people returned to our building as soon as they were able. And we are grateful that our community rallied around the Newberry to provide significant philanthropic support, leading to one of our best fundraising years on record.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we remain eager to see both familiar and new faces at the library. Growing our audience remains a priority, as does ensuring that the Newberry becomes an even more inclusive and welcoming environment for all who wish to engage with us. In 2021, we took multiple steps to address diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), implementing both a new staff working group and Trustee committee to lead our efforts. As a foundation for this work, the staff and Board together wrote an institutional statement, adopted by our Board in June 2021, that articulates the Newberry’s commitment to advancing inclusivity and equity.
Staff DEI work has been based on collaboration at the Newberry and prioritizes projects that will transform the library. We adopted a new Statement on Potentially Offensive Materials and Descriptions in the library’s collection. We revised both our policy on Access to Culturally Sensitive Indigenous Materials and, in partnership with the Chicago American Indian Center, our institutional Land Acknowledgment statement. With funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we continued our work with three tribal partners to expand access to the Newberry’s Indigenous collections. And we made our exhibitions more accessible through bilingual labels and tours. We also remain committed to facing our own institutional past, as evidenced by our public exploration of the Newberry’s practice of signing racially restrictive covenants on properties it owned during the first half of the twentieth century.

These ongoing efforts to make the Newberry a more diverse and equitable institution are just one of many priorities we will address in the coming years. We also are committed to welcoming more people back into our building while continuing to engage the far-reaching communities we have built online. We are implementing a new digital asset management system that will vastly improve users’ ability to search and engage with our growing collection of digital resources, investing in technology to support virtual and onsite programming, and developing a new website that will help the library reach broader audiences and make it easier for you to navigate our collections and programs. Of course, we will continue activities core to our mission: acquiring items for our collection, providing enlightening programs and exhibitions, and serving each member of our community to the best of our ability.

These ambitious goals for the year ahead will depend on your generous support, which makes our work possible. For that, we are deeply grateful. We hope you will be inspired by the Newberry in the year ahead. And we hope to spend much more time in person—with you and our entire community of library users—on Walton Street.

Sincerely,

Burton X. Rosenberg, Chair, Board of Trustees

Daniel Greene, President and Librarian
Exhibitions, public programs, and adult education seminars are a first point of contact for many people who become lifelong members of our community. In 2020–21, we continued to present engaging programming and grow our audiences as we shifted programs to Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook. The popular adult education seminars program successfully hosted a virtual year of classes for lifelong learners, attracting participants from 41 states and six foreign countries. We also saw impressive geographic diversity among the audiences of our 36 virtual public programs. These programs—ranging from discussions on immigration policy and presidential scandals to the study of race in early American filmmaking and the historical context of the Netflix hit Bridgerton—brought diverse perspectives to bear on contemporary issues.

The Newberry mounted five exhibitions that inspired visitors to learn about Renaissance prints, Latin American revolutions, Indigenous artists, and presidential politics. Two exhibitions—Renaissance Invention: Stradanus’s Nova Reperta and Sweet Bitter Love: An Initiative of Toward Common Cause—involved cooperation with peer organizations like the Art Institute of Chicago and partnerships with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. All gallery labels for our spring exhibition, ¡Viva la Libertad!: Latin America and the Age of Revolutions, were presented in Spanish and English to great success; we will continue this bilingual approach as we attempt to reach wider audiences. Decision 1920: A Return to “Normalcy” took visitors back to a critically important presidential election that occurred in a deeply divided nation emerging from a devastating pandemic. All of our exhibitions demonstrated how our collection continues to be deeply relevant to understanding our contemporary world.

As we look forward, we will find exciting ways to make our collection and staff expertise accessible to you in our exhibition galleries, classrooms, programming spaces, and online.

“Being able to stay connected to the library thanks to the tireless work of the staff has been a true blessing in these unsettling times.”

Virtual Public Program Attendee
1,816 participants attended 101 virtual adult education seminars across 372 Zoom meetings.

9,548 viewers attended 36 virtual public programs.

6,557 visitors enjoyed 5 exhibitions.

8,740 people watched our new “Newb’Tube” live video series.

71,652 people followed the Newberry on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

“It’s really heartening to see how the Newberry has stepped up during this pandemic by providing wonderful virtual programs and seminars. The staff are an inspiration!”

