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**MEMORANDUM**

<b>ATTENTION</b>	Senate	<b>DATE</b>	
<b>FROM</b>	Dilson Rassier, Provost and Vice-President, Academic and Chair, Senate Library Committee	<b>PAGES</b>	1/1
<b>RE:</b>	Senate Library Committee Annual Report		

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Please find attached the annual report of the Senate Library Committee and the Library Penalty Appeals Committee. We also include a copy of the Library's annual report in order to share with Senate information about activities of the SFU Library during the past year, beyond what is captured in the SLC report.

[https://www.lib.sfu.ca/system/files/26348/SFUAnnuaReport\\_2024-2025.pdf](https://www.lib.sfu.ca/system/files/26348/SFUAnnuaReport_2024-2025.pdf)

cc:



Senate Library Committee &  
Library Penalties Appeal Committee  
Annual Reports for 2024/25  
(September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025)

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## Senate Library Committee

### MEETINGS

The Senate Library Committee met 3 times during 2024/25:

- October 22, 2024
- February 26, 2025
- June 4, 2025

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### **October 22, 2024**

- J.Pulkingham, designated by the Provost as the new Chair of the committee
- There was an adjustment of service hours for the Libraries in the Fall Semester
- A new service model for research help was introduced
- Committee members reviewed a list of subscriptions that were to be retained and discontinued at the Library. The cancellations and subscription changes represent 2.4% of the Collections budget
- The Library's high level priorities document was submitted to AVPA in September. With this document, the Library began work on the Library's Academic plan. Changes and suggestions that were provided by Senate Library Committee members will be incorporated into the plan which needs to be submitted by December 15, 2024.
- An overview of the Digital Scholarship Center was presented to the committee

#### **February 26, 2025**

- G. Ashoughian was introduced as the new Dean of Libraries
- Due to the Library's anticipated budget deficit, G. Ashoughian suspended expenditures in several areas until the end of the fiscal year to ensure a balanced budget. The focus for the 2025–26 fiscal year is to develop a strategy that maintains budgetary balance while ensuring the sustainability of access to critical resources and services. Fundraising has been identified as a key priority
- The committee motioned to support the decision to phase out Open Access Fund. The fund will be closed on August 31, 2025. More information about the changes to the OA Fund is available at <https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/publish/scholarly-publishing/open-access-fund-changes>

- [Fabriccommons maker space](#) at Fraser Library opened on February 18, 2025. SIAT (School of Interactive Arts and Technology) and SFU Library collaborated to develop this hands-on learning space with a focus on material creation and textiles.

## June 4, 2025

- Bennett Library's 5<sup>th</sup> floor scheduled to be re-opened in Summer 2025. The cost of both abatement and renovation is around \$10 million which was funded by the province and the university.
- Bennett Library's 6th floor continued to experience leaks in the northeast corner and along most of the south side of the building. The Dean of Libraries and the Library team met regularly with Jennifer Sanguinetti, Associate Vice-President, Facilities and Campus Planning, and her team to monitor and discuss project progress aimed at mitigating the situation.

A plan was established to implement a solution by applying the same thermoplastic membrane used on the 7th floor and sealing the 7th-floor windows. Once the membrane is installed in the mock-up area, it will undergo thorough testing and must be approved by the SFU Facilities team to confirm that no water is penetrating the building envelope before broader implementation proceeds. The tender for the project closed on June 2, 2025, and the selected contractor is expected to begin work within two to three weeks of that date. The project is estimated to take approximately 19 to 32 weeks to complete, depending on site conditions and weather constraints. Adjustments to the schedule may be required due to weather, and the project team intends to continue work for as long as conditions allow. To balance 2025/26 Collections budget, the work is in progress to ensure strategic reduction of collections expenditures. Collections and liaison librarians worked together to determine the least disruptive approach to distribution of cuts.

- Central Open Access Fund stopped accepting applications at the end of August 2025. \$100K was allocated based on the expected number of approved articles not yet published.

