Greetings Library friends,

It's now the fourth week that the Library building has been closed to the public, a situation that none of us could have even imagined a month ago. This pandemic is unprecedented in our lifetimes and we are all feeling the impact. For those of us used to working in a bustling, public library, it's been a difficult adjustment.

Our librarians have been working really hard the last few weeks to transition our library services online, adding additional e-books, doing bi-weekly storytimes on facebook, regularly adding new links to digital resources, and moving our popular PoemCity event online for the month of April. All of these resources and more can be accessed from our website or by clicking on these links.

For people who live in our service area, but don’t have library cards, we've set up an online form so that folks can sign up and access resources. All of our staff are working remotely from home on various projects. We are all missing being in our beautiful building and serving the hundreds of people that use our library daily.

The closure of the Library will have a financial impact, but we are luckier than some. Our fiscal year closes on June 30th and the majority of our fundraising is done in the fall and winter months. That put us in a fairly sound financial position prior to the closure. Our anticipated income loss, depending on how long we will be completely closed, is projected to be about $20,000 this fiscal year. We are going to offset as much of that as possible by reducing expenses.
None of us know how long this crisis will last, but we know it will have a lasting impact. There are many individuals, businesses, and organizations that have tremendous immediate needs to pull through this. While the Library isn’t in that group, we’ve started planning ahead for when we re-open and how we can support the community as we all recover from this experience.

Once the Stay at Home order is lifted, people will need libraries more than ever. Not only are libraries important to enhancing individuals’ quality of life, for many people libraries are essential to life. People will use our computers to apply for jobs, use our resources for education and comfort, and use our building to be social and rebuild a sense of community after a long period of isolation.

This spring, we won’t be sending out our normal appeal by mail. Instead, we are asking that anyone in a position to donate to the library, please do so online. This is a great time to consider becoming a monthly supporter of the library. You can give a small amount each month that works for your budget and set it up as a recurring donation.

We sincerely hope that you and your extended families and friends are safe. Most of all, we really look forward to seeing you again, when this is all over. Please feel free to be in touch if you have any questions, or just to say hello.

Our best wishes,
Jessie Lynn & Carolyn Brennan, Kellogg-Hubbard Library Co-Directors

Jessie Lynn, Nonprofit Director          Carolyn Brennan, Library Director

“Libraries are sanctuaries from the world and command centers onto it. They are, ideally, places where nothing happens and where everything that has happened is stored up to be remembered and relived.” - Rebecca Solnit