Cowherd for a discussion of his new book, When the Crowd Didn’t Roar: How Baseball’s Strangest Game Ever Gave a Broken City Hope, and Dining Down Memory Lane: A Collection of Classic Baltimore Restaurants and their Recipes author Shelley Howell. The second annual Women’s Summit took place in March featuring Beth Kaplan, former president/chief operating officer of Rent the Runway. Following Ms. Kaplan’s keynote, the sell-out crowd enjoyed several inspirational presentations from local leaders.

Several library team members received recognition and honors this past year for their dedication and commitment in providing excellent service. Honorable Susan Hadett, Vice Chair of the Library Board of Trustees, received the 2018 Champions for Children Award presented by the Harford County Department of Community Services. Bel Air Library Page Audrey Fung was honored by the Harford County Commission on Disabilities as Employee of the Year. HCPL’s annual Roenna Fahrney Awards, which are staff nominated to recognize those who demonstrate the embodiment of service to the community, were awarded to Chris Grimslay, Morgan Michael, Kim Traviss, and the Marketing Team. Library CEO Mary Hastler received The Daily Record’s 2018 Icon Honor Award as well as the Most Influential Marylander 2019 Award for Civic Leadership.

Fiscal year 2019 was one in which we strengthened our internal structure with the development of the first Facilities Master Plan for Harford County Public Library, a new 3-5 year Strategic Plan, tackling cyber readiness as a system, and launching a compensation and benefits analysis. The many successes along with wonderful community engagement reflects the Library’s leadership, vision and forward focus as we continue to deliver exceptional resources and services to our community.

Come in, We’re Awesome!

Mary Hastler, CEO
This Annual Report Executive Summary for fiscal year 2019 provides an essential overview of the Harford County Public Library’s financial and statistical information. Our libraries strive to bring community members together, both in our branches and beyond.

An employee compensation and benefits study was also initiated and CSH2 Talent & Compensations Solutions was selected as the project consultant. This is the first study of this type in many years and the recommendations will ensure that our team members are compensated appropriately and benefits remain affordable and sustainable.

The Foundation hosted the 14th Annual Evening in the Stacks Gala: The Pink Edition in October. It was, once again, a sellout crowd and the event raised more than $100,000. The Library Gala truly is the event of the season! And we are extremely appreciative of the wonderful sponsors and all who support this annual event!

This year’s Summer Reading Challenge, Libraries Rock! concluded in August 2018 with more than 16,900 children and teens participating. First Place Reader trophies were presented to Fountain Green Elementary School, Fallston Middle School, and Bel Air High School, for having the highest percentages of completers. The annual Literacy Spelling Bee took place as part of the Harford County Farm Fair and was hosted by HeartRadio’s Jeff St. Pierre. It was a fun-filled afternoon as children, teens, and adults competed for top honors!

The Cultural Arts Board presented the Artists in the Library series that included a collaborative mosaic art sculpture installed at the Fallston Library and a community mural at the Edgewood Library. In October, the Cultural Arts Board awarded more than $95,000 to local nonprofits, including $51,000 in operating support for arts organizations based in Harford and $44,000 supporting arts programming in the County.

The Charm City series was reintroduced as we welcomed Kevin Lengel, and the Charm City series was reunited as we welcomed Kevin Lengel, and the Charm City series was reunited as we welcomed Kevin Lengel, and the Charm City series was reunited as we welcomed Kevin Lengel, and the Charm City series was reunited as we welcomed Kevin Lengel, and the Charm City series was reunited as we welcomed Kevin Lengel.
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