## Senate Library Committee Membership, 2024/25

Gohar Ashoughian, Dean of Libraries/University Librarian (*Effective November 15, 2024*)

Gwen Bird, Dean of Libraries/University Librarian (*till October 11, 2024*)

Glenn Chapman, Senator (*Effective July 10, 2025*)

Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research and International

Cristina Eftenaru, Senator

Kate Elliott, Graduate Representative

Michael Everton, Faculty of Art and Social Sciences

Roger Frie, Education

Aaron Fung, Alternate Undergraduate Representative

Mark Jordan, Associate Dean of Libraries

Lisa Kim, Undergraduate Representative (*Effective July 11, 2025*)

Yolanda Koscielski, Librarian Representative (*till May 31, 2025*)

Daniel Leznoff, Senator (*till May 31, 2025*)

John Maxwell, Communication, Art & Technology (*Effective June 1, 2025*)

Ward McLean, Library Staff Representative

Mary O'Brien, Graduate Studies (*till January 31, 2025*)

Stuart Peacock, Health Sciences (*till May 31, 2025*)  
Greta Perris, Lifelong Learning Representative (*Effective February 3, 2025*)  
Geoffrey Poitras, Business  
Jane Pulkingham, Senior Advisor, Academic Affairs – Chair  
Judy Smith, Lifelong Learning Representative (*till December 24, 2024*)  
Susie Smith, Recording Secretary  
Scott Steedman, Communication, Art & Technology (*till May 31, 2025*)  
Pam Stern, Graduate Studies Representative (*Effective February 5, 2025*)  
Ljiljana Trajkovic, Applied Science  
Harkirat Singh Walia, Undergraduate Representative (*till May 31, 2025*)  
Vance Williams, Science  
Jennifer Zerkee, Librarian Representative (*Effective June 1, 2025*)



## Senate library Committee/Library Penalties Appeal Committee (SLC/LPAC)

### Annual Report for September 2024 – August 2025

The Library received one fine appeal during this period, which was resolved without the need to consult the Penalties Appeal Committee. No meetings of the committee were called.

### Other Business

From October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025 the Penalties Appeal Committee was chaired by Leanna Jantzi as Acting Associate Dean of Libraries. From October 1, 2025 to current, Leanna continues to chair the committee as Head, Fraser Library, with oversight responsibilities for Access Services.

### LPAC Membership 2024/2025

Chair -- Elected by and from voting members of the Committee

Glenn Chapman, Senator at Large (*effective until May 31, 2027*)

Cristina Eftenaru, Senator at Large (*effective until May 31, 2027*)

Aaron Fung, Undergraduate Rep (Alternate)(*effective until May 31, 2026*)

Open, Graduate Rep (*effective until May 31, 2027*)

Pok Man Tong, Graduate Rep (Alternate)(*effective until May 31, 2026*)

Leanna Jantzi, Ex-Officio, Secretary (non-voting)

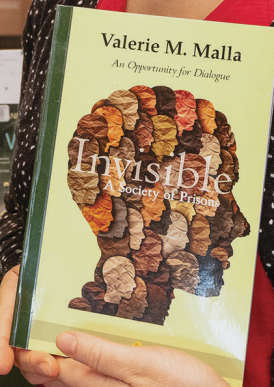
### Terms that expired this year

Danny Leznoff, Senator at Large (*effective until May 31, 2025*)

Harkirat Singh Walia, Undergraduate Rep (*effective until May 31, 2025*)

Kate Elliot, Graduate Rep (*effective until May 31, 2025*)

# SFU LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS 2024/2025







*Dean's Lecture On Information + Society with Omar El Akkad in conversation with Kamal Al-Solaylee, Jan 2025.*

W.A.C. Bennett Library is located on the lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), and kʷikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem) Nations.

Samuel and Frances Belzberg Library is located on the lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Fraser Valley Real Estate Board Academic Library is located on the lands of the qíçəy̓ (Katzie), kʷikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem), qíqéy̓t (Qayqayt), qʷa:ńł'əh (Kwantlen), Səmyámə (Semiahmoo), and scəwaθən (Tsawwassen) Nations.

Acknowledging the benefits of occupying this land, the Library commits to becoming a more welcoming space for Indigenous Peoples by centring Indigenous voices in our collections, services, and programs.

# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I am delighted to present this report celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of the SFU Library during the 2024–2025 year. It is truly rewarding to look back and reflect on how our Library continues to empower student learning, advance groundbreaking research, spark creativity, and foster meaningful connections across our campuses and within our broader community.

I began my tenure as Dean of Libraries on November 15, 2024, and it has been both an honour and a privilege. I am inspired each day by the dedication of our extraordinary team at SFU Libraries. Despite the complex challenges facing post-secondary institutions, our staff remain undaunted, continuing to innovate, adapt, and streamline operations to ensure that the Library's core mission remains strong.

Our public programming continues to flourish. The Dean's Lecture on Information and Society, featuring thought-provoking dialogue between acclaimed writers Omar EL Akkad and Kamal Al-Solaylee, attracted lively engagement and reflection. Our annual Celebration of SFU Authors remains a beloved gathering of the university's creative community, honoring writers across disciplines.

One of the year's most exciting milestones was the launch, in Summer 2024, of the long-awaited Dick Kouwenhoven Book Arts Studio at the W.A.C. Bennett Library. This creative hub houses an impressive collection of letterpress printing tools, offering an immersive, hands-on experience in bookmaking and print culture. The studio not only preserves traditional craft but also fuels interdisciplinary inspiration, connecting arts, publishing, design, and humanities.

We welcome our community to explore SFU Libraries!

Gohar Ashoughian,  
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian



# WELCOME TO SFU LIBRARY

**OPEN FOR RESEARCH  
OPEN FOR LEARNING  
OPEN FOR COLLABORATION**

*Authors and guests, including authors Evan Freeman and Shuyu Kong, joined us at the 2025 Celebration of SFU Authors, celebrating the creative and academic publications of the SFU community.*

Throughout 2024–2025, SFU Library played a vital role in supporting teaching, learning, and research by continuously enriching our collections; delivering expert guidance to students, faculty, and staff; and curating vibrant environments for learning, collaboration, and creativity. Whether in our physical branches or through digital platforms, we offer dynamic, responsive collections, champion open educational resources and open scholarship, and cultivate partnerships across campus and with the wider community. Our extensive instruction and consultation programs equip users with essential skills in research methods, academic writing, pedagogy, and scholarly communication.

Our inclusive spaces include our robust online platforms, and our three branches, the W.A.C. Bennett Library at SFU Burnaby, the Samuel and Frances Belzberg Library at SFU Vancouver, and the Fraser Valley Real Estate Board Academic Library at SFU Surrey. The SFU Library's eBranch continues to enhance accessibility across our website, which received 5.1 million visits during the year.

We completed the expansion of experiential learning spaces at the Fraser Library in Surrey, introducing a fascinating fabriccommons, a vibrant hub blending makerspace and collaborative learning, a tangible manifestation of our commitment to innovation and inclusivity.

Throughout the year, our Library invested in our rich special collections, including rare books, manuscripts, editorial cartoons, and archival materials spanning from Renaissance publications to modern experimental poetry. SFU Library's dynamic initiatives such as the Student Learning Commons, Media and Maker Commons, Knowledge Mobilization Hub, and Digital Humanities Innovation Lab are all designed to support collaborative scholarship and enhance public impact.



*Vice-President, Research and Innovation Dugan O'Neil and printer Andrea Taylor.*

The Dick Kouwenhoven Book Arts Studio at Bennett Library offers a hands-on learning experience to students, staff, faculty and researchers interested in bookmaking, book history, and print culture. The Studio was made possible thanks to a generous gift from the family of Dick Kouwenhoven, founder of Hemlock Printers.



# ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE

## Fostering undergraduate excellence

The Library enables the academic success of SFU's undergraduate students by providing key writing, learning, and research services, including workshops, consultations, and self-help tutorials and guides. This expertise from the Student Learning Commons and the Research Help team aims to empower students with critical skills to build robust learning strategies, to find and evaluate information, and to communicate their ideas effectively—both during their academic studies and as global citizens.

*"Through learning techniques to support my peers through difficult transition periods of life, time management strategies, and having the opportunity to converse with a variety of students from a wide range of disciplines, I've learned many study strategies and mental health support strategies that I've then applied to my own undergraduate journey."*

-Emily Ma, Student Learning Commons Writing and Learning Peer Educator

## Highlights of Library usage, 2024–2025

### Library website use:

**5.1M**

Total session/visits

**2.6M**

Users/Unique Visitors

**5.0M**

Page Views

**2,755**

Questions answered on AskAway online chats

**876**

Writing consultations provided by WriteAway

**633K**

In-person visits to the Bennett Library

*"The person who assisted me was very prompt, helpful, and friendly, and I got all of the information I needed which was great!"*

*"Tell more students about it so they know to use it! Ask a Librarian is such an amazing resource!"*

- SFU students on using AskAway online chat for research help

## Student Learning Commons Undergraduate Writing Contest

This year 74 students submitted work to the SLC's annual writing contest, which recognizes and celebrates SFU undergraduate writing from across disciplines. Students can submit work in four categories, including First Year, Middle Years, and Fourth Year +, as well as the Plurilingual Prize category for multilingual and plurilingual writing. Prize-winning papers and honourable mentions are published online in the contest's open access journal, creating a repository of strong undergraduate student writing across years and disciplines.



# BELZBERG & FRASER LIBRARIES

## In the heart of the city: Belzberg Library

Located in busy downtown Vancouver, the Samuel and Frances Belzberg Library welcomes students, faculty, staff, and members of the community to browse the collection and use the popular computer stations and study spaces. The collection's focus on contemporary arts and urban design supports students and researchers in unique Vancouver campus programs. Offering floor-to-ceiling views onto busy sidewalks, Belzberg provides a quiet oasis for study, research, and relaxation.

## In the bustling city centre: Fraser Library

Located within the Central City complex in Surrey's downtown core with views northwards to Civic Plaza and local mountains, Fraser Valley Real Estate Board Academic Library is a growing hub for students and researchers. In addition to work and study space and computer stations, the library offers a games room as well as unique collections such as video games, board games, and camera and video equipment to support design and technology programs. Fraser Library is a welcoming spot for studying and research as well as relaxation and finding community.



# ADVANCING LEARNING & RESEARCH

## Sci-Space collaboration: three years in and thriving

In 2022, when the Faculty of Science was preparing to open Sci-Space, a “one-stop shop for all things Faculty of Science”, Student Success Coordinator Aiden Wickey and Science Advisor Maisie Morsara approached the Student Learning Commons to help them develop and deliver learning strategies workshops that were customized for relevance to science students, but open to all SFU students. The collaboration started with three workshops focused on study skills, exam anxiety, and managing procrastination, and has expanded to seven topics offered once or twice each term.

The SLC/Sci-Space partnership has changed the way that the SLC offers and markets open-attendance workshops, expanding its reach through Faculty of Science communication channels, and increasing accessibility to SLC workshops. Not only are the workshops presented in a student hub right near the McKenzie Café, but they run simultaneously over Zoom—a seamless process thanks to Sci-Space staff who serve as Zoom moderators so that the workshop facilitators can focus on facilitating. In the last year, four sessions have been recorded live and are available on the Library’s YouTube channel and the SLC website, with more to come.

SFU Physics faculty member Dr. Sarah Johnson and SLC Co-ordinator Ruth Silverman facilitate the “Ace the Numbers Game: Quantitative Exams” workshop at Sci-Space.

Photo credit: Aiden Wickey

## Smoothen thesis submission experience for graduate students

In late fall 2024, Digital Library Services completed a major upgrade to the Thesis Registration System—an essential platform used by graduate students to submit their theses, projects, and other capstones as part of their master’s or doctoral degree requirements. This upgrade supports graduate student success and improves the overall user experience during a critical stage of degree completion. The revamped system features an improved user interface, stronger security measures, and advanced reporting tools.

The Thesis Registration System also prepares metadata for publishing graduate student submissions into Summit, SFU’s institutional repository, and the Library catalogue. Beyond improving the user experience, the system plays a key role in preserving SFU graduate research and making it openly accessible to the world via Summit. This upgrade reflects the Library’s ongoing efforts to modernize digital infrastructure and enhance the visibility and impact of SFU’s academic contributions.

*The Games Collection and Room at SFU Surrey’s Fraser Library supports teaching, learning, and research, and provides opportunities for social connection and engagement. The collection now includes adaptive controllers—modular technologies designed to make gaming more accessible for people with disabilities and/or mobility limitations.*

## SFU Library Digital Humanities Innovation Lab and UBC’s Digital Scholarship in the Arts initiative

A partnership between SFU Library’s Digital Humanities Innovation Lab and UBC’s Digital Scholarship in the Arts initiative (DiSA) provides the UBC community with extended consultation support in Digital Scholarship with a focus on TEI-XML projects. The partnership combines SFU Library’s infrastructure and mission with the academic expertise and vision of researchers across both institutions to advance digital scholarship at SFU, UBC and beyond. With a mandate to assist with the development of doctoral projects associated with the PhD CoLab-funded Adaptive TEI Network (ATN): Antiracist, Decolonial, and Inclusive Markup Interventions, the ATN serves as an experimental pilot project for the partnership.



## Empowering and supporting access to information

SFU Library’s innovative Community Scholars Program which enables nonprofit organizations to access and share research to build capacity and strengthen impact, is expanding beyond British Columbia through a partnership with Ontario’s McMaster University.

The Community Scholars Program (CSP) supports researchers and practitioners in nonprofit organizations across BC with their research and information needs. Led by librarian Heather De Forest, the program works with academic publishers to provide access to scholarly publications that would otherwise be paywalled, enabling staff in nonprofits to review case studies, access current research, and make evidence informed decisions about their programs and services. Participating scholars can also consult with librarians on research projects, attend customized workshops, and access other services.

These supports and resources are invaluable for nonprofit organizations that often act as changemakers, both by delivering critical services and programming and by generating actionable knowledge that can shift policy and contribute to community well-being.

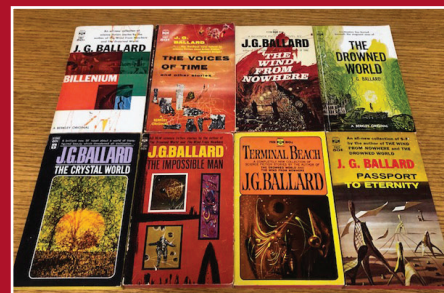
The Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre is an Ontario-based organization that has recently signed up. “When you’re developing action plans in response to hate incidents, having literature and research that documents and explains ways you can respond to hate is a valuable resource,” says executive director Lyndon George.



## Collection development project supports local, Indigenous-owned bookstore

2024/2025 marked the first full year of an SFU Library pilot project to order books from Iron Dog Books, a local, Indigenous-owned bookstore. Having a more sustainable option for book ordering that also benefits the local community has been a long-time goal of the library. The new relationship with Iron Dog began organically with a well-timed visit to the shop by an SFU collections librarian when the owner, Hilary Atleo, also happened to be there. A chat while checking out was enough to start investigating if a purchasing relationship was possible and the pilot project has been successfully running since.

Much of the current ordering with Iron Dog Books contributes to the growth of specialized collections such as the Library's Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre and Curriculum Collections, but the processes are now well established and ready for expansion. Since the start of the partnership, SFU Library has ordered more than 450 titles from Iron Dog and is identifying other collections needs that would benefit from this relationship.



## SFU alumnus donates largest J.G. Ballard collection outside of the British Library

SFU Library's Special Collections & Rare Books is pleased to have received a donation of a major collection of the English-language publications of the British speculative fiction writer J.G. Ballard (1930–2009), best known for his classic WW II novel *Empire of The Sun* (1984). The collection includes hundreds of editions of Ballard's writings, some of them rarities, including the single rarest book of modern SF, *The Atrocity Exhibition* (1970 US ed.), as well as significant archival and audio-visual material. It is the largest Ballard collection outside of the British Library.

The collection was built over half a century by SFU charter student Rick McGrath, a founding editor in 1965 of *The Peak* student newspaper. Having completed a BA (Hons.) in English, McGrath went on to careers first in journalism, then in advertising, where he flourished as a "creative" and eventually a corporate VP in Toronto. He retired in 2000 to Powell River, B.C. where he is active as a writer, publisher, photographer, designer and passionate "Ballardian". In addition to the collection itself, McGrath has generously donated funding for its processing.