---

Virtual Public Program Attendee
The Newberry Institute for Research and Education builds and sustains lively communities of learning among fellows, scholars-in-residence, schoolteachers, and undergraduate students. Our scholarly community and educational opportunities have long been a point of pride at the Newberry.

We welcomed nine long-term and 12 short-term fellows in 2020–21, some working in the building and others remotely. We also incorporated the Newberry’s DEI goals into our review of applications for long-term fellowships, making this year’s incoming class one of our most diverse.

The Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar, which serves four Chicago colleges, held class meetings virtually, while students came to the library to conduct their individual research in person on the topic “Chicago: City of Art, Industry, and Labor.” In the winter of 2021, we hosted our first entirely virtual undergraduate seminar for a class of history majors from Colorado College.

We organized 53 virtual Newberry Teacher Consortium professional development seminars, serving more than 450 primary and secondary schoolteachers. We also added seven new collections of primary source materials for students and educators to our Digital Collections for the Classroom site, which remains the most visited of the Newberry’s digital resources, with more than 134,000 individual users in 2020–21.

Our four research centers offered an ambitious roster of programs and opportunities. The Center for Renaissance Studies held two virtual conferences, one exploring “Food and the Book” and the other delving into censorship, speech, and dissent in pre-modern life—both drew record attendance. The D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies expanded its outreach to tribal partners through an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-funded project to increase access to Indigenous studies collections at the Newberry. Staff in the Smith Center for the History of Cartography and the Program in Chicago Studies planned for exhibitions that will fill the Newberry’s galleries and help guide public programming in 2021–22.

The Newberry continues to take pride in our ongoing service to scholars, teachers, and students at all levels. We believe that guided exploration can lead to new knowledge and important connections between our collection, our scholars, and the public.
“Although we could not be together every day in our research carrels at the library, I think I can speak for my cohort when I say we all feel part of the Newberry’s wonderful community now.”

Kelly Fleming, long-term fellow

138,347 individual users visited the Digital Collections for the Classroom site.

459 educators attended 53 professional development seminars.

66 months of support were provided for 9 long-term fellows and 12 short-term fellows.

1,353 people attended 60 scholarly seminars.

“This is the first time in my undergraduate career where I have felt uplifted and recognized as a knowledgeable, worthy scholar. What is really incredible is that I got to feel that way while using my own voice and thoughts. This has been the most enriching and exciting class I have ever taken and I genuinely wish I could take different versions of it forever.”

Liz Becker, class of 2021, DePaul University, and a student in the 2021 Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar
Our dedicated librarians, curators, catalogers, and conservators remained tireless in their work to serve readers, grow and care for the collection, and expand access to digital tools. Implementing a system to handle more than 1,500 requests for research appointments, quarantining books that had been paged, cleaning tables and computers after each use, and communicating the latest public health policies were immensely time-consuming aspects of Newberry work in 2020–21. Nonetheless, they made it possible to inspire research and learning while providing access, both onsite and virtually, to our remarkable collection.

Our Digital Initiatives and Services department embarked on major infrastructure improvements, beginning migration to a new digital asset management system. When fully implemented, this system will vastly improve our ability to manage our large collection of digitized materials and make it easier for the public to search, download, and interact with our collection materials from a distance. We also continue to add new materials to our digital collections, including approximately 250,000 manuscript pages from the papers of 13 prominent social reformers of twentieth-century Chicago, thanks to a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

The migration of our catalog to the library system Alma/Primo VE was completed as scheduled in June 2020. Library users responded enthusiastically to the new catalog interface, which provides more flexibility, functionality, and productivity as a search tool and technical service. Several long-hidden collections are now fully described in the catalog.

In 2020–21, staff in collections and library services proved that closed doors are but a small hindrance to accessing the Newberry’s collection. We look forward to continued investment in digitization and online tools that make remote collection access easier while we welcome back our readers and researchers to our reading rooms.

