



Kenosha Public Library achieves Wisconsin Library of the Year Award

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KENOSHA – The Kenosha Public Library’s “progressive commitment to the success of the Kenosha community” was highlighted by the Wisconsin Library Association in choosing the Kenosha Public Library for the Wisconsin Library of the Year Award. The award is given annually for distinguished achievement in service.

Faced by first the challenges of the pandemic beginning in the spring of 2020, and then civil unrest during the late summer, the library adapted operations to serve the public with access to its collections, programming and wireless service in neighborhoods across the city.

Kenosha Public Library Director Barbara Brattin noted the library’s mission statement pledges to strengthen neighborhoods, inspire shared learning and nurture curiosity. When COVID-19 caused library operations to close to the public last spring, the Kenosha Public Library worked quickly to develop curbside pickup and online programming.

In awarding the honor to the Kenosha Public Library, the Wisconsin Library Association lauded the KPL’s six-year commitment to Kenosha County’s Strive Together initiative, Building Our Future. As a result, the library critically evaluated the equity in its policies, services, staffing and collections.

“This preparation has enabled the Kenosha Public Library to courageously rise to the challenges of both COVID-19 and the recent riots that sent their city up in flames. Throughout the turmoil, the library staff has remained undaunted,” according to an excerpt of a statement from the Wisconsin Library System. “The fact the Kenosha Public Library’s responsibility to the community does not stop at the library’s walls and for its progressive commitment to the success of the Kenosha Community, the Kenosha Public Library is truly deserving of the 2020 Library of the Year Award.”

“This has undoubtedly been a tough year,” Brattin said. “One of the best things about being named Library of the Year is that it honors and recognizes the efforts of the entire staff and the library board.”

All four of the Kenosha Public Library branches are open both for in-person visits and curbside pickup. Visit the library website at www.mykpl.info for current hours and virtual programming for all ages.