▶ *Titles from the J.G. Ballard collection at SFU Library's Special Collections & Rare Books.*

## Digital Collections migration and upgrade unveiling new digital collections website

SFU Library's new Digital Collections website offers a modern, user-friendly interface with improved findability to 68 collections and nearly 500,000 digital objects, including images, photographs, oral histories, documents, and newspapers.

These resources from the Library's Special Collections and Rare Books division, as well as from other partnerships, cover a wide range of topics such as immigrant experiences, activism and social movements, and Indigenous collections, all available for research, discovery, and general interest.

Digital collection highlights include:

- **Historic Postcards:** historically significant collections of B.C. postcards depicting places, people, events, industries, architectural highlights and transportation.
- **Archival Images:** photographs documenting significant moments, people, and places.
- **Oral History Interviews and Videos:** digitized interviews including the archive of CBC Radio's *Writers & Company* program with host Eleanor Wachtel.
- **Digitized Newspapers:** including the archive of *The Peak*, Simon Fraser University's student newspaper.
- **Editorial Cartoons Collection:** containing thousands of original drawings published in Canadian newspapers between 1952–2025.



"We are excited to dig into this exciting collection for what it can tell us about the history of literature and culture, the art of the interview, and the evolution of radio."

- Michelle Levy, English Faculty, SFU

*Eleanor Wachtel and Pierre Jarawan at the Vancouver Writers Fest  
Photo credit: Ariel Hudnall*

# GROWING COLLECTIONS AND CAPACITY

## A new home for beloved CBC show *Writers & Company*

Thanks to an extraordinary partnership with the CBC, researchers and the public alike can listen to the complete digital archive of *Writers & Company*, CBC's flagship literary program, hosted by Eleanor Wachtel. Now housed on the Library's new digital collection website, the interviews include conversations with 14 winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

The archival material consists of 1,000+ hours of Wachtel's intimate, in-depth interviews with writers from around the world whose ideas and perspectives have changed the contemporary English language literary ecosystem. Interviewees include Nadine Gordimer, Carol Shields, Michael Ondaatje, John le Carré, Toni Morrison, Kazuo Ishiguro, Zadie Smith, and many more. The material is an invaluable resource for students and researchers of literature, gender studies, politics, and culture as well as for readers and listeners worldwide.



# EXPANSION AND GROWTH

*The Fraser Library's fabriccommons is a hands-on learning space at SFU Surrey developed in collaboration with the School of Interactive Arts & Technology.*

## Building the Future

In 2024–25, 384 generous donors contributed

1,629 gifts, valuing \$1,885,214, in support of SFU Library including:



**\$777,095**

value of gifts in kind to Special Collections and Rare Books, including the BC and Pacific Northwest history book collection donated by SFU alumnus Frank Anfield

**\$39,024**

to the WAC Bennett Library Fund to improve resources, pilot new services, and enhance physical spaces

**\$32,233**

to the Alumni Library Endowment to update student learning spaces

**\$25,000**

from SFU alumnus Rick McGrath to support the preservation and activation of the J. G. Ballard collection

## Expansive access and programming

**5.4M**

digital items used (includes downloads of articles, ebooks, book chapters)

**500**

BC nonprofits have access to academic research through the Community Scholars Program

**349**

Attendees to the Celebration of SFU Authors and the Dean's Lecture on Information + Society







# CONNECT WITH US



lib.sfu.ca



@SFU\_Library

— Installation of work by SCA 161 students at Belzberg Library.

SFU LIBRARY



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Hello! My name is Emma Chandler, and this is my sculpture of a p block of wood, I built up solid limbs branching off the block which torso. Then I covered the whole thing in air dry clay. My final step was done using spray paint. Pink is a very bold colour, which may be a quieter academic setting like a library. The Harbour Centre Library consisting of cool beiges, blues, and browns. Pink is very warm and sculpture stand out on the darker coloured shelf. I chose this space for the confrontational nature of the mostly empty shelf. If you are not to the top of the stairs and look at the sculpture again, it is such a bright colour!

Why a horse you may ask? When coming up with ideas for something in the library that is not usually seen. How often was I trying to think of something that is unexpected, something academic reading. At the same time, horses do relate to libraries of books. The Packhorse Library Project was a program where women rode horses to deliver books to remote regions. This fact solidified my idea in sculpting a horse. Thank you for appreciating my work!