Readers in the James M. Wells Reading Rooms, October 2021
Growing the Collection

The Newberry added 3,380 items to our collection in 2020–21. Highlights include:

◆ Multiple collections relating to Chicago-area African American history, including a rare Black Baptist church history and a complete run of a newsletter focused on desegregating North Shore suburban real estate markets

◆ Original artwork and published maps by the Chicago illustrator Frederic J. Dornseif, acquired with funds from the Society of Collectors, offering insights into commercial map design in Chicago in the 1930s and 40s

◆ Fourteen paintings created by Chicago artists between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth century, donated by M. Christine Schwartz

◆ The archive of the Chicago nightclub Mister Kelly’s, donated by David Marienthal, including more than 100 oral histories with singers, musicians, and comedians, as well as books, periodicals, posters, live recordings, photographs, and artifacts

5,489 titles were cataloged.

18 Modern Manuscript and Archival collections were processed.

514 items were treated by conservation.

522 individuals registered as new Newberry readers.

5,312 items were requested for use in reading rooms.

524 unique readers made 1,832 visits to our reading rooms.

1,620 reference requests were filled in person.

3,640 reference requests were answered via correspondence.
Thanks to our dedicated community of donors, 2020–21 was a remarkable year for fundraising. We are profoundly grateful for your commitment to the Newberry, our staff, and our work.

We raised more than $7.4 million in 2020–21, outperforming expectations in almost all areas. We exceeded our vital Annual Fund goal by roughly 20 percent, bringing in total contributions of nearly $2.1 million, a record high. We are also gratified by a continued increase in new donors each year, as well as by our impressive donor retention rates, which remain well above national averages. Corporate giving, gifts from foundations, and support from government agencies also increased.

A new initiative, spearheaded by a group of former fellows and launched in November 2020, focused on securing contributions from former Newberry fellows to support future fellowships at the library. Our network of alumni fellows responded positively, committing more than $100,000, nearly enough to endow two short-term fellowships annually.

Though we could not be together in person for events at the Newberry, including the much beloved annual Book Fair, we gathered virtually in May 2021 to present Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution Lonnie G. Bunch III with the Newberry Library Award. You can read a transcript of the conversation with Secretary Bunch in this issue of *The Newberry Magazine.*

Operating revenues for the fiscal year totaled $28.6 million, with expenses of $10.9 million. On June 30, 2021, the Newberry’s investment portfolio balance stood at $93.9 million, a $17.6 million increase from the prior year. More details on our financial position may be found on the following pages.

We are fortunate to enjoy this strong financial position in trying times and thank our Newberry friends for their generous philanthropic support.

1,808 donors made gifts to the Annual Fund.

411 Annual Fund donors were first-time supporters of the library.

57 former fellows made gifts or commitments to the Fellows Fellowship Fund.

50 donors enjoyed curator-led tours of our exhibitions.

162 attendees logged in to our new virtual event series for donors.
Summary of Financial Position

For the year ended June 30, 2021, and for the year ended June 30, 2020 (000s omitted).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and receivables</td>
<td>$ 6,657</td>
<td>$ 4,872</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>93,879</td>
<td>76,322</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land, buildings, equipment</td>
<td>16,832</td>
<td>17,918</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$118,252</td>
<td>$99,892</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$ 856</td>
<td>$ 1,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift annuity liability</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>236</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract liabilities</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paycheck Protection Program Loan</td>
<td>1,157</td>
<td>1,269</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonds payable</td>
<td>1,960</td>
<td>2,254</td>
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<td>Line of credit</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>4,400</td>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>9,010</td>
<td>9,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td>109,242</td>
<td>90,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td>$118,252</td>
<td>$99,892</td>
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</tbody>
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Summary of Activities

For the year ended June 30, 2021, and for the year ended June 30, 2020 (000s omitted).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts and grants for operations</td>
<td>$ 5,996</td>
<td>$ 6,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts to endowment</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>1,163</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment gain (loss)</td>
<td>21,042</td>
<td>3,058</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paycheck Protection Loan Forgiveness</td>
<td>1,269</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other revenues</td>
<td>1,339</td>
<td>1,681</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues and other gains</strong></td>
<td>29,993</td>
<td>12,463</td>
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**Expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library and collection services</td>
<td>5,126</td>
<td>5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and academic programs</td>
<td>1,949</td>
<td>3,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>2,980</td>
<td>3,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditures</strong></td>
<td>10,849</td>
<td>12,370</td>
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**Change in net assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$19,144</td>
<td>$ 93</td>
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The following donors generously made gifts to the Annual Fund and are recognized as members of the President’s Fellows or Newberry Associates